

Regional School District No. 17

Board of Education

Finance/Facilities

Subcommittee Minutes

Chair: Peter Sonski

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Finance/Facilities Subcommittee was held on March 16, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in Room A116 located at HK High School.

Subcommittee Members Present: Chair Peter Sonski, Jennifer Favalora (remote), Suzanne Sack (remote)

Subcommittee Members Absent: Prem Aithal, Shawna Goldfarb, Hamish MacPhail

Also present: Superintendent Wihbey (remote), Director David Solin, Director John Mercier, Rob Albert, Brianna Hill, Jeffrey Wyszynski and Antonia Ciaverella from Tecton (remote), Chloe Abarientos, Dylan Brown, Nathan Hughes, Maizie Irons (HKMS students, with teacher and parents)

1. Call to Order/Opening of the Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Peter Sonski (Chair)

2. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

No action was taken

3. HKMS Solar Flower presentation

Four eighth grade students introduced a plan for a photovoltaic solar “flower” to be installed on the HKMS grounds. The project is expected to be funded through student fundraising and supplemented by Eversource grants and/or credits. Committee members were pleased with the initiative and asked the students, along with Mr. Mercier, to look more thoroughly at project costs and timelines with an objective of making a formal request to the full Board of Education.

4. District Master Plan update from Tecton

Mr. Wyszynski reported that his firm has presented all requirements to the contracted demographer for a 10-year projection of student population for the school district. A report

is expected near the time of the April committee meeting. He presented an updated project schedule and meeting calendar. The committee confirmed dates for public meetings. Mr. Wyszenski will finalize the calendar for the district to distribute to the public. He also introduced a usable space analysis of existing buildings and various concepts or ideas for master plan direction. He explained state reimbursement impacts of capital repairs and maintenance of existing structures versus options for renovated buildings as new or new construction. He also explained the process of space waivers that grant deviations in building space (e.g. gymnasium, auditorium) sizes based on student population.

5. Facilities use form review

Mr. Mercier made changes to the form and conditions based upon BOE feedback. Revisions include: nonprofits' facilities include only incidentals (no room charge). He also adjusted custodial and AV fees to a two-hour minimum (from four hours) in accordance with union contracts.

6. STA status report

Mr. Mercier reported a follow-up meeting with the representatives of Student Transportation of America is set for March 27th. He has proposed modest changes to the agreement as noted by BOE members and sent it to legal counsel for review. The committee members acknowledged the changes and recommended it back to the Board.

7. Capital List Update

Mr. Mercier provided a new list of capital improvement projects with updated quotes for the KES septic pipe replacement repair and all-purpose room floor replacement. He added an item for repairs to the HKHS outdoor track. Other priority repairs include the HKHS elevator and the KES asphalt resurfacing. The committee took no action pending a projected year-end capital fund balance.

8. Operations Director's Update

Mr. Mercier reported Teresa Resnick of the Haddam Sustainability Commission contacted RSD 17 about locating HK-branded bins at both HKHS and HKIMS for community clothing/textile donation use. The district would receive \$100 for every ton of textiles collected. He recommended one at the entrance of HKIMS (near the soccer field parking lot) and the HKHS receptacle at the entrance of the White House parking lot. The committee supported the concept but recommended a written agreement with terms that would allow the district to terminate the arrangement for any reason and suggested the initiative was within the Superintendent's purview.

BES has a persistent roof leak in one of the portable units. Repairs have been made, but the leak resumed during the sustained rain earlier in the week. ServiceMaster has been contracted to inspect the area for and treat any mold present. Thorough repairs are

expected to be in excess of \$10,000. The committee took no action, again pending availability of year-end capital funds.

During the same rainstorm, a tree fell on the bus sheds at HKHS. The structures and two buses sustained modest damage. An insurance claim has been opened for the building damage and site cleanup and temporary (make-safe) repairs are complete.

9. Health Plans

Mr. Solin reported that the district's insurance consultant, Joe Regan, has been assigned to review the ECHMC plan proposal in comparison with the current CT Partnership Plan. To date, the requested information has not been received from the ECHMC representative. Committee members reminded Mr. Solin that Mr. Regan's evaluation and recommendation would be necessary by the April BOE meeting, since the ECHMC deadline is April 15th.

10. Finance Director's Update

Mr. Solin reported the annual audit was expected to be complete by month end. Committee members asked that Seward and Monde report its findings to the committee at its April meeting with a follow up presentation to the BOE in May.

Mr. Solin also presented a February month-end report of revenues and expenditures. While revenues are estimated at \$200,000 in excess of budget, expenditures are substantially higher than budget. He estimates that several hundred thousand dollars may need to be diverted from capital funding to cover operating cost overruns.

11. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.