

Regional School District 13
Board of Education
Utilization Committee Meeting

April 20, 2015

Members Present: Kerrie Flanagan, Robert Fulton, Merrill Adams

Board Members Present: Jeremy Renninghoff, Victor Friedrich

Staff Members Present: Kathryn Veronesi, Ronald Melnik, Robert Francis, James Croteau

Also Present David Lenihan, Consultant

Chairman Fulton called the meeting to order at 6:40pm.

1. Public Comment: None

2. Approval of Agenda: Mrs. Flanagan made a motion to approve the agenda. Mrs. Adams second the motion.

Opposed to the motion: None

Abstained from voting: None

Motion passed.

3. Approval of Minutes March 16, 2015: Mrs. Adams made a motion to approve the minutes of March 16, 2015. Mrs. Flanagan second the motion.

Opposed to the motion: None

Abstained from voting: None

Motion passed.

4. Cost of transferring students and the various scenarios associated: Mr. Melnik and Dr. Veronesi reviewed the power point presentation regarding the closing of Korn School at the end of 2015-2016 school year. They reviewed the plan to accommodate the 7 classrooms into Brewster School. A review of projected enrollments, class size and staffing for the next 3 years was discussed. In order to get the level of reimbursement for the solar panel project, the superintendent must send a letter to the state indicating that the enrollment will be at 302 or higher for 2016-2017 school year.

Mr. Melnik and Mr. Lenihan reviewed the costs of three options associated with the closing of Korn School including moth balling, partial moth balling, and keep and maintain. A matrix that was developed in Central Office was reviewed with the committee. Possible scenarios including leasing, acquisition by town/s, moth balling, selling, razing, keeping and maintaining, and combinations were reviewed relative to revenue, expense, benefits, liabilities, and further questions/tasks.

5. Costs of mothballing Korn School: Mr. Lenihan reviewed information from the state including GSS Section 10-283a par A and information from Michelle Dixon regarding public use which includes transfer to the town, partial use, and mothballing. Additionally information regarding amortization was reviewed including the fact that as of 5/9/16 the unamortized balance would be \$708,031. Forgiveness can be requested through the SDE if the school is not being maintained as a school but is being used for public use.

6. Information from CAFE: CAFE did not have additional information regarding other regional districts handling the same issue.

7. Survey from contiguous towns regarding enrollment: All immediate surrounding towns indicated a declining enrollment including Middletown which is declining at a slower/less marked rate.

The committee is prepared to move the recommendation to the full Board of Education to close Korn School at the end of the 2015-2016 school year. The committee will meet to develop a report/communication plan to present to the public/Board of Education at the May 13, 2015 meeting.

8. Public Comment: Carlton Stoup asked if the plan was still to remove the portables right away. Mrs. Flanagan noted that portables would need to remain for the transition period while the district is moving to renovations at the elementary level.

Mr. Stengel asked a question about the purview of the district to lease. Mrs. Flanagan noted that the District cannot be considered a leasing agent. The ability to lease to BASREP is different from leasing the entire building.

Emma Palmieri came to observe the meeting. She is a student at Trinity College studying Education Services and is also a Middlefield parent.

The next meeting will be held on May 5, 2015 at 5:30 pm to review and prepare presentation for the Board of Education meeting on May 13, 2015.

9. Adjournment: Mrs. Flanagan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Adams second the motion. The meeting was adjourned.