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Reporting for PES on the Region 15 Board of Education meeting 1/11/2021

The focus of the January 11th, 2021 Board of Education meeting was the 5-year Capital Plan. The meeting began with two students' representatives of PHS: Zoe Baltrush's and Will Rupff's update on HYBRID learning coming from the student's experience. Mr. Steve Suriani appreciated their honest feedback of sharing the challenges they face while they are on remote learning. The advisory block and the lunch blocks were brought up to attention if they were utilized well at PHS right now, given the hybrid learning condition.

When the students signed off, the meeting shifted to the 5-year Capital Plan for improvements on the physical school buildings with Mr. Joseph Martino's detailed report. Mr. Martino gave an overall view of the district's 5-year projected improvement plan for school buildings for 2021-2025.

First, he walked through the year 2019-2020 on major changes that were done on the school buildings in Region 15.

- phone upgrade /district wide
- PHS / energy update
- LMES/ solar
- PES / HVAC upgrade
- MES / kindergarten

There is a common theme and necessity on updates on the physical buildings among the schools in our district: camera updates, carpet, heating system, clock system, fire alarms, bathrooms, boilers were the focus for most schools beside MMS's patio cafe, and tennis court update is in the plan for the near future. As a representative of PES, I will focus on PES's improvement list for the next 5 years.

PES upgrades:

2021-22 -carpet replacement/ hallway

-clock system

-bathroom update

-security system

2022-23 -carpet replacement

-fire alarms

2024-25 -bathrooms

Mr. Martino reported that after examining the roof at PES no leaks were found, and as it is an older tar roof, regular checking will be required, and replacement is in the plans.

Special attention was given to the Mary I Johnson Central Office building as it is an old, and treasured building in the district to preserve its condition. The roof at the rear of the building has water leaking, and the roof needs to be replaced.

Portable classrooms are on the list for improvements: 14 classrooms in total, over 13,000 square feet of space. Looking at the structure and the integrity of the building for possible repairs or replacements.

Planning for founding: (7-10 years)

- capital budget

- 40% paid by the state of CT

- state of CT school construction grant

-leasing

Superintendent Joshua Smith emphasized: " All timelines are being used for planning purposes only. Capital accounts are allocated to use its budgets and funds each year for future projects." With that statement, the board was invited to ask questions, and to have an open discussion.

Mr. Suriani questioned if the tennis court renewal is needed now. Ms. Heather Dwyer asked if roofing and carpeting could be bundled with contractors for cost saving as it is needed at many

schools. She also inquired information about the new cameras and the plan of new bathrooms.

Mr. Martino reassured board members that saving is a priority, bidding and merging items to be purchased for savings like cameras is in the plans.

Ms. Heather Rodgers was concerned with not having ample parking space at MES and having to park across the street what she does not find safe, especially in the evening hours.

Ms. Sharon Attick was thinking why to replace the old carpets with new carpets, and if there was a better alternative.

Mr. Smith clarified that carpets will be replaced with tiles.

Ms. Dwyer shared a report on PTO Advisory, relating to school reopening and budget allocation, that created fun learning experiences for students.

After over an hour of suspense Mr. Martino revealed that the choice of flooring will be tiles, showing a picture of tiles that had already been installed.

Ms. Marion Manzo chairperson complemented Mr. Martino on the taste of the tiles. As a community member having seen the picture of the tiles, we can be assured that having Ms. Manzo on board the tiles will be chosen well, within the projected budget outlined by Mr. Martino.

Last, Ms. Manzo thanked Mr. Martino for his report, the board members for their comments and questions, and thanked Mr. Smith for students to be able to go back to school in the new calendar year. There were no questions or comments from citizens on the open phone line.

Finally, motion made and passed by board members on adding Italian III, changing aerobics to fitness, and eliminating Shakespeare on stage at PHS.

