

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in special session on Thursday, March 30, 2017 at 8:00 PM in the Library at Coginchaug Regional High School, 135 Pickett Lane, Durham, Connecticut. Board members present: Mr. Augur (by phone), Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan (by phone), Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Renninghoff, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino.

Board members absent: Mr. Hicks.

Administration present: Dr. Veronesi, Superintendent of Schools.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Public Comment**

None.

**Next Board Meeting - April 5, 2017 in the CRHS Library**

**7:30 PM Board of Education meeting in the Library**

**8:00 PM Public Hearing on the 2017-2018 Education Budget in the Auditorium**

**Approval of Agenda**

Mrs. Boyle made a motion, seconded by Dr. Friedrich, to approve the agenda as presented.

In favor of approving the agenda as presented: Mr. Augur, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Renninghoff, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed.

**Field House Project**

- A. Consider and act on a resolution with respect to an appropriation and borrowing authorization for the design, construction and equipping of an athletic field house at Coginchaug Regional High School in Durham.

Mr. Renninghoff made a motion to adopt the resolution for the appropriation of \$800,000 and authorization of bonds and temporary notes in the same amount for design, construction and equipping of an athletic field house at Coginchaug Regional High School in Durham, as written. Mrs. Boyle seconded the motion.

Mr. Yamartino thanked all the members of the public for their input. Mr. Yamartino felt that the decision to put this project on a ballot is not so much a decision about finances as it is about where the community places its priorities and values. He felt that the common theme throughout the budget season has been prioritization. Mr. Yamartino felt that the education of the children is critical and stated that the field house falls more into a quality of life decision with significant financial implications. Mr. Yamartino also summarized that the primary impetus for moving forward with the bathrooms is to get the lights installed and he is disappointed that the lights were not included so that the communities can see the full costs.

Mr. Yamartino explained that he serves on both the Board of Ed and the Middlefield Board of Finance and discussions have centered around the impact of the State's budget process. The quality of life, education of the children, police and fire services, operations of town government and long-term funding

of infrastructure improvements have been key decision points. He mentioned that Meals-on-Wheels and senior lunches may be cut. The Board of Education has debated a pre-K program expansion that will directly affect the quality of educational services. A tuition fee was then implemented for that program. The District is in the bottom third of the DRG in test scores and he felt this is a clear indication that the District can do better. In summary, Mr. Yamartino felt that the money being proposed for the field house could go a long way towards educational needs. Pay-to-play has also been instituted as a means to fund the middle school sports program and provide some budget offset.

Mr. Yamartino also mentioned that the Board ultimately eliminated a \$27,000 part-time technology person from the school budget and is now asking the technology staff to do more with less. Mr. Yamartino continued reviewing other town budget items that have significant impact on the taxpayers. He also asked what an additional \$60,000 or \$80,000 would mean for STEAM projects in the schools and mentioned that Durham residents are going to be faced with a decision about a community center.

Mr. Yamartino summarized that he would like to be able to fund all of these items, including the field house, but he cannot, in good conscience, vote to do that. In the coming months, a budget will be presented to the taxpayers of Middlefield which may reflect a 7.5 increase in taxes this year. Mr. Yamartino explained that the Board of Education can say no to moving this project to referendum or say yes and let the taxpayers decide. He does feel that this project is a prioritization of our values as a community and supports and respects the wishes of the public and will vote yes to allow the project to go to referendum. He then the voters to consider the entire community when voting and if this project truly outweighs the other educational initiatives and other town projects. He also asked the public to consider the additional tax burden that this expenditure places on all of the citizens, particularly those in the lowest income brackets and on fixed incomes.

Dr. Friedrich stated that he too will vote to pass this to referendum, but he reminded everyone that this will come at the cost of other things. The middle school sports programs are about the same cost as these bathrooms.

Mrs. Petrella reported that the actual cost for the project, bonded over 10 years, would be approximately \$910,000 including interest. If it was bonded for 20 years, it would be approximately \$1,051,900. Mrs. Petrella also echoed some of Mr. Yamartino's comments about quality of life and stated that she considers the education of children a critical service and the primary priority of the school district. Mrs. Petrella will also vote yes to support the wishes of the people, but also asked that everyone seriously consider the entire community and other educational initiatives when voting.

