

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF RHINELANDER
Board of Education

Capital Projects Ad Hoc Committee
Monday, February 19, 2018

MEETING NOTES

Mike Roberts, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. in the Superior Diesel Advanced Learning Center-Rhineland High School.

Mr. Roberts led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Committee Members Present: David Holperin, Duane Frey, Mike Roberts
Committee Members Absent: None

School Board President Ron Counter was also present at this meeting as an ex-officio member, as well as Superintendent Jacobi, Jamie Taylor of the Northwoods River News, and Eileen Persike of the North Star Journal.

Chairperson and/or Superintendent Reports and Updates

Chair Roberts reported that the walls and trusses have been installed on the new building at the Mike Webster Stadium. The Building Trades program students are doing a great job, with some of the local contractors already showing interest in offering employment to some students involved in the project.

Citizens/Delegations

No citizens/delegations wished to address the Committee.

Committee Meeting Minutes

The Minutes of the July 17, 2017 Committee meeting were accepted as printed.

Report/Discussion and/or Action Topics

Space Needs for Elementary Classrooms and Other Space Needs in the District

On October 9, 2017 the Board met at a special meeting for the purpose of considering District-wide operations and the 2017-2018 budget. At the meeting, the Board was provided with the financial status of the Fund Balance (General Fund) as of July 1, 2017, and was informed that with the state budget finalized, the District would be receiving an increase of \$500,000.00 for each of the next two years. With the Fund Balance increasing to an amount above what is required, the Board discussed the use of some of the additional funds for an addition of two classrooms to Crescent Elementary to help with increasing enrollment needs. Anticipated cost for the addition is \$1.2 million.

After the October 9th special meeting, the Administration was notified that St. Joseph's Catholic Church/School property was going to be sold and was asked if the District would be interested in its purchase. Superintendent Jacobi and President Counter, along with Jeff Zdroik, the District's Supervisor of Plant Operations, toured the property in an effort to better determine if it would be of benefit for the District to consider as an option to help with space needs. Mike Roberts, Capital Projects Ad Hoc Committee Chair, also became involved in the discussions.

The asking price for the St. Joe's property is \$649,000.00. Superintendent Jacobi recommended that if the school board would be interested in looking at the property as a possible space needs option, it should consider retaining a realtor and have the building and surrounding grounds inspected prior to further discussions.

President Counter stated that if the school board does consider the purchase, it must be diligent when discussing all options prior to making a commitment.

Committee Chair Roberts shadowed President Counter's concerns and indicated that some school board members have personal ties to Nativity as parish members, so all discussions and considerations must be open to

all school board members and that District staff and community members be privy to all information pertaining to the possible purchase. He also stated that consideration of the purchase must fit into a 20-25 year plan so that it serves the District for many years to come and would not be a short-term fix.

Superintendent Jacobi indicated that St. Joseph's building does have space to accommodate the District's early childhood and four-year-old kindergarten programs, which would provide space in the current elementary buildings for grades kindergarten-5. Other options for the use of the building and possible renovations were also discussed, as well as options for retaining a real estate agent to represent the District if it is serious about purchasing the church.

As a starting point, the Committee directed Superintendent Jacobi to investigate whether or not the Board needs to retain its own realtor and what the difference in cost would be if the Board retains a realtor to represent the District or if it retains an attorney for representation. The full school board membership will then meet to consider its options.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.