

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING, NOVEMBER 7, 2023

The meeting of the Board of Education, School District 123, Cook County, Illinois, convened at 6:03 p.m. on Monday, December 4, 2023 at the Oak Lawn Hometown School District 123 Administrative Office, 4201 W. 93<sup>rd</sup> Street, Oak Lawn, IL 60453.

Members Present: Carly Bishop, Peter DeRousse, Adriana Sebek, Ed Smykowski, Jennifer Fortier, Jay Lurquin and Brian Nichols.

Members Absent: None

Administrators Present: Dr. Enderle and Dr. Loftin

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Mr. Nichols read the Mission Statement.

Public Comment President Nichols stated that citizen comments were allowed to address the Board. Public comment would be limited to 30 minutes with each person being limited to five minutes.

- There were no comments at this time.

Discussion I: Early Learning Center Bid Recommendations [3D][3C]  
Dr. Loftin and Dr. Enderle gave a presentation on the D123 financial background and financial outlook. Historically, D123 had large outstanding debt and a Moody's rating of A3, negative outlook. With hard work and a conservative mindset, D123 was able to reach a balanced budget in 2013/2014 while addressing a staffing infrastructure needs 18% increase. D123 currently has stable fund balances with consistently running surpluses. There is a stable Capital Project fund balance of \$3.3M and we are taking in more than we are spending. Maintenance issues are being systematically addressed. The Moody's rating is at A1, close to "Double A" status. D123 has received ISBE Financial Recognition since 2013. D123 has strong 5-year fiscal projections and anticipates current debt to be paid off by 2028. There is room for new debt (lower) to replace roofs and repave parking lots.

Dr. Enderle discussed the options for the Early Learning Center. Option 1 is the base bid which includes the road, ELC office restructure, classrooms and windows in the gym. Option 2 includes the base bid and vestibule. Option 3 includes the base bid, vestibule and Family Resource Center (FRC). Option 4 includes the base bid, vestibule, FRC and district office conversion. It is anticipated that the ELC will house approximately 60 staff members. The administration is recommending option 4. 2/3 of the cost will be covered by the grant.

Mr. Maciejewski of JMA Architects and Mr. Cassidy reviewed the four options. Many of those who bid on the project are companies the district has worked with before. One goal of the grant is to work with at least 5% Female Owned Enterprises (FBE) and at least 20% Minority Owned Enterprises (MOE). It was confirmed that this is a goal and not a requirement. If D123 does not meet the goals, we can ask for an exception and must show the steps taken to meet the goal.

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It was confirmed that the Sward roof project will not affect the Capital Projects Fund at this point but will be paid for through the O & M Fund. It was confirmed that the Kolmar Media Center Project is being paid for with ESSER funds and will not affect the Capital Projects Fund. The Sward Media Center Project will come out of the Capital Projects Fund but since this space is smaller than the others, costs are anticipated to be lower than the most recent media center renovations.

It was confirmed that if an option chosen does not include the FRC, the alternative would be to use the Flex Room. The scope for completion would be all outside work, the vestibule and the FRC should be completed by July. The other spaces should be completed by June. It was confirmed that the accounting would reflect the money spent on the ELC and separate out the money spent on the district office conversion for grant purposes. It was also confirmed that the FRC will be a monitored space. It was noted that if the North entrance becomes the main district office entrance, the door needs to be handicap accessible.

Action I: It was moved by Mr. DeRousse, seconded by Mrs. Bishop, to approve the Early Learning Center Bid Recommendation of Option 4. Ayes: Mr. DeRousse, Mrs. Bishop, Mrs. Sebek, Mr. Smykowski, Mrs. Fortier, Mr. Lurquin and Mr. Nichols. Nays: None. Absent: None. The motion passed.

Board Comments:

Mr. DeRousse stated after reviewing the district's financial history, he congratulated Dr. Loftin for all of his efforts to get the district back on track and in such good financial shape.

Mr. Lurquin seconded Mr. DeRousse's comments.


Mrs. Bishop congratulated all for their hard work on planning this project.

Mr. Nichols stated that administration needs provide check ins early and often. We need to ensure we are in front of problems and mindful of the timing.

Adjourned –8:20 p.m.

The next COTW meeting of the Board of Education will be held on December 12, 2023 at Oak Lawn-Hometown Middle School, 5345 W. 99<sup>th</sup> Street, Oak Lawn, Illinois. The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on December 18, 2023 at the Oak Lawn-Hometown Middle School, 5345 W. 99<sup>th</sup> Street, Oak Lawn, Illinois.

  
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Secretary

  
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President