

**Regional School District 13
Educational Resources Committee
December 7, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.
CRHS Library**

Committee members present: Bob Moore, Bob Yamartino, Nancy Boyle, Andrew Taylor, Jeremy Renninghoff

Administrators present: Kathy Veronesi, Ron Melnik

Guests: Vanessa Rositto, David Flint

1. **Public Comment:** Included in Field House discussion below.
2. **Approval of agenda:** The agenda was approved on a motion by Mr. Renninghoff and seconded by Mr. Yamartino.
3. **Approval of minutes:** The November 16, 2016 minutes were approved on a motion by Mr. Renninghoff and seconded by Mr. Moore. Mr. Yamartino abstained.

4. Field House:

Jenn Zettergren - Durham: commented that a committee of All Sports Advisory Club was formed two years ago to talk about issues of the clubs, sports; anything that falls under sport's umbrella.

Two years ago Mr. Barbieri told the group that said he couldn't do this work by himself regarding moving the field house project forward. Nick Faiella was nominated to chair the committee and Jenn Zettergren reviewed documents related to the prior legal decision.

Price quotes for bathrooms which were presented at the All Sport's Advisory Club found that a full field house would be over \$700,000. They received a quote from Unicon for \$366,000 for the bathrooms. The total number of bathroom stalls is based upon seats in the bleachers.

Jenn Zettergren noted several reasons why having bathrooms and lights would be advantageous for the community including safety, graduation without portalets, invitational track meets, and completing the project that was started years ago that remains unfinished. The Unicon proposal states the building is built off-site and then is brought to the complex.

Mr. Renninghoff noted that the funding issues have existed since the beginning of the project. According to Mr. Renninghoff, the first proposal was grossly underestimated and decisions were made by the building committee at the time to build the sports complex as it exists today while not completing other work that was part of the original proposal. The 2008 bond authorization only allowed for construction of the concrete slab and associated electrical and plumbing provisions. In December 2012 a committee was formed to examine this project. Board members as well as community members were part of this committee. The estimates at that time were \$700,000 for bathrooms only and \$900,000 for the entire building including locker rooms and support areas.

Mr. Renninghoff indicated that the committee did not feel the field house, given the other needs of the district that were pressing at the time, was a greater priority. This came about after the stipulated agreement between Karen Cheyney, RSD 13, and the Town of Durham, was modified to remove the compulsory completion date of spring 2014.

Mrs. Boyle commended Mr. Renninghoff for giving an accurate accounting of the historical overview of the project. Mrs. Boyle talked about the priority of the Board to be responsible to the greater needs of the district and the community as well as the Board's top priority to present a budget that the community will support.

Mr. Renninghoff talked about the laws regarding prevailing wage and why using volunteers would be challenging.

Mr. Yamartino requested the "all in" or overall costs of the project. Depending on the total amount it could be a bonding situation including lawyer's fees or a bank loan/line of credit. He noted that the Board would also need to know the annual operating costs so that it could be built into the annual operating budget. He also said that the Board will also need to account for costs of security including cameras and locks.

Mr. Moore asked about other companies that might want to bid for the job.

Mrs. Boyle indicated that she was happy to have the people here to speak to the Board about this project.

Mike Durand - Durham: Encouraged the Board to look at other schools to determine potential revenue from gate receipts for night games.

Raffaella Fronc - Durham: Noted that declining enrollment led to closing Korn School, but would not result in closing CRHS. She encouraged the group to work together to determine costs, revenue and the benefit of the having a completed project.

Michelle DiMauro - Middlefield: Said that this project could benefit both communities not just the schools. In particular the portalets are a challenge for certain members of the community. This can be a way to keep more students in our district. Mrs. DiMauro also talked about the impact of cutting the student activity fee.

Jennifer Key Smith - Durham: Said that we encourage our kids to stay active, to run in the winter to stay fit for a spring sport. We go to other towns for a track; we shouldn't have to do that. Were any savings accrued from the Korn School closing?

