

Utilization Committee
October 19, 2016
5:00 p.m.
Library at CRHS

Committee members in attendance: Kerrie Flanagan, Phil Augur, Victor Friedrich, Jeremy Renninghoff
Others in attendance: Kathryn Veronesi, Ron Melnik

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 p.m.

1. **Amendment to the Agenda:** On a motion by Dr. Friedrich and seconded by Mr. Renninghoff approval of the May 31, 2016 minutes was added to the agenda.
2. **Public Comment:** None.
3. **Approval of Agenda:** On a motion by Mr. Renninghoff and seconded by Dr. Friedrich the agenda was approved.
4. **Approval of Minutes:** On a motion by Dr. Friedrich and seconded by Mr. Renninghoff the minutes of July 19, 2016 were approved with two modifications: (1) the start time of the meeting was 4:00 and (2) strike the following sentence: Dr. Friedrich mentioned that the remaining town may not include interest on the market value so it may be considered a loan to the other town. On a motion by Dr. Friedrich and seconded by Mr. Augur the minutes of May 31, 2016 were approved.
5. **Request to legislators for leasing authority:** Dr. Veronesi indicated that sending a letter to legislators should happen after more formal decisions are made with Durham. Mrs. Flanagan said that Senator Kennedy's office assured her that legislator and Department of Administrative Services (DAS) does not think the wording of Durham rather than Regional District 13 will be a problem.

Our legal counsel has recommended that we get it in writing. The best interest for the District is to not have to maintain the building. If a situation involves a lease to buy, we would not need to get a provision for leasing authority.

6. **Demographic study update:** Discussion of updating enrollment/demographic updates especially with Pratt and Whitney and Bristol Myers Squibb. Mr. Augur wondered if the District could reach out to Bristol Myers Squibb to get zip code analysis. Discussion of census data that projects age of children moving into town based on a statistical measure.

The committee supports update of enrollment predictions during this school year. Discussion of State of Connecticut demographic study as more general with Milone & MacBroom's study being more specific to Durham and Middlefield.

Dr. Veronesi will contact Milone & MacBroom regarding advice on when we should do an update. We will invite a representative from Milone & MacBroom to attend a BOE meeting after the report is completed because there are new members of the BOE who are aware of the process used to project enrollment.

Mr. Augur wondered if having a consortium approach would prove to be a cost savings.

7. **Grant waiver:** This will continue to be explored as indicated in the earlier discussion regarding the request to legislators' discussion.
8. **Town of Durham communications:** Communication with Town of Durham – Executive Session November 16, 2016. Mrs. Flanagan will contact Doug Gillette and Laura Francis.

The committee discussed ideas for the final disposition of the building including the perception of the community. Discussion of renaming the building at some point because it is no longer being used as a school. We are currently calling it Korn School Building.

9. **Silver Petrucelli – status and timeline:** Dr. Veronesi updated the committee on Silver Petrucelli work. They finished last school focus group on October 12, 2016 and will hold a parent focus group at Strong School in the library on Monday, October 24, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. A completed program proposal will be submitted to Dr. Veronesi and the BOE in three weeks. Dr. Veronesi has asked Silver Petrucelli to do a workshop for the BOE to review findings and proposal.

The committee discussed the idea of school visits with our leads from Silver Petrucelli to see new school design and furniture. An afternoon visit was suggested.

10. **Parent focus group:** The parent focus group on Monday night will give examples of interior new school construction in the PowerPoint presentation. Also, parents will be educated about the school construction process. Finally, they will have an opportunity to share questions, ideas, and vision for the future.
11. **Public Comment:** None.
12. **Adjournment:** On a motion by Mr. Renninghoff and seconded by Dr. Friedrich the meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.