Mrs. Boyle stated that she doesn't feel it's her right to deny the public the chance to vote and will wholeheartedly support moving this project to referendum. Dr. Taylor echoed those comments and will vote to send it to referendum.

Mr. Moore thanked everyone for their comments and reminded everyone that, if this project goes to referendum, it will be voted on alongside the budget for \$37 million.

In favor of accepting the resolution as presented: Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Against: Mr. Augur and Mr. Renninghoff. Motion passed, 7-2.

- B. Consider and act on a resolution to establish a referendum of District voters on the appropriations and borrowing authorization for Coginchaug Regional High School Athletic Field House Project and to determine various matters related thereto.

Mr. Renninghoff made a motion to approve a resolution recommending the appropriation of borrowing authorization for the Coginchaug Regional High School Athletic Field House Project at a referendum to be held on Tuesday, May 2, 2017 in the towns of Durham and Middlefield and to waive the reading of said resolution, copies of which are available here and in the District's office, but to include it as part of the minutes. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Boyle.

In favor of approving the resolution to a referendum on May 2, 2017, as presented: Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Against: Mr. Augur and Mr. Renninghoff. Motion passed, 7-2.

**New Business**

- A. Field Trip Request - CRHS Seniors, Washington, DC

Dr. Friedrich made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Boyle, to approve the field trip request for the senior class to Washington, DC next year. The motion was amended to include that the trip can be canceled without any notice in the event of any kind of homeland security issue or other calamity.

In favor of approving the field trip to Washington, DC, as amended: Mrs. Boyle, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Renninghoff, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino.

**Public Comment**

Roger Kleeman asked why the interest wasn't shown on the information and Mr. Renninghoff explained that the Board did not know what it is yet. The schedule that was described was at 2.5 percent for 10 years and 3 percent for 20 years. This information will be provided in the minutes and on the website. Mr. Kleeman felt that the public should be aware of all costs before voting.

Kevin Boyle asked if you buy a house for the price or for the total, including financing. He believes that everyone is aware that there will be financing charges.

**Adjournment**

Dr. Friedrich made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Boyle, to adjourn the meeting.

In favor of adjourning the meeting: Mrs. Boyle, Dr. Friedrich, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Renninghoff, Dr. Taylor and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debi Waz

Debi Waz  
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RESOLUTION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION  
OF REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER 13  
HELD MARCH 30, 2017

Item A (Coginchaug Regional High School Athletic Field House Project).

**APPROPRIATION OF \$800,000 AND AUTHORIZATION OF BONDS AND TEMPORARY NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT FOR DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPPING OF AN ATHLETIC FIELD HOUSE AT COGINCHAUG REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN DURHAM**

RESOLVED,

1. That Regional School District Number 13 of the State of Connecticut appropriate EIGHT HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$800,000) for costs related to the design, construction and equipping of an athletic field house on an existing foundation located on the northeast corner of the synthetic turf field at Coginchaug Regional High School in Durham, contemplated to include the construction of the entire outer shell and roof, including plumbing, mechanical systems, lighting and electrical, the completion of men's and women's restrooms, a small referee's room and a service closet. The appropriation may be spent for design, installation and construction costs, preparation of drawings and outline specifications, equipment, materials, testing costs, disposal costs, architects' fees, engineering fees, construction management costs and fees, legal fees, net interest on borrowings, other financing costs, and other expenses related to the project. The District Board of Education, or such building committee as established or designated by the District Board of Education for the project, shall be authorized to determine the scope and particulars of the project, and may reduce or modify the scope of the project as desirable, and the entire appropriation may be spent on the project as so reduced or modified.