Mrs. Fronc indicated that she and Mr. Hicks as BOE members proposed the cut of the Activity Fee "pay for play" and it only generated \$5,000. (The actual generated amount last year was approximately \$9,000.)

Discussion was held regarding the cost of lights. Mrs. Boyle indicated that the cost was estimated at \$350,000.

Mr. Yamartino talked about his support in cutting the activity fees.

Bob Halligan - Durham: Said that when we are talking about a return on investment; you don't mind paying activity fees. When we look at the taxes being paid, it is an embarrassment that we have pipes sticking up. He said that if the projected was bonded for 20 years they payments wouldn't be that bad.

Mario Millardo - Durham: Said that his aunt and mother will only come to a few games for his child who is an athlete because of lack of accessible bathroom facilities.

Sebastian Moreno - Middlefield: From a contractor's point of view the project is not going to get cheaper. Does the Board of Education have a plan? He commented that the pipes are not going to last too much longer. Hopes the Board has a vision to finish this. Hopes someone has a goal in mind to finish it.

Michelle Rulnick - Middlefield: Said that it seems like a lot of money but not if it is looked at as a capital investment. We are competing for students, so when we are making judgements when we go to other communities and look at their sports facilities. We want kids to feel connected and that they are a part of something. It is everybody having something we can be proud of, and we don't have them. We need to think realistically about how to fund this.

Mr. Moore commended the effort of the group and said the Board will continue to look at this.

Mrs. Zettergren asked what the next step would be.

Mr. Moore indicated that it will be brought up to the full Board and discussed as part of the capital planning process.

Michelle DiMauro asked what would have happened if the direction of the lawsuit hadn't changed. Mr. Renninghoff indicated that there would have to have been some funding.

5. **Audit Review:** Mr. Melnik introduced Vanessa Rositto, David Flint and Tippi Popp.

Ms. Rositto reviewed SAS 114 with the committee. Ms. Rositto issued a clean opinion and reviewed the financial statements. Discussion of the fund balance/surplus was held. Discussion of increases in transportation was held including increases in TEMS costs. Discussion of the guidance of Hooker and Holcomb for pension contributions based on on-going liabilities was held. Discussion of pension plan details and option for buy-out was questioned by Mr. Yamartino. Discussion of MTA was held including lease payment. Discussion of the Student Activity Fund was held.

Mr. Flint reviewed the Single State Audit Report (threshold \$300,000). Did not require a federal grant audit because we were lower than the amount that requires an audit. Clean report. Discussion was held regarding the amount of our grants in comparison to other regional school districts. OPM website can offer information on grants. Ms. Rositto reviewed the suggestions in a letter which were not findings, but needed to be noted including protocol for putting up purchase orders, capital assets, and general ledger maintenance. Discussion was held regarding the three recommendations that were made regarding purchase orders, capital assets, and general ledger maintenance.

Mr. Renninghoff moved to present the audit to the full Board for approval and was seconded by Mrs. Boyle. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion was held regarding offering a defined contribution plan rather than a defined pension benefit plan for new hires.

6. **Capital Planning Review:** Mr. Melnik reviewed draft of a concept of a capital planning process and discussed whether some long term funding would be advisable at this time as a budget strategy. Mr. Yamartino reviewed the 20 year capital planning process the town of Middlefield uses. Mr. Moore requested that Mr. Melnik gather information on financing options for next meeting.
7. **Budget Retreat Review:** A general discussion of the meeting was held and it how positive it was to have a collaborative meeting with the Board of Education and both Boards of Finance. In working

with other agencies, Mr. Yamartino indicated that the process of first identifying of priorities and then determining the associated funds needed to accomplish the priorities has been successful.

8. **Public Comment:** None.
9. **Adjournment:** On a motion made by Mr. Renninghoff and seconded by Mr. Yamartino, the meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.