

# Operations Committee

## Minutes

April 5, 2022

5:00 - 6:00pm

The Forum, Mt. Blue Campus

COMMUNITY | CULTURE | CURRICULUM

Working together to provide high-quality educational opportunities for all

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Members: Doug Dunlap, Scott Erb, Gloria McGraw, Josh Robbins

Members Absent: **Cherieann Harrison**

Other Board Members Present: Judith Kaut, Carol Coles

Staff: Chris Elkington, Laura Columbia, Dan Higgins

Other Staff Present: John Jones

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1. Called meeting to order at 5:02 pm - Coles
2. Review [approved minutes](#) from the last meeting - Coles  
No comments or changes.
3. Updates:
  - a. Camden/Souther Farm Solar Array Ribbon Cutting Ceremony -
    - i. Josh Robbins shared that it was an excellent ceremony, which then led to a discussion of future ways to reduce our electric usage.
  - b. Strategic Planning - Columbia
    - i. Vision and mission have been approved, and the committee is moving forward with next steps to include goal drafts and any other additional information the committee may need.
  - c. Land for Sale [adjacent to Cascade Brook School](#) - Elkington
    - i. Purpose of the land purchase would create additional trail space, bridges to link space over stream, and outdoor classroom space. Current asking price is \$55,000. The school may be using some of this land as part of the CBS field, as told by the current owner. This will be investigated with a new land survey. Any potential purchase would need to go before the voters. If it were to move forward by Board approval likely the funds would be from the balance forward account.

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- ii. Discussion was had on the usability of the lot (wet), and road access to it. Boundary lines need to be clearly determined. More information will be brought forward at the next meeting, with the idea of seeing potential use by forestry programs, etc. Superintendent Elkington will move forward with consulting a surveyor to determine boundary lines, as well as the usability of the land, and potential FTC projects from that property.
- d. Souther Solar Farm Project Billing Review - Elkington/Higgins
  - i. [Jan 2022](#)      [Feb 2022](#)
  - ii. Potential savings were discussed, as well as what the Board felt could be the potential saving of approximately \$15,000 a month when it signed on to the plan.
- e. Legislator Meetings - Elkington
  - i. A new date has not been set. We are waiting to hear back from more of the representatives before setting a date.
  - ii. Discussion was heard regarding the variety of aspects to share at the meeting including Robotics Team, biology lab, CTE connection, Solar Form project savings etc.
- f. Spring School Visits - Harrison
  - i. April dates to choose from 26, 27 or 29
    - 1. Wilton
    - 2. CCHS
    - 3. Cascade Brook
  - ii. Feedback on April dates saw some concerns with availability. Will look for new potential dates in May. Reminder that the entire school board can also attend. Planning ahead, new board members will be given board member orientation in June, including school visits.
- 4. RSU 9 “Break”, “Cool down” rooms Review - Jones/Elkington
  - a. Space requirements and other safety guidelines were reviewed along with pictures of spaces. A couple of situations were reviewed in which a student would go to one of these spaces. All staff utilizing these spaces are trained in Safety Care and De-escalation.
  - b. Questions were heard regarding “what if” the federal government eliminated restraints, seclusions, and these kinds of spaces and what would the impact be on programs, staff and the district?
    - i. Possible increase in out-of-district referrals, which is a problem as some special purpose schools are closing, evacuating classrooms more frequently by leaving the student in difficulty in the room and evacuating others.

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- ii. Questions around adding visuals to the walls to help students feel more comfortable were asked. Discussion of the purpose of the room was reviewed as it is not to be a space students want to go to but a safe space to give them time to “Cool Down” a neutral setting.
5. Maintenance Reorganization - Elkington/Higgins
- a. Director of Maintenance Reorganization
    - i. 22-23 Plan
      - 1. Dir of Finance & Operations
      - 2. Dir of Transportation & Custodial Services
    - ii. Job Description Review
    - iii. Documents were shared with the committee, but because of time, a discussion did not occur.
6. Mallett Outside [Wall Rot](#) from 21-22 Budget - Higgins-
- a. Architect Review
  - b. Meeting with G & E 4-6-2022
  - c. Because of open district positions, money may be available in 21-22 Budget
  - d. Approval?
    - i. Committee supports moving forward if funds are available in this year’s budget.
7. Service Vehicle Needs from 21-22 Budget - Higgins
- a. We have several vehicles we can no longer cost-effectively fix/ sticker-up
  - b. Need three newer vehicles, but can make due with two
  - c. Have found two - [Window Sticker](#)
    - i. Costs for used vehicles are outrageous, but the need is great for us as we can no longer fix these vehicles up.
  - d. Because of open district positions, money is available in 21-22 Budget
  - e. Approval?
    - i. Committee supported moving forward with this purchase.
8. Knox Lawn Care Bid - Higgins
- a. [Quote](#)
  - b. Questions?
    - i. We got one bid as this is a big job which many cannot do.. They have done good work for us and we want to continue tom work with them.

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9. Spring Parking Lot Resurfacing - Elkington-
  - a. We have several parking lots in disrepair
    - i. Cushing
    - ii. Cascade Brook
    - iii. CCHS
  - b. Because of open district positions, money is available in the 21-22 Budget
  - c. Waiting for quotes to see if we can fix one, two, or all three
  - d. Approval?
    - i. Committee supports moving forward if funds are available in this year's budget, with the understanding that it may only be one project.
10. Future Agenda Items
  - a. School layouts with outside structures
  - b. Future Site Visits