

LINCOLN-WOODSTOCK COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BOARD

SAU #68

DATE: January 25, 2023

BOND HEARING MINUTES

SCHOOL BOARD PRESENT:

Jay Duguay, Chairperson
Brian Angelone
Kevin Bell
Joe Bossie
Jasmine Weeden
Tamra Ham

SCHOOL BOARD ABSENT:

Ashley Youngheim

ADMINISTRATION/STAFF PRESENT:

Judith McGann, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
Sharon Holt, Assistant to the Superintendent
Bart King, Technical Support
Mark Houde, Director of Buildings and Ground

PUBLIC PRESENT:

Cathy Vecchione

Nick Vecchione

PUBLIC PRESENT REMOTELY:

Jim Vear, Yeaton Associates
Steve
Shaun Hagan

Keith Demura, Yeaton Associates
Sarah Ford Walker
Sally

The Bond Hearing was held in the Elementary School Multipurpose Room.

Hearing Call to Order:

School Board Chairperson, Jay Duguay called the Bond Hearing to order at 6:31 PM.

Jay Duguay noted the special bond hearing was being held to discuss moving forward with a bond of approximately four hundred thirty thousand dollars (\$430,000) for the Middle/High School HVAC project and to include a Bond Article on the Warrant at the 2023 School District meeting. Jay Duguay mentioned the Middle/High School HVAC project has been in the works for a long time and at this time, the District has the advantage of utilizing ESSER grant funds to help finance the project. The total project cost will be approximately 1.2 million dollars with project funding coming from ESSER Grant funds, retained funds, trust funds, and just over one hundred forty thousand (\$140,000) from taxation by delaying other facilities projects that would traditionally be funded yearly and appear on the Warrant.

Brian Angelone mentioned the Middle/High School HVAC system is mostly original to the building's construction in 1960s with a few rounds of updates done over the years. The updates planned with this project would be significant; make the control of the system easier; and provide better air quality. Brian Angelone noted the time to do this project is now because a significant portion of the funding for the project would come from the ESSER grant.

Jay Duguay noted partial updates to the Middle/High School HVAC system and controls were done in 1985 and 1991. The current project would completely overhaul the HVAC system including new boilers. This project would be similar to the project completed this past year in the Elementary School.

Jay Duguay mentioned the timeline for the majority of the Middle/High School project would be from June through August 2023. This is similar to the Elementary project from this past year. There had been some hiccups with the arrival of parts for the Elementary project and similar hiccups are expected for the Middle/High School project because of the long lead times needed for the delivery of some of the parts.

Jay Duguay noted in order to utilize the ESSER funds the Middle/High School project must be completed as the ESSER funds need to be used within a certain timeframe or will be lost. With the use of the ESSER funds and other available funds (trust funds, retained funds), almost half the cost of the project has no impact on the local tax payers.

Jay Duguay mentioned the bond interest rate at the last sale was 2.8% for a 5 year bond which is reasonable considering the recent interest rate hikes. The Board anticipates the bond for the Middle/High School project will be a five year bond.

Jim Vear from Yeaton Associates mentioned the HVAC system in the Middle/High Schools needs to be replaced. The project proposed would include new boilers and pumps and utilize existing piping infrastructure. The project would also add parts and equipment to increase ventilation and improve the environment in air quality of the School building. The current HVAC system's controls are not functioning well and require manual manipulation. The project proposed will update the controls adding DDC controls, an extension of the Elementary School's control system, allowing off site notifications for both buildings in one platform. Overall upgrading the Middle/High HVAC system will improve air quality and ventilation in the school, and due to the modern system improved costs should be noticed.

Keith Demura from Yeaton Associates noted Yeaton Associates has been working with a number of School Districts across New Hampshire and Vermont on updating school HVAC systems utilizing ESSER funds. The ESSER grant program is a great program but there are strict timelines in place for the use of funds.

Jim Vear mentioned there are long lead times in getting some parts and equipment. The project is designed in order for the majority of the project to be completed during the summer and then, equipment arriving later can be put in place on the roof, etc. at a later date without significantly impacting the School. The market for parts and equipment is volatile and prices are changing overnight.

Superintendent McGann asked if the updates to the Middle/High School HVAC system would improve the system's energy efficiency? Jim Vear answered yes, modulating boilers will be installed. These boilers have less water content which takes less to heat and less energy is used for the pumps.

Jay Duguay asked if there were any questions from the members of the public present at the hearing and hearing none, asked for a motion to move forward with the bond.

Tamra Ham made a motion to move forward with a bond of approximately four hundred thirty thousand dollars (\$430,000) for upgrading the HVAC Systems and Controls at the Middle/High School and to include the Bond Article on the Warrant for the 2023 Annual School District meeting. Brian Angelone seconded the motion.

Discussion: Nothing further. **Jay Duguay called a vote to approve the motion. All Board members present were in favor and the motion carried.**

Tamra Ham made a motion to close the Bond Hearing. Joe Bossie seconded the motion. Discussion: None. Jay Duguay called a vote to approve the motion. All Board members present were in favor and the Hearing closed at 6:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Holt, Assistant to the Superintendent, SAU#68