

Special Darien Board of Education

Facilities Committee Meeting

Thursday, May 12, 2022

8:30 a.m.

**Darien Public Schools' Administrative Offices
35 Leroy Avenue
Board of Education Meeting Room**

AGENDA

1. Discussion of Proposed Darien Athletic Foundation Athletic Press Box Project
2. Discussion on RFP results for Architectural Services for Library Redesign at Darien High School, Middlesex and Tokeneke
3. Discussion on Outdoor Classroom Proposal at Middlesex
4. Status Update on Royle School Roof Project
5. Status Update on Solar Project
6. Public Comment*
7. Adjournment

*** * The Board of Education meeting will be available to the public in person and via Zoom. Wearing of masks is optional and seating is limited by room capacity. Doors open at 8:15 a.m. for the 8:30 a.m. meeting.**

Those members of the community wishing to participate in public comment may also join the meeting via Zoom:

<https://darienps.zoom.us/j/98446772847>

Those members of the community wishing to view only, should do so through the Darien Youtube link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUnnvYKBFbFrTWQRuoB6OZA>

In order to reduce audio interference, members of the community are requested not to simultaneously view by Youtube while participating on Zoom.

DARIEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Richard Rudl

Director of Finance and Operations

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To: Dr. Alan Addley, Superintendent of Schools

From: Richard Rudl, Director of Finance & Operations
Michael Lynch, Director of Facilities

Date: May 9, 2022

Subject: RFP for Library Design and Ed Specification Services for DHS, MMS and Tokeneke

A Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued on March 16, 2022 with results due back on April 21, 2022. We received six competitive bids from the following vendors:

COMPANY	SCHEMATIC DESGIN, ED SPECS	CONSTRUCTION	TOTAL BID
SILVER PETRUCELLI	\$44,600	\$83,700	\$128,300
RUSSELL & DAWSON	\$57,600	\$88,400	\$146,000
KG&D	\$72,937	\$218,813	\$291,750
NE COLLABORATIVE	\$75,390	\$104,110	\$179,500
BBS ARCH & ENG.	\$104,125	\$193,375	\$297,500
GEDDIS			\$327,820

Given the services needed currently are only for schematic design and educational specifications, we are recommending Silver Petrucelli in the amount of \$44,600. They will meet with stakeholders including the Director of Facilities, Director of Instructional Technology, Library Media Specialists and School Administrations to develop plans and educational specifications that will eventually go to the Board of Education for approval with future steps being the creation of a building committee by the Board of Selectmen.

If the Board Facilities Committee agrees, the Administration would bring this forward along with a budget transfer for Board of Education approval at the May 24th meeting.

**Darien Public Schools
Darien, Connecticut**

TO: Board of Education Facilities Committee
FROM: Alan Addley, Superintendent of Schools
DATE: May 9, 2022
SUBJECT: The creation of a Middlesex Middle School Outdoor Classroom

Background: Over the past 23 years the Darien Foundation has funded educational grants for the Darien Public Schools of approximately \$1.4M. Most recently, the Darien Foundation funded twelve new robotics clubs across the District. The Darien Foundation is seeking opportunities to continue to support educational initiatives in this District.

Location: A MMS outdoor classroom would make use of the courtyard space outside of the media center. Currently, the space has four tables which are utilized occasionally by staff for lunch. By landscaping the area and installing an outdoor classroom, the MMS administration believes that this area can be utilized by staff and students throughout the year for new learning opportunities.

Context & History: In the fall of 2021 MMS principal, Karolyn Rodriguez, proposed the idea of an outdoor classroom learning space at the commencement of the budget process, and the idea was discussed at several Board meetings in the fall. The administration proposed funding the project as a gift from the Darien Foundation. The administration is requesting the Board's approval to proceed working with the Darien Foundation in providing the funding to support this project.

COVID takeaways for the District were the health, safety and educational benefits of outdoor learning spaces. The middle school had access to two outdoor learning classrooms during the pandemic.

Educational Benefits: The goal of the outdoor classroom is to incorporate time spent outdoors into students' school experience. The outdoor classroom would allow for teachers to conduct classes outside and allow students to engage in their learning in an alternate environment. This educational space could also be used for extra-curricular activities.

Research studies, most conducted prior to COVID, cite social, emotional, and academic benefits from learning outdoors. Access to the outdoors can reduce stress levels of students and increase students' self-confidence, creativity, decision-making and problem-solving skills. Students are also able to focus

better and increase their attention on their academic demands simply by being outside. Middle school-aged children, in particular, spend less time outdoors as academic demands increase.

Contemporary school designs now intentionally include outdoor learning spaces.

Tentative Budget: In the fall, a preliminary budget was proposed for the project. It included seating, a sun-shade, and outdoor television, whiteboard and Wi-Fi access for students and teachers. This budget now needs to be informed by a more detailed architectural rendition of the project.

Item	Cost
Architect	\$ 7,000
15 Anchored Park Benches (seating for 30-45 students)	\$10,140
Sun-Shade to span across the courtyard (includes all hardware to anchor it to the buildings)	\$23,025
Wi-Fi Hotspot	\$ 1,100
* Outdoor Television & Whiteboard (Gifted from MPA)	\$ 1,957
Total Cost Requested:	\$43,222

Next Steps: The administration and Darien Foundation are looking for conceptual approval from the Board to proceed with this project by first retaining an architect to create a conceptual design that would be the source document to seek funding from the Darien Foundation and approvals from the BOE, P&Z and Fire Marshal.



Middlesex Middle School Outdoor Classroom



Memorandum

To: Dr. Alan Addley
From: Mike Lynch *Mike Lynch*
Date: May 6, 2022
Subject: Solar Project Update

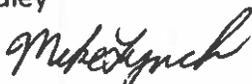
The Town of Darien has signed the Power Purchase Agreement with the CT Greenbank. The CT Greenbank has hired Dynamic Energy Solutions of Chesterbrook, PA as the installation contractor. Kevin and I met with Dynamic and they have completed the roof surveys. Dynamic is currently drawing up the installation plans for the solar panels, which they will turn over to the Greenbank for approval.

Once approved, Dynamic plans to begin the installation at the end of June. They will install at Hindley and Holmes first, and then install at Ox Ridge. Royle will be installed last. Dynamic assured us that they have all the material in stock. Dynamic would not give a completion date, but, they expect to be completed before the end of November.

Please let me know if you have any other questions.

cc: Rich Rudl

Memorandum

To: Dr. Alan Addley
From: Mike Lynch 
Date: May 6, 2022
Subject: Royle Roof Project

The Royle School was scheduled to have the roof replaced during the summer of 2022. The project approval process has been held up in Hartford since February. We are still waiting for approval. At this point there is not enough time to bid the work, award the bid and then have everything completed before school starts.

We could bid the project immediately if the district was willing to forego the state grant funding. The grant funding is estimated to be +/- \$85,000. We may be able to get most of the project done before school starts if we were to bid now. We could wait until next summer and bid the approved project out a year late. The rising cost of materials would cut into our grant funding by \$45,000. A third alternative would be to bid the project whenever we get state approval and then start the project in late July/early August and finish by October 1. The roof construction at Holmes ran into the third week of September and 9 years ago the roof project at Middlesex ran into Mid-November. There were no problems with the work and the operation of the school. My suggestion would be to go with Alternative #3.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

cc: Rich Rudl