

These minutes were approved at the October 26, 2022 meeting.

Site Walk Minutes
Oyster River Middle School
July 27, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.

This site walk was requested by Paul Rasmussen for the interest of the Planning Board and to learn more about sustainable energy in preparation for review of the proposed Solar Energy Systems.

Planning Board

Paul Rasmussen, Chair
Heather Grant, Vice Chair
James Bubar, Secretary
Barbara Dill
Bill McGowan
Michael Behrendt, Town Planner

Others

Dr. James Morse, Oyster River School Superintendent

The Planning Board members met Dr. Morse at 3:00 pm in the entry hall. Dr. Morse showed the members around the new middle school, passing through the great hall, to the library, the music theater, the gymnasium, and the mechanical room where the equipment serving the solar panels and geothermal wells is maintained. The middle school total cost was around \$50 million.

The theater has excellent acoustics and is especially designed for musical presentations. For other large gatherings the auditorium at the high school is available. All of the bathrooms are non-gender specific for a single person.

The building will be net positive in terms of energy use and generation. Dr. Morse said this is the biggest school building in New England that is net positive. The design will be a hedge against rising fuel costs and will save taxpayers a great deal. The school district worked with Revision Energy on the plan. There are various elements related to energy efficiency:

There are 70 geothermal wells, each around 500 feet deep. They provide the heating and cooling for the building.

There are solar panels on the building roof and over the parking canopy. The solar provides electricity and hot water. The canopy is tall enough to cover buses to significantly reduce the labor needed to clear buses of snow. The school board is discussing purchasing an electric bus in the future.

There is natural gas as a back up energy source.

Respectfully submitted.

Michael Behrendt, Town Planner