

Board of Education

Regional District 13

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Tuesday, September 29, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. in the media center at Memorial Middle School. Board members present: Mrs. Adams, Mr. Currlin, Mrs. Flanagan, Ms. Gara, Mrs. Golschneider, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons. Member absent: Mrs. Boyle. Also present: Mr. Melnik, Mrs. Viccaro.

Mr. Hennick called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Mr. Hennick explained that this meeting will be run a little differently, with the focus being a presentation on the Athletic Facility Building Project.

Mr. Hennick presented Mrs. Golschneider with a 10 year service award pin and thanked her for her service to the Board.

On a motion by Mr. Currlin, second Mrs. Flanagan, the agenda was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Flanagan made a motion, second Ms. Parsons, to approve the minutes to the meeting of September 9, 2009. Mr. Currlin, Mrs. Flanagan, Ms. Gara, Mr. Hennick, Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons voted yes. Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Golschneider, Mr. Hicks abstained.

Communications: There were no communications.

Building Projects: Mr. Currlin gave a brief background on the project. He said the track facility is 40 years old and is no longer repairable. An effort began several years ago to raise funds for a new track and a Building Committee was formed. The committee looked at all of the uses of the facilities and it was clear that there are not enough facilities. An architectural firm was hired to develop the conceptual plans and a referendum was held. The replacement of the roofs and wells was included in the referendum to save on bonding costs. The referendum passed but the start of the project was delayed when a clerical error was discovered while in the process of bonding. The State legislature ruled on it and the process was able to continue. During the delay the Committee was able to redefine the project and investigate other facilities. Clough Harbour Associates (CHA) has been hired as the design firm for the facility.

Mr. Currlin explained that the process of getting through the local commissions has been ongoing. The District is being represented by Tim Hollister of Shipman & Goodwin. Currently the project awaits approval from the Planning & Zoning Commission. They will be meeting again tomorrow night and hopefully will reach a successful conclusion. The District has asked for a zoning change to allow for 80' light poles. Mr. Currlin also said that not all of the things in the original plans will be able to be done right away because there is not enough money to do it all. Mr. Currlin introduced Dick Webb of CHA to give an overview of the plan.

Dick Webb reviewed the specifics of the project plan. It includes an eight lane synthetic surface track with all jumping and throwing events, a 216 ft wide artificial turf soccer field that will allow for cross field play and will also support a football program, a 1000 seat grandstand facility built into the slope of the hill, engineering for two practice fields on the Stannard property, reconstructed parking areas with parking for about 25-30 more cars, design for a 50' by 80' support facility that will include two team rooms, bathrooms, a trainer's room and storage space, and complete reconstruction of the tennis courts with an additional court.

Mr. Currlin said that even though some of the facilities will not be completed there are community volunteers who have come forward and have offered to construct the practice fields and the support building.

Mr. Webb said artificial turf is being used to be able to increase the use of the field. Natural turf needs time to recover where artificial does not. The infill is a mixture of crumb rubber and sand poured into the synthetic grass blades. It will require some brushing and regrooming and will need to be watered occasionally to get the dust off. Lines will be on the field for football and soccer. They will not need to be repainted. The stone drainage layer of the field is permanent and shouldn't ever need work. The carpet will need to be replaced in about 10-12 years, depending on the level of use. Studies have been done in New York and one is currently being conducted in Connecticut on artificial turf and they have been found to be safe. The 2nd generation surfaces are very different than the older Astro turf and have not been found to contain any carcinogens.

The existing track and base materials will be ground up together and used under the proposed field as new base material. The same process will be used at the tennis courts.

Four 80' light poles are proposed, each with 14 fixtures on them. They will be able to be switched to just two fixtures for lighting the walking track only. The lights will point down for player safety and to allow for less spillage into the area.

Mr. Hicks questioned whether 1000 seat bleachers will be enough seating. He wants to be sure that we are planning ahead like was done in the past for the auditorium. Mr. Webb explained that the site can be expanded in the future without too much difficulty. Cost is a concern for the size of the bleachers at this point.

