

VILLAGE OF MCFARLAND

School District/Village Board Joint Planning Committee Minutes

Tuesday, November 14, 2023 - 4:30 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL.

Village President Clow called the regular meeting of the School District and Village Board Joint Planning Committee to order at 4:00 pm in the Community Room of the McFarland Municipal Center.

Members present: School District: Meghan Fessler, Bruce Fischer, and Aaron Tarnutzer. Village: Carolyn Clow, Hilary Brandt, and Matt Schuenke.

Members not present: None.

Staff Present: Jeff Mahoney, Director of Business.

2. PUBLIC APPEARANCES.

This is an opportunity for members of the public to address the School District/Village Board Joint Planning Committee for items that are not on the agenda. Please remember this is a hybrid meeting conducted in person and through the Zoom online meeting platform. Meeting attendees wishing to address the Committee about items not on the agenda may do so at this time. Zoom attendees should type their name and address in the Question and Answer feature within the Zoom online meeting platform at this time. Members of the public who are present in person and wish to address the Committee should fill out a public comment form and turn into the meeting chairperson. When you are called upon to speak, state your name, address, and provide your comments to the Committee for their consideration. Please adhere to the 3-minute time limit. Additionally, you may send your public comments to village.clerk@mcfarland.wi.us to be included as part of the meeting.

Members of the public may also speak during their selected agenda item as they designate on the public comment form or in the Question and Answer feature on Zoom.

None.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

Motion to approve the minutes of the May 31, 2023 meeting.

Motion by Clow, second by Brandt, to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2023 meeting. Motion carries 6 - 0 - 0 by acclamation.

4. BUSINESS.

Discussion and introduction of the School District Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Coordinator.

Tarnutzer provided an update on the appointment of the School District Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Coordinator. Brittany Brazzel was hired into this role and began in August of 2023. Brittany has a very impressive and unique background including serving as a Social Studies Educator, Department Chair, Alternative Education Coordinator, Professional Development Specialist, and a Curriculum Associate. She was selected based on her proven ability to build strong and trusting

relationships with students, families, community members, and staff, her instructional expertise, her ability to listen and bring people together, and her leadership skills.

b. Update regarding the recruitment for a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Strategist for the Village.

Schuenke stated that the Village Board approved the job description to create the position and authorized Staff to fill the vacancy. The hiring plan was to conduct the recruitment through the end of the year with an appointment happening in January.

c. Discussion regarding the joint development of an Inclusive Playground at Waubesa Intermediate School.

Schuenke went over the progress to develop an Inclusive Park at Waubesa Intermediate School. The Parks and Recreation Committee was working on finalizing the Site Plan with School District Staff and was in process of developing the plan for equipment installation. Orders for equipment should be made in January of 2024 with final design for site work completed in March of 2024. Plan will be to begin construction on Phase 2 at the conclusion of the current school year in anticipation for use in the Fall of the next school year.

d. Discussion regarding planning for a referendum by the School District.

Mahoney was present to provide background on the need for an operating referendum by the School District. He provided data regarding the funding gap and various impacts it had on different levels of value. The Committee reviewed this information and discussed its contents.

e. Discussion and update regarding the McFarland Municipal Center Master Plan.

Schuenke reviewed the background on the development of the master plan which was accepted in May. The Village Board has identified Option #2 to move forward with which will construct a second story on top of the existing Municipal Center in order to create space for a Community Center. Next steps for the project include contracting with an Owner's Representative to help oversee the design and construction as well as an architect to design and bid the project for construction. Next phase of the project to begin design development is anticipated in February of 2024.

f. Discussion regarding the School District and Village working towards constructing a solar farm at or around 3454 Siggelkow Road (Parcel 0710-654-8341-1).

Mahoney provided an update on this that all of the necessary documents between the District, Village, and Alliant Energy were signed. Alliant needs to hire a contractor which will also prepare the design for the infrastructure. Implementation remains on track for 2025 as planned.

g. Discussion regarding planning by Dane County regarding the Sustainability Campus and Landfill Development at Yahara Hills Golf Course in the City of Madison.

Clow provided an update that she was recently appointed to the Local Negotiating Committee along with the City of Madison and Town of Cottage Grove to work with Dane County on their plans to develop a new landfill and sustainability campus at the existing Yahara Hills Golf Course. She will be involved in these meetings now going forward with a final agreement expected for action in the Summer of 2024.

h. Discussion of topics of mutual interest and updates of local initiatives to the School District of McFarland and Village of McFarland.

There were no additional topics addressed.

5. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE.

a. Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 4:00 pm.

6. ADJOURNMENT.

Motion by Brandt, second by Fessler, and carried at 5:27 pm. Motion carried 6 - 0 - 0 by acclamation.

Pursuant to law, written notice of this meeting was given to the public and posted on the public bulletin board in accordance with Open Meetings Law.

Respectfully submitted,
Matthew G. Schuenke
Village Administrator