

The Rootstown Local Board of Education met in special session at 6:00 p.m. in the Middle School Cafeteria on December 4, 2023. Present were Tom Siciliano, Jen Curall, Craig Mullaly, Amanda Waesch, Paul McEwuen, Andrew Hawkins, Superintendent, Connie Baldwin, Treasurer. Also present: Dakota Berg, Josh Gordon, Barb Stary, Bob Stary, Karen Fowler, Lisa Scott, Cassie Braden, Ben Rantilla, David Kennedy. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call: J. Curall, C. Mullaly, T. Siciliano, A. Waesch, P. McEwuen

**RESOLUTION 2023-12-270**  
**ADOPT THE AGENDA**

Motion: T. Siciliano  
Second: J. Curall  
To approve the agenda

Yeas: T. Siciliano, J. Curall, P. McEwuen, C. Mullaly, A. Waesch  
Nays: None  
Motion Carried: 5 to 0

**Facilities Work Session:**

A. Hawkins introduced Ben Rantilla of Hasenstab and Josh Gordon of FSM. Goal is to review building option budgets and to present plan for the board to vote on. Ben Rantilla to present an overview of previous options. Goal is to report plan to board in February for a November 2024 ballot. A. Hawkins indicated he had spoken with a township trustee and chairman of the board of the new JEDD. Currently, the district has not been asked to join the JEDD or to move. The JEDD will start in 2024. At this time there is not enough money to be collected through the JEDD to address the district's facility needs. There might be enough to help buy a bus, for example. A. Hawkins will continue conversations with the trustee to stay up to date on the JEDD. C. Mullaly asked if there was a requirement that the school move. A. Hawkins replied since the district is not in the JEDD, there is no requirement. There has been no offer of funds to move the district to a new site. Josh Gordon gave a recap of the prior facilities meetings. The options to discuss all assume the middle school would be demolished. Ben Rantilla presented Options and the cost associated with each. All the numbers (millages, interest rates, OFCC percentages, etc.) will change. Option 1: New building separating HS, MS, ES with a MS gym. Everything is new including the parking lot, playground, cafetorium, etc. Local cost is \$37,212,000 at 7.75 mills. There would be nothing left to fix in the district. Option 2: Two new buildings. Again, everything is new including the parking lot, playground, etc. However, there are now two buildings to maintain and no staffing efficiencies. Local cost is \$42,097,000 at 8.77 mills. Option 3: Full Renovation to HS and ES. Everything is brought up to code. OFCC shares the

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Exhibit C

cost. Local cost is \$35,804,000 at 7.45 mills. Option 3b: Full renovation of HS and Light renovation of ES. Adds a new middle school wing. All options include a middle school gym. Local cost is \$24,403,000 at 5.08 mills. Still leaves \$18,000,000 in needed facility repairs and upgrades. Option 4a: Select Renovations to HS and ES with the addition of a middle school wing. Upgrade everything to 100%. OFCC does not share the cost. Local cost is \$48,064,000 at 10.01 mills. No work is left to be completed in the future. Option 4b: Select Renovation of ES and HS with a middle school wing. Potentially upgrade some of the HVAC, plumbing, electrical, ADA and some floors and ceilings, etc. Local cost is \$20,219,000 with millage of 4.21. Work left to be completed is \$27,844,000. Can fine tune the numbers to dig in to exactly what gets renovated and how much to spend per item. For example, do the worst floors and ceilings at 15% of total. HVAC could be \$2,000,000 instead of \$6,000,000 which might be more expensive to operate but cheaper to install. Still leaves future repairs on the table. Question was asked about OFCC involvement. Ben indicated the total new construction is too expensive without the state discount. A. Waesch asked if the last option was the minimum needed. A. Hawkins indicated the board could do a deep dive into the numbers to look at each cost. Ben Rantilla has estimates for each based on state estimates as well as architects' estimates. For example, amount to spend on plumbing repairs. P. McEwuen feels there is wasted space in the high school and do we need to spend \$8,000,000 on an addition. Ben Rantilla said that does include a new gym in that space. J. Curall feels a separate wing is needed for grades 7 & 8 in the high school. Wants to know what the community would support. T. Siciliano indicated something must be done but must be something that will pass. Feels 8 mills will not pass. J. Curall feels the middle school will cost \$3 or \$4 million to keep going and that is throwing money away. The committee jotted down opinions and comments, which were collected for discussion at the next meeting.

**RESOLUTION 2023-12-271**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion: P. McEwuen

Second: T. Siciliano

To adjourn the meeting at 7:10.

Yeas: P. McEwuen, T. Siciliano, A. Waesch, J. Curall, C. Mullaly

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5 to 0

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Craig Mullaly, President

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Connie Baldwin-Guinto, Treasurer