Mrs. Adams is concerned about sound from the crowds and the pep band. Mr. Currilin said the neighbors have not been negative about crowd noise. The sound will be tested once the project is complete. Nothing can be done until it is built.

The lighting for the tennis courts will be much lower and located between each court. The infrastructure is being installed but lighting will not be a part of the initial project.

The Strong School ball fields are not part of the project. They need some improvements but can be used with some minimal work done.

Mrs. Flanagan asked what the operating costs will be for the lighting and for maintaining the synthetic field. Mr. Melnik did not have the answer on the lighting costs but said it is available. The District maintenance crew will be trained to groom the field. It will be groomed about once a month.

Public Comment: Jeff Grenier asked how many stories the support building will be. It will be a one story building. Mr. Grenier asked where the drainage from the track will be emptying out to. He is concerned that it will drain near the baseball field that is already very wet. Mr. Webb said the drainage is to the center of the track and then carried in drains away from the fields. The new system should help alleviate some of the water at the ball field. Mr. Grenier suggested that the lights for the tennis courts be put on a timer so that people can play at night. The lights will be timer controlled when they are installed, but they will not be put up in the initial phase of the project. Mr. Grenier also suggested that savings will be found from not having to travel to away track meets.

Andy Meiman of Durham had comments on artificial turf care. He said reports he read found that the turf becomes hard and injuries increase. It needs to be stirred up and grooming was suggested once a week, not once a month. He also read that fabric softener may need to be applied to reduce static. Germicide solutions may also need to be applied during the year. Repainting of the lines may need to be redone every few years and that will be another expense. Disposal of the crumb rubber infill is difficult when the field needs to be redone. Mr. Meiman said that Guilford has conducted a study on artificial turf fields and found similar results to the New York study. They did not find the fields to be harmful.

Mr. Webb said the amount of grooming will be dependent on the amount of play. The turf manufacturer will be required to come back every year of the warranty to test the "G-Max" on the field. He also said that the lines on this field will never have to be repainted. It is a permanent solution for the soccer and football lines. It will not have to be repainted until the field is replaced. Fabric softener may need to be applied to control the static but it is a one time application and usually will take care of the problem. The cost is minimal.

Mr. Currllin thanked Mr. Webb for attending the meeting and for being so responsive to the needs of the committee. He and his team have done a wonderful job.

Approval of Ed Specs and plans for oil tank removal at Korn School: Mr. Melnik explained that the oil tank at Korn School has failed inspection. The unfilled portion of the tank is rusting out. The tank is over twenty years old and eligible for reimbursement from the State. This is a code violation and the State should reimburse quickly for it. The 8000 gallon underground tank will be replaced with a 4000 gallon tank.

On a motion by Mr. Currllin, second Mrs. Golschneider, the Board of Education unanimously resolved to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to apply to the Commissioner of Education and to accept or reject a grant for the oil storage tank at Korn Elementary School.

On a motion by Mr. Currllin, second Mr. Hicks, the Board of Education unanimously resolved to authorize the educational specifications for the underground oil storage tank at Korn Elementary School.

On a motion by Mr. Currllin, second Mrs. Golschneider, the Board of Education unanimously resolved to authorized at least the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the underground oil storage tank at Korn Elementary School.

Mr. Melnik said the estimated cost for the project is \$80-90 thousand dollars. The balance after reimbursement will be paid out of the capital fund because it is considered "building envelope".

Model UN Field Trip Request: Mr. Hicks questioned where the money will come from for students who cannot pay. The Field Trip Request Form states: Social Studies Dept. and Fundraising. The Board does not fund field trips and he wanted to be sure that it is not coming from budgeted money. Mrs. Viccaro said she would look into it but she said she believes funding can come from outside organizations such as the Lions Club and the Exchange Club.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mrs. Adams, the Board of Education unanimously approved the Model UN Club Field Trip request to the University of Connecticut at Storrs from October 15 to October 17, 2009.

Policy Committee: Mr. Hicks asked Policy Committee members to meet after this meeting to set dates for upcoming meetings.

Personnel Policies: Mrs. