MEMOS TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION - FORMAT AND CONTENT

To: The RSD17 Board of Education
Date: *March 15, 2024*
Submitted for Board meeting dated: *March 19, 2024*
Re: *Master Plan Update*
Purpose of memo: *Informational*

Executive Summary:

Attached is a memo from Arcadis outlining their final recommendation for the Master Planning process. Arcadis and Regional School District #17 Administration are in concurrence that the outlined approach is in the best interest of the District, its member towns, and our students. Focusing on one major project of building a brand-new school on the existing Haddam-Killingworth High School campus that will be purpose-built to serve the grade 7-12 population reflects a tangible and realistic plan to invest resources wisely.

While the design and construction process commences on the new school, discussions can continue regarding “phase 2,” since an option for phase 2 does not need to be determined at this time and can be adapted to the macro and microeconomic climates over the next 5-7 years. Even if phase two does not materialize at all, no funds will be “wasted” and the district can continue to operate in an efficient manner. The remaining buildings in the portfolio will have capital improvements planned and executed through a normal 5-year Capital Improvement Plan, which can be scaled up or down each year as necessary, and will be treated as going concerns until such a time where phase 2 is put into action.

This plan is the culmination of years of surveys, data, and deliberation, and while the District is confident it will provide the most overall value, there will be those, both on the Board of Education and in the community that disagree. The reality is that the most costly measure is to continue to take no action at all, and this plan allows for a straightforward referendum to construct a new school and provide the flagship asset that has been desired for so long.

The next step is to set a date for a Special Board of Education meeting to host a final transmittal presentation by Tecton Architects and Arcadis, culminating with a vote to accept the Master Plan as transmitted.

CC:
Board Administrator
Superintendent of School

Enclosures: **Arcadis Memo**