

Regional School District 13
Board of Education
Utilization Study Committee Meeting

August 6, 2015

Members Present: Kerrie Flanagan, Robert Fulton, Norm Hicks

Other Board Members present: Nancy Boyle

Staff Members Present: Kathryn Veronesi, Ronald Melnik

Chairman Fulton called the meeting to order.

1. Public Comment

None

2. Board of Education Member Comment

None

3. Approval of Agenda: On a motion Mrs. Flanagan, seconded Mr. Hicks, the agenda was unanimously approved.

4. Approval of Minutes – Mr. Hicks made a motion to approve the minutes of July 20, 2015 as amended. Mrs. Flanagan seconded the motion. All were in favor.

5. Discussion of Korn School closing FAQs

The committee reviewed the questions that have been generated to date regarding the Korn School closing phase of the utilization plan. Various aspects of the questions were discussed including whether items related only to Korn School should be noted. The committee agreed that the questions should be isolated to this project rather than include further decisions that will be made relative to other school closings/renovations. Committee members agreed to work on their own and send Mr. Fulton completed questions prior to the next meeting.

6. Planning for community forum

The Committee discussed the purpose and timing of a Community Forum. The decision was made that a forum would be held after the Durham Fair, but a specific date was not selected. The purpose of the forum would be to give the community a comprehensive update on the Korn School closing recommendation and details. The FAQ's will serve as an organizational framework for comments and will be sent to the public prior to the forum.

7. Superintendent's planning update

Dr. Veronesi reviewed with the committee the timeline and tasks associated with Korn School closing as well as a revised plan to have the current (15-16) 3rd graders move to Memorial School with the current (15-16) 4th graders. Dr. Veronesi, Mr. Melnik and Mr. Francis have worked with Mr. Brough and have determined that Memorial School can accommodate the additional 4 classes of 4th graders for the 16-17 school year. This will mean that the 4th graders will not be going "back" to Brewster School as originally planned, but will go to Memorial School one year "early". A general overview of staffing decreases related to the school closing were reviewed. Staffing changes that will be the result of district-wide declining enrollment will be discussed as part of the budget process.

8. Business Manager's update on closing costs and reductions analysis and assumptions

There was discussion that the overall school budget is 35M and that 30M is salary, benefits and debt. The cost to operate Korn School net of personal cost was approximately 165K. The estimated salary and benefits savings net of enrollment saving is 400K.

9. Public Comment

None

10. Board of Education Member Comment

Mrs. Boyle asked about the 2016-17 cost to close the building and move the employees. Mrs. Flanagan replied that at this time it is possible only to provide a broad estimate.

11. Adjournment: On a motion by Mrs. Flanagan, seconded by Mr. Hicks, the committee unanimously approved to adjourn at 8:45pm.