

Regional School District 13
Board of Education
Utilization Study Committee Meeting

June 15, 2015

Members Present: Kerrie Flanagan, Robert Fulton, Merrill Adams

Board Members Present: Jeremy Renninghoff, Rafaella Fronc

Staff Members Present: Kathryn Veronesi, Ronald Melnik

Chairman Fulton called the meeting to order

Prior to Public Comment Mr. Fulton reviewed the process to date and the data used to come to the conclusion of the Committee. Discussed was the issue of declining enrollment from a high of 2400 to 1200 in 2023.

Public Comment: Carl Stengel said that the Durham Town Hall has a meeting posted for tomorrow night as well.

Oanh Stephan stated parents understand that we need to do something. Our per-pupil expenditure is at the state average.

Katie Harmon has questions about class size when kids move to Brewster.

Becky Finnerty stated there is missing and contradictory information in the interim report. She referred to transition time needed and that a panel discussion will be held. There is no information on the cost benefit in the interim report. Specifically she has questions about lunch waves, cafeteria and gym times, and library books.

Bridgette Paturnicki asked why would you get rid of a school that was renovated in 2005? She is concerned about class size and putting kids back in Brewster. She discussed the time it takes to move books. Will enrollment at Brewster be closed, Kindergarten enrollment is closed.

Mrs. Flanagan reviewed the partnership between the committee and Dr. Veronesi in order to move forward with a plan and added that the district must address the situation of declining enrollment. Intent is to investigate. Mrs. Flanagan reviewed the process and said that during the summer the determination will be made whether closing Korn in one year is feasible.

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.

Approval of Minutes: Mrs. Flanagan made a motion to approve the minutes to the May 5, 2015 meeting. Mrs. Adams second the motion.

Opposed to the motion: None
Abstained from voting: None

Motion passed.

Review Korn closing FAQs: Mr. Fulton reviewed the proposed Interim report and acknowledged that the emails from the public are helpful in providing more questions for the committee to address.

Mrs. Fronc noted that parents need information.

Mr. Fulton said one of the points of the report was to get the conversation moving. There are questions we haven't thought of and others we may not have the answers to.

We need to have updated demographic information but will not have it until after October 1st due to the state reporting calendar.

Mrs. Flanagan said that the committee should take the questions from the emails and put them into the FAQ's.

The committee will look at the questions from parents to organize the questions and get them out to parents.

The Board of Education will have FAQs by June 23rd. All BOE members should send along questions that they have or have heard from members of the community.

Discuss operating cost analysis and estimates of operating cost reductions: Mrs. Boyle noted that information on costs of operating and closing Korn are very important for the Board and the community to know.

Mr. Melnik reviewed the cost analysis chart that was prepared by Mr. Lenihan.

Dr. Veronesi will work with her administrative team in order to review a plan with the Board by the end of July. She will have preliminary information next week.

A request was made to Mr. Melnik to look at BASREP as well as other events that happen at Korn. That information will be available at the next meeting.

Can we quantify the personnel cost savings to date? Mr. Melnik can have that for the next meeting.

Mrs. Flanagan said we will have to deal with declining enrollment and renovations and what the rate of reimbursement will be. If we do nothing we still need to do capital renovations.

This is an exciting opportunity to have two really well outfitted schools.

Mr. Renninghoff shared his concern that we are going to be spending money that is unnecessary because he believes that the information from the engineers over exaggerated the need for improvements and renovations.

Mr. Fulton said that it is clear that each of the buildings will require improvements at some point in time.

The next Utilization Study committee meeting will be June 25, 2015.

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