



Facilities /Capital Planning Committee Minutes
January 22, 2025

Attendees: Fran Rosenberg, Larry Fleming, Kathy Mahoney, Monique Bourgault

Committee: Dr. Suzanne Charochak , Dr. Michael Harvey, Dr. Joshua Vadala , Mr. Ben Lummis, Ms. Pamela Angelakis

Call to Order: Ms. Angelakis called the meeting to order at 8:03 am and noted it was conducted remotely per Governor Healey's Open Meeting Law extension.

Update on HVAC Project: Mr. Fleming reported the HVAC project is progressing well, with completion expected by the end of February. Additional work to replace the transformer is scheduled for June during the two-week break between the end of the school year and the start of the ESY program. The project remains on track, both financially and timeline-wise, and is projected to end with a positive budget.

Ms. Angelakis stated that it was positive news that the project was ending on a strong financial note.

Ms. Lummis inquired about potential delays with National Grid or equipment availability, but Mr. Fleming assured that sufficient lead time is in place to complete the work in June.

Update on Capital Plan and Capital Budget: Mr. Fleming stated for this fiscal year, we had several projects planned, though budget constraints limited the scope. A van at NSAU was replaced, and the roof at NSAL is mostly complete, with some sections requiring repair in FY27. These are the main capital projects feasible within the current budget. Mr. Fleming emphasized the importance of incorporating capital items into the FY26 budget, acknowledging the impact on tuition rates.

Building Space and Advocacy: Ms. Rosenberg highlighted ongoing advocacy for space planning that is taking place through MOEC. Limited physical space continues to be a barrier to collaborative expansion. MOEC is conducting studies on collaborative capital needs, and has filed legislation related to funding capital projects. This will be connected to a bill advocating for the creation of a commission to study special education funding in general.

NSAL Feasibility Study: Ms. Rosenberg reported that we are working with the Condo association to make necessary repairs. Architect Rick Jones, donated his time to walk through the space with us and discuss options. He showed us some options for how we could sell a portion of the space back to CCA and improve the remaining space. He stated that his firm could likely conduct an initial feasibility study for under \$30,000. A more comprehensive district-wide study would require a formal bidding process.

Visit to Georgetown : At the invitation of the Superintendent, Ms. Rosenberg, Mr. Fleming, and team evaluated an alternative space option in Georgetown. They did not find it suitable for the current NSAL program given location and other considerations. While not viable for the upcoming year, the space could be considered for future initiatives if the board, or the Regional Roundtable group, decide to create a new program. No immediate action will be taken, but the team will continue exploring options and thinking creatively.

Decision not to proceed with RHS RFR: Ms. Rosenberg shared that, after the December meeting, a decision was made to halt relocation efforts for RHS due to low enrollment and budget challenges. Ms. Rosenberg stated that at the upcoming board meeting, the board will need to review short-term and long-term plans related to the need for RHS and the financial sustainability. She noted that this is a difficult discussion given RHS's 20-year history and dedicated staff.

Members highlighted the challenges and considerations in balancing educational needs and business decisions. Ms. Angelakis emphasized and thanked Ms. Rosenberg for her thoughtful, long-range planning that prioritizes students while being fiscally responsible. She acknowledged the difficulty of making decisions that may impact staff and students but stressed the need to meet district needs with accurate information and clear goals.

Dr. Vadala addressed the future of RHS, noting the impact of opioid settlement funds enabling districts to meet students' needs locally. He emphasized that NEC must adapt to changing needs, ensuring support for towns while recognizing the evolving purpose of RHS and treatment options. Importantly, he clarified that this shift is not about abandoning students but about better aligning services to meet their current needs.

Dr. Charochak echoed the need for flexibility and adaptability, highlighting the importance of addressing shifting student and community needs while exploring all possibilities to continue serving students effectively.

Ms. Rosenberg thanked the committee for attending and all of the valued feedback. Look forward to seeing everyone at February 5, 2025 BOD meeting

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 am



Kathy Mahoney, Administrative Assistant to Executive Director



Francine Rosenberg, NEC Executive Director