

Summary of February 2023 RSD17 Board of Education Meeting

Cougar Pride

The Board, along with Superintendent Wihbey and Assistant Superintendent Miller presented banners to both Burr Elementary School and Killingworth Elementary School. Each school was named a School of Distinction by the Connecticut Department of Education based on their academic excellence; performing in the top ten percent of the state. Principals Brienne Whidden and Dennis Reed attended as well as staff and student representatives. The banners will be proudly displayed in the halls of our elementary schools.

Student Representatives

Student Representative Madison Moriarty reported on senior meetings where HK seniors are working on learning expectation #1 for their graduate portfolios, which includes discussions of personal responsibility, character, cultural understanding, and ethical behavior. Also, HKHS will host a one act play entitled "The Hallmarks of Horror" both written and directed by HKHS senior, Pooja Badami. Madison also reported on the winter sports season, including boys hockey, girls basketball, boys basketball, and winter track, which has four All-Shoreline athletes. The boys swim team has had a very successful season and three HK swimmers have qualified for the state meet.

Facilities

Peter Sonski spoke about the work Tecton has been performing, including a comprehensive assessment of all facilities to assist in Capital Planning and projections for the needs of all RSD17 buildings. Board Chair Suzanne Sack discussed the steps that have already taken place and that these are the beginning stages of a larger project that will be an investment for the Board as well as the community. The Board approved Tecton's proposal of the demographic study and development of the Master Plan, which will cost \$66,300.00. The next steps of the process will involve engagement from the district as well as the greater community.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Monthly Summary and Updates

Superintendent Wihbey provided information on his initial Budget recommendations and goals and shared that the budget presentation is scheduled for next month. There has been a significant inflationary estimated increase to fixed costs such as transportation, fuel, utilities, employee contracts, and health insurance. Superintendent Wihbey also reported that the recommended Budget maintains services at their current level with savings and efficiencies where possible.

Middle School/Intermediate School Assessment

Superintendent Wihbey reported on the development of an outside independent study of HKIMS structures. The timeframe will be approximately 6-8 weeks and will involve interviewing teachers, parents, administrators, and various community members as part of the process. The next step will be creating a committee that will redesign structures based on given objectives. The committee will consist of teachers, parents, a Board member, and two administrators with Assistant Superintendent Miller as Chair.

ON OUR WEBSITE:

The 2023-24 budget information is available on the www.RSD17.org website under the BOE menu option [BOE Budget and Updates](#) and the RSD 17 Master Plan Information is also available on the website under the District Facilities menu option [RSD 17 Facilities Study and Master Planning Website](#).