

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING
COMMUNITY INFORMATION MEETING
September 7, 2016

A special meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on September 7, 2016 in the Haddam Killingworth Middle School Auditorium. Board of Education Chair, Joel D'Angelo, called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

***Members Present:** Kathy Brown, Maura Wallin, Eric Couture, Susan Dean, Joanne Nesti, Neal Perron, Sue Twachtman, Joel D'Angelo*

***Members Absent:** Dan Chase, Suzanne Sack, Jeannie Young*

***Also Present:** Superintendent of Schools, Howard Thiery, Representative from Capitol Region Education Council (CREC) Paul Drummey, Board Clerk, Larissa Johnson and Board Clerk Trainee Kati Mohr*

***Visitors:** Approximately 16*

Call to Order/Opening of Meeting

Board of Education Chair, Joel D'Angelo called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

Presentation of High School Referendum Project

Board Chair Joel D'Angelo did a presentation in regards to the High School Infrastructure Plan. The presentation began with a rationale behind the project. The presentation then moved on to the studies and reports completed by agencies within and outside of the district. The presentation also included a section, "What areas need to be fixed or replaced?" He outlined that the roof needs to be replaced as it is 40 years old and has outlived its expected lifespan of 30 years. There have been some leaks that have been addressed as they have occurred, but a new roof will avoid water damage and mold growth, which will help the high school building last longer. The furnace systems also need to be replaced, as they are also 40 years old and have outlived their life expectancy of 35 years. Every year, several tubes burn out and need to be replaced and it is expected that the number of repairs needed will increase. A new furnace system will be more efficient, and have the ability to switch between natural gas and oil, depending upon cost and availability. The new system design will also decrease the chances of the furnace system going offline. The estimated cost of the project is approximately \$9.1 million, with a net cost over 20 years of \$5.8 million after grant reimbursements, along with a projected energy savings of \$275,000 a year.

The Board then took questions from the audience.

Earle Decker of Higganum addressed the Board with questions in regards to the bonding rates and the number of bonds we currently have. The Board informed Mr. Decker that they are looking at a bond rate of 3% and there are currently two bonds out.

John O'Leary of Killingworth addressed the Board, stating the construction on the roof is long overdue and sending out a pamphlet to the public was a great idea. The Board also discussed with him the overall cost of the project after state reimbursement, energy savings and payback.

John Kuzminski of Killingworth addressed the Board with concerns of the weight of the solar panels on the roof. Paul Drummer representative from CREC explained that they made sure the roof would be able to hold the weight of the panels.

First Selectwoman of Killingworth Catherine Iino had questions for the Board in regards to impact to the tax payers, the Board explained that information was given last fall. She also wanted to know if this were to not pass is there a way to estimate the cost of repairs going forward. The Board explained they cannot project the exact cost because we are chasing leaks and boiler pipe failures.

Alan Andeen of Higganum addressed the Board with questions in regards to what is in the forecast for the Middle and three elementary schools. Mike Distefano, Director of Facilities explained that there is a three tier plan for upcoming projects. 1 is 1-3 years, 2 is 3-5 and 3 is 5 years and beyond, they do not expect to have to take out bonds for any projects currently in the three tier system.

Arthur E. Collins Jr of Higganum addressed the Board. He was pleased with the pamphlet sent home and feels like the project needs to be done. He also had questions in regards to power outages with the solar panels, the Board explained that the high school is equipped with a generator.

John A. Samperi of Killingworth addressed the Board with two questions, what is the cost for each item? The Board responded-8.6 million for the roof, boilers and solar, and 810,000 for the auditorium. He also asked why the referendum was not occurring in November, Superintendent Thiery explained that because of the Presidential election it made the process uniquely complex and we were unable to do all things necessary to comply with that process within the time constraints.

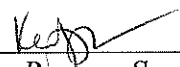
Adjournment

Board Chair Joel D'Angelo called for the meeting to adjourn at 7:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Kati Mohr
Board Clerk

Approval:  Date: 10/4/16
Kathy Brown, Secretary