

Summary of March 2025 RSD17 Board of Education Meeting

COUGAR PRIDE

BES Principal Brienne Whidden and teachers Aidrenne Foret and Anna Wilcox introduced the CAS artist and musician of the year to the Board. Cayden Carlson performed a musical piece by video and Fiona Dalton shared two pieces of artwork.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Student representatives Michael Perry and Emma Giaccone reported to the Board on the following items:

- On March 19th, the Middle School students visited the High School to watch the Band perform.
- The High School Band will perform in Boston at a music competition and watch the Blue Man Group perform.
- Students are in the application process for the National Honor Society and the World Language Honor Society. The induction ceremony for both societies will take place in April.
- SATs and Senior Portfolio Day took place on March 26th
- The College and Career Fair took place on April 3rd

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Wihbey reported to the Board on the following items:

- The winter assessments for reading and math have been completed across K-8 and analyzed by the District-Wide Data Team.
- On March 6th, the Math Honor Society traveled to NYC to visit the MoMath National Math Museum.
- At the Middle school, the ELA benchmarks reached the highest scores in five years, and the 7th-grade accelerated math class had 56 of the 60 students achieve mastery or above.
- Both BES and KES celebrated Read Across America

HKHS FEASIBILITY STUDY TEAM UPDATE

Michael Ayles from Antinozzi and Jack Butkus from Arcadis presented the Board with a summary of the information provided and discussed from February 11th to date regarding the High School project. They provided detailed explanations and updates on the following areas:

- Educational Specifications & Space Programming Recap
- New Construction vs Renovation February 6th
- Site Plan Options Summary- February 6th
- Cost Estimate -February 20th and the Revision of March 4th
- Project Budget Draft Estimate for New Construction and Renovation
- Cost/Bonding Analysis-March 6, 2025

- Financial Bonding Analysis for New Construction and with Additional School Debt
- Financial Bonding Analysis for Renovation and with Additional School Debt
- Project Referendum: Cost of New Construction and Renovation
- Timeline Schedule Options for Consideration

The presentation included a thorough review of key project aspects, and the Board engaged in a discussion following the update to assess the next steps. After careful consideration, the Board determined that the Feasibility Study Team should continue refining the project details. The team will continue to identify areas for potential savings before returning to the Board with a recommendation.

BUDGET

The Board officially adopted the budget for the 2025-26 school year at the special meeting on April 1st.. The referendum will take place at regular voting locations.

ON OUR WEBSITE

RSD17 Board of Education information and past updates may be found at: <https://www.rsd17.org/district/board-of-education>.

Information on the HKHS Feasibility Study may be found at <https://sites.google.com/view/hkhsproject>.