

The buildings and grounds committee met in the Forum Room on August 14, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. with the following present: Tommy Sablan and Barb Neprud. Jamie Skjeveland, Erica Marcussen, Travis Fuechtmann and Bill Tollefson were also present.

Review of FY25 Long-Term Facilities Maintenance Plan Approved at July 2023 Board Meeting – The committee reviewed the process and projects included in the FY25 Long-Term Facilities Maintenance (LTFM) plan that was approved at the July 2023 Board meeting. Normally the plan, which is a funding application to MDE, would have been reviewed by the Buildings and Grounds committee prior to approval, but meeting dates did not align. The plan is required annually and projects within the plan change as facilities needs are addressed in real time. For 2023, projects included an elevator upgrade and boiler direct venting at the high school. For 2024, projects include replacing the loading dock leveler at the high school and a boiler replacement at CRES due to a leaking heat exchanger in the existing condensing boiler, tennis court resurfacing and other potential projects. There was \$1,093,706 in the Reserved for LTFM fund balance at June 30, 2022 and there has been intentional saving during the period of the building construction fund being open to allow adequate funding for future facilities needs after the building bond proceeds are spent.

Phase IV Summer of 2023 Construction Project – Referendum Projects – The committee received an update on referendum funded projects taking place during the summer of 2023.

High School – Projects at the high school this summer included refreshing all of the regular classrooms and the science classrooms with LED lighting, new ceiling tile, paint, flooring and classroom furniture. These classrooms all had paint, ceiling tile, flooring and light fixtures that were last updated in the 2003-2005 building project and were at the end of their useful life. There were also projects maintaining the building envelope that were identified in the pre-referendum facilities study. Parking lot modifications at the high school main entrance were undertaken to expand the handicapped parking and the accessible pathway to and from parking to the main entry, modifications to create a direct flow from the Galovich Gym emergency exits directly to the parking lot which will also create ease and efficiency in snow removal. Other exterior projects included the first track resurfacing following major reconstruction in 2016 and following recommended improvement intervals, and reconstructing the retaining wall at the northeast end of the football stadium that was failing.

CRES – Projects at CRES included renovations to the early learning classrooms; the special education classrooms (formerly art and science), including the addition of a door between the two rooms which serve EBD students and the installation of a restroom within the space so that students can be served completely within the boundaries of the room; casework modifications in the music room; redesign of the main parking lot to include a parent drop-off/pickup lane; a gate at the entrance to the CRES bus loop to keep traffic from entering that space now that that roadway serves as the main entry to Heartwood; and improvements to improve drainage off the CRES playground.

Summer of 2023 Non-Referendum Projects – The committee also received updates on several projects that were funded through sources other than referendum proceeds, or non-referendum funded projects during the summer of 2023. These included the new CRES bike trail, which is now complete and features both beginner and intermediate trails and an outdoor educational space and which was funded by donations and an IRRRB grant received in conjunction with the City of Crosby; tennis court resurfacing funded by LTFM and moving from school colors to US Tennis Association blue and green based on visibility studies and tennis staff recommendation; and the replacement of the leaking condensing boiler at CRES, which is also funded with LTFM funds.

Phase V Summer of 2024 and Beyond Planning – The committee then turned their attention to projects to be accomplished using the remainder of the building bond funds, with the goal of identifying process and a summer in which the remaining projects would be completed.

CRES – At CRES, the summer of 2024 will include the remainder of the interior projects identified in the pre-referendum facilities evaluation study, including the new ceiling, lights, paint and casework in the main hallway that runs between the cafeteria and the gym; new flooring, paint and lights in the gym spaces; and identified renovations to other spaces north of the main hallway; and exterior building envelope improvements identified in the facilities evaluation study for walls and vertical surfaces but not the roof. Reroofing in the summer of 2025, or maybe 2026, depending on the reroofing schedule at the high school.

High School – The high school involved additional dialogue about planning and how best to proceed. Should the interior work be completed in 2024 and roofing started in 2025 or should these be reversed, with roofing starting in 2024 and interior work completed in 2025? If the high school reroofing were to start in the summer of 2024, at least two key components would be beneficial – first, costs for roofing could be identified and used to plan the balance of the reroofing projects (key as reroofing was identified as a major project in the 2019 building bond referendum) and second, would help to more clearly identify remaining funds to be used to make improvements to the south end of the high school, including upgrading finishes in the Forum Room and District Office and remaining renovations to athletic spaces. Planning for what could be accomplished based on remaining funds could then be thoughtfully completed throughout 2024 and early 2025 to make the best use of those remaining funds. Priority projects were identified as weight room, officials changing/shower space, and the Wook gym. The activities director had been consulted and was in agreement that planning for renovations in 2025 would be the best option. Other 2025 projects might include renovation of the FACS kitchen lab, speaker system improvements in the Galovich Gym, and stage lighting in the auditorium. The committee agreed that the plan to start reroofing the high school in the summer of 2024 (and based on the size of the high school roof, might need to be extended into the summer of 2025) and taking the time to develop the best possible plan with more clearly identified remaining funds and taking the time to really look at the best long-term solution for athletic spaces for the south end of the high school and other potential projects, including FACS, with those projects to be completed in the summer of 2025 would be best. Planning will proceed following this direction.

The meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully prepared and submitted by William Tollefson