2. That the District issue its bonds and temporary notes in an amount not to exceed EIGHT HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$800,000) to finance the appropriation for the project. The amount of the bonds or notes authorized shall be reduced by the amount of grants received by the District for the project. The bonds and temporary notes shall be issued pursuant to Section 10-56 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, and any other enabling acts. The bonds and notes shall be general obligations of the District and its member towns, secured by the irrevocable pledge of the full faith and credit of the District and its member towns. The law firm of Day Pitney LLP is designated as bond counsel to approve the legality of the bonds and notes. The Chairman and the Treasurer, or such officer or body to whom the Board of Education delegates the authority to make such determinations, are authorized to determine the amounts, dates, interest rates, maturities, redemption provisions, form and other details of the bonds and notes; to designate one or more banks or trust companies to be certifying bank, registrar, transfer agent and paying agent for the bonds or notes; to provide for keeping a record of the bonds or notes; to designate a financial advisor to the District in connection with the sale of the bonds or notes; to sell the bonds or notes at public or private sale; to deliver the bonds or notes; and to perform all other acts which are necessary or appropriate to issue the bonds or notes.

3. That the District hereby declares its official intent under Federal Income Tax Regulation Section 1.150-2 that project costs may be paid from temporary advances of available funds and that the District reasonably expects to reimburse any such advances from the proceeds of borrowings in an aggregate principal amount not in excess of the amount of borrowing authorized above for the project. The Chairman and Treasurer, or such officer or body to whom the Board of Education delegates such authority, are authorized to amend such declaration of official intent as they deem necessary or advisable and to bind the District pursuant to such representations and covenants as they deem necessary or advisable in order to maintain the continued exemption from federal income taxation of interest on the bonds or notes authorized by this resolution if issued on a tax-exempt basis, including covenants to pay rebates of investment earnings to the United States in future years.

4. That the Chairman and Treasurer, or such officer or body to whom the Board delegates such authority, are authorized to make representations and enter into written agreements for the benefit of holders of the bonds or notes to provide secondary market disclosure information, which agreements may include such terms as they deem advisable or appropriate in order to comply with applicable laws or rules pertaining to the sale or purchase of such bonds or notes.

5. That the District Board of Education, or such building committee as established or designated by the District Board of Education for the project shall be authorized to contract with architects, engineers, contractors and others in the name and on behalf of the District with respect to the project, following approval from the District Board of Education; to approve design and construction expenditures for the project; and to exercise such other powers as are necessary or appropriate to complete the project. Committee members shall not receive any compensation for their services. Necessary expenses of the Committee shall be included in the cost of the project. The records of the Committee shall be filed with the Secretary of the District Board of Education and shall be open to public inspection during normal business hours. Upon completion of the project, the Committee shall make a complete report and accounting to the District Board of Education.

6. That the authorization of bonds and temporary notes shall be subject to approval by a referendum vote to be held in the Towns of Durham and Middlefield, being all of the towns comprising said District.

Item B (Referendum).

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education recommends to the towns comprising Regional School District Number 13 that the bond and temporary note authorizations approved at this meeting for the Coginchaug Regional High School Athletic Field House Project be approved by referendum vote; and that said referendum be held on Tuesday, May 2, 2017; that notice of said referendum be given by publication and posting between five and fifteen days before said date, and that said notices of the referendum in the Towns of Durham and Middlefield be substantially in the following form:

“WARNING  
REFERENDUM VOTE  
Regional School District Number 13  
Town of \_\_\_\_\_  
May 2, 2017

A referendum vote of the electors and citizens qualified to vote in town meetings of the Town of \_\_\_\_\_, Connecticut will be held in the Town of \_\_\_\_\_ at the following polling places:

*[INSERT POLLING PLACES]*

and simultaneously in the other Town in the District on Tuesday, May 2, 2017 between the hours of 6:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M. pursuant to Section 10-56 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, upon a resolution adopted by the Regional Board of Education at meeting held March 30, 2017, which will be placed on the ballots as the following question:

SHALL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER 13 APPROPRIATE \$800,000 AND AUTHORIZE BONDS AND TEMPORARY NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT FOR DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPPING OF AN ATHLETIC FIELD HOUSE AT COGINCHAUG REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN DURHAM?

Voters approving the resolution shall vote “Yes” and those opposing the resolution shall vote “No”. Absentee ballots will be available from the Town Clerk’s office.

Dated at \_\_\_\_\_, Connecticut this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2017.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Town Clerk  
Town of \_\_\_\_\_ “