

School Board members present:

Kathleen Curry-Sparks
Jennifer McVeigh
Phil Saucier, *Vice Chair *remote*
Elizabeth Scifres, *Chair*
Caitlin Sweet
Cynthia Voltz

Superintendent Christopher Record, Ph.D.

Absent

Heather Altenburg

MINUTES

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

1. **Adjustments To Agenda** –[9:19 mins in] None
2. **Comments From Public On Agenda Items** (per [BEDH](#)) – [9:30 mins in]
 - **Chris Straw** (597 Shore Rd) - expressed his ambivalence about the building project; recalled his participation on the Town Council and original building committee believing a “shovel-ready” project was to be developed for when state-funding for buildings/renovation applications opened. At this time, it appears like no efforts have been made to get on the state funding list. After pleading with the Board for that application to be made, he encouraged its status to be communicated.
 - **Chris Gorski** (address not provided) - in talking with neighbors recently he found them incorrectly believing their taxes would be going up multiple thousands of dollars based on their confusion around the old, flawed tax calculators once used; there was also mention of others who had expressed interest in philanthropically supporting the project.
3. **Consideration of the resolution regarding the School Board recommendation on the Town Council \$94,700,000 new construction and renovation referendum question and the \$1,650,000 solar array referendum question** - [15:30 mins in]

Dr. Record explained the Town Council met on Monday (August 12, 2024) and

voted 7-0 in favor of moving forward with the \$94,700,000 referendum question on the ballot. On the school construction side, this amount includes the building of a new middle school and repairs/renovations to the High School and Pond Cove Elementary. And on the municipal side, a portion of that amount (\$4.8M) is for renovation of the 1930's Building.

Because the \$4.8M amount was added to an amount the Board voted previously to approve unanimously (\$89.9M 'Middle Ground' project) the school bond counsel recommended the Board consider and vote again.

In addition, Joe Cutera of Moors & Cabot was asked by Interim Town Manager Mike McGovern to look at this new amount and do some new calculations based on the changing interest rates. Those are available online and as part of this evening's agenda packet.

Ms. Voltz made a motion by reading the resolution in its entirety. Ms. McVeigh seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken due to Mr. Saucier's remote participation this evening.

Resolution Regarding School Board Recommendation on Referendum Question

WHEREAS, on August 12, 2024, the Cape Elizabeth Town Council authorized expenditures of up to \$94,700,000, and issuance of the Town's general obligation bonds therefor, for the following purposes (referred to as the "Bonded Projects"):

- (i) To construct and equip a new middle school,
- (ii) To make building repairs and renovations and safety upgrades to Pond Cove Elementary School and Cape Elizabeth High School; and
- (iii) To make repairs and renovations and to stabilize the 1934 Building (so-called) on the Cape Elizabeth Middle School Campus.

WHEREAS, at the same meeting, the Cape Elizabeth Town Council also authorized additional expenditures of up to \$1.65 million in the form of pledges, gifts, grants and other donations to pay for a solar array to enhance the new middle school (referred to as the "Solar Project" and together with the Bonded Projects, the "Projects");

WHEREAS, at the same meeting, the Cape Elizabeth Town Council also voted to submit the

foregoing votes to a Town referendum; and

WHEREAS, since some or all of the Projects authorized by the foregoing votes will affect the school budget, the referendum questions are required to include a School Board recommendation whether such questions should be approved;

WHEREAS, the School Board believes that the Projects will have a substantial beneficial impact on the students in the Town;

Now THEREFORE, be it hereby Resolved by the Town of Cape Elizabeth School Board as follows:

- (i) That the School Board recommends that each of the above-described referendum questions be approved, and
- (ii) That the warrant calling such referendum and the ballot used at such referendum include the School Board's recommendation, including the actual vote tally.

Motion:	<u>Ms. Voltz</u>	Second:	<u>Ms. McVeigh</u>	Vote:	<u>6-0 in favor; Altenburg absent</u>
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4. **Consideration To Adjourn** - [20:56 mins in]

Motion:	<u>Ms. McVeigh</u>	Second:	<u>Ms. Sweet</u>	Vote:	<u>6-0 in favor; Altenburg absent</u>
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