

Educational Resources Committee

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education Educational Resources Committee met on Monday, February 27, 2017 at 4:00 PM in the Library at Coginchaug Regional High School, 135 Pickett Lane, Durham, Connecticut.

Committee members present: Mrs. Boyle, Mr. Moore, and Mr. Renninghoff

Administration present: Dr. Veronesi, Superintendent of Schools

Others present: Mr. Boyle

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Moore at 4:00 PM

Public Comment

Mr. Boyle was invited to participate throughout the meeting.

Approval of Agenda

On a motion made by motion made by Jeremy Renninghoff and seconded by Nancy Boyle the agenda was unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes – January 18, 2017

On a motion made by Nancy Boyle and seconded by Jeremy Renninghoff, the January 18, 2017 minutes were unanimously approved with the addition of the following sentence regarding the RFP for the field house: Ron Melnik indicated that he had not gone out for RFP because drawings were incomplete and completed drawings are necessary for an RFP.

Korn School Negotiations

Mr. Moore reviewed a spreadsheet that Dr. Veronesi, Mrs. Flanagan and he are working on in order to clearly indicate the costs related to the various options related to Korn School: close and secure building, minimal annual maintenance, Pickett Lane maintenance, raze building, legal fees - P&Z lot subdivision, legal and other fees for zoning permitting issues/approaches, include Brewster Land transfer costs where applicable, Brewster land transfer, budget impact must anticipate needed use, chip seal and repave Pickett Lane upon completion of water project, Pickett Lane culvert, upgrade Pickett Lane for town road classification, sale of building, commercial R/E commission, payback state grant, R/E closing costs. The committee discussed whether there were any other financial considerations to be included and concluded that the list seemed comprehensive at this time.

Mr. Renninghoff commented that based on the state's fiscal system and if Durham is not able to negotiate right away that Durham in good faith should pay a monthly holding fee that is a percentage of the legal and zoning costs that the district is anticipating incurring. Dr. Veronesi noted that another approach would need to be considered if Durham was not interested in the building.

Mrs. Boyle stated that there is only \$80,000 in the budget for next year and that is doable, but she wondered if the District should just close up the building and not have any offices in there to help save money. Mr. Renninghoff stated that if the building does get sold, new offices would need to be found for those people anyway. Dr. Veronesi agreed and stated that the people were in the building to keep it in use. Dr. Veronesi reminded the members that there is also \$91,000 in the budget for the transfer of Korn

School in addition to the amount for utilities (\$82,659). Mr. Renninghoff mentioned that he did not think the Town of Middlefield should pay those expenses.

Dr. Veronesi mentioned that Utilization is planning to meet on Thursday, March 9, 2017 at 5:00 pm. to discuss this matter.

Field House

Mr. Moore thought that the ERC should vote tonight to bring the second option to the Board for a referendum. This option is for the shell and bathrooms only.

Mr. Moore thought there was another option for just a bathroom only, but that was not included. Kevin Boyle asked what was the genesis for the quote and Mr. Moore explained that Rob Francis had sent it out for a quote. Mr. Boyle explained that he had quoted the project four years ago with prevailing wage at \$990,000, all inclusive.

Mrs. Boyle asked why Mr. Francis had gone to a different third party at this point when they had estimates from four years ago and Mr. Moore explained that they had asked him to do that. Kevin Boyle commented that there were three quotes that were fairly consistent and one that is considerably lower. Everyone agreed not to pursue the lower quote.

Mr. Renninghoff prefers to propose the shell and the bathrooms only. He is also concerned about getting the specifics with all the proper equipment and that it may be way over the total amount that went to referendum. Kevin Boyle felt that this would be a good number for the Board to make a decision.

Dr. Veronesi explained that she had asked Mr. Francis about the RFP and he explained that an RFP was not needed right now and that only an estimated bid was needed to go to referendum. Kevin Boyle commented that he had developed true architect and engineer numbers four years ago. Dr. Veronesi stated that Silver Petrucelli had said that it would not have to be a prevailing wage job as no reimbursement will be coming from the State. Mr. Renninghoff thought that all projects paid with public money needed to be prevailing wage, regardless of who is paying for it. Kevin Boyle felt that the Board could go out to bid for A&E now and have a biddable set of documents.

Mr. Moore suggested that the ERC propose \$750,000 to the Board to go to referendum. Kevin Boyle felt that was a logical number. Mrs. Boyle asked what the extra money was that was being added and it was explained that that was administrative and contingency.

Dr. Veronesi asked when the A&E should be done and Kevin Boyle explained that that would happen once the money is approved, however it could be done now but the Board would probably be criticized for that. Mr. Moore agreed and did not want to spend any money that is not approved. Kevin Boyle felt A&E would be in the area of \$25,000 to \$30,000. Mr. Moore suggested that Silver Petrucelli's contract be revised to save money and there would be no need to go out to bid. Mrs. Boyle was concerned about not going out to bid.

Mr. Moore indicated that if the ERC voted tonight to bring this recommendation to the Board, it could be a separate referendum question and would be separate from the budget and would not impact the budget until 2018-2019. Construction could actually start this summer, but the first payment on the bond wouldn't be until the following year's budget. The A&E would also be included in the total amount.

Mrs. Boyle made a motion to bring the project, including the shell and the bathroom, to the Board of Education in the amount not to exceed \$750,000. Seconded by Mr. Renninghoff.

In favor of bringing the project to the Board of Education: Mrs. Boyle, Mr. Renninghoff and Mr. Moore. Motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Boyle then asked if the current document as well as the document from four years ago and Mr. Milardo's be included in the packet for the Board. Mrs. Boyle wants to be sure everyone understands that the ERC followed the process and did not rush into anything.

Mrs. Boyle asked what happens if the Towns vote the project down and Mr. Moore felt that they would go back to the "drawing board". Mrs. Boyle wondered if the referendum should be at the same time as the budget vote. She realizes that it saves money, but also feels that this is a very bad budget year. Mr. Moore also explained that the debt service on this would be very little.

Mr. Renninghoff reiterated that the Committee is not interested in moving forward with the whole field house project and is in favor of moving the bathroom and shell project forward.

Mr. Moore will try to develop a timeline for the full project for the Board meeting next week. Mrs. Boyle suggested showing the debt service, the timeline and possibly three names. Discussion continued on who will help to sell the project and how it should be sold.

New Business

Dr. Veronesi noted that Business Manager interviews are being scheduled for March 20, 2017 from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Mr. Moore, Mrs. Flanagan, Mr. Augur and Mrs. Boyle have all indicated interest in being part of the interview process. Dr. Veronesi asked if anyone had any particular questions, tasks or work samples that they would like to see as part of the interview process. Mr. Renninghoff and Mrs. Boyle both suggested the information that Mr. Russell had provided last week. Mrs. Boyle felt presentation skills are very beneficial. Dr. Veronesi reviewed the interview process with the committee and noted that the finalist(s) will be brought to the full Board for an interview.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Renninghoff and seconded by Mrs. Boyle to adjourn the meeting.

In favor of adjourning the meeting: Mrs. Boyle, Mr. Renninghoff and Mr. Moore. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debi Waz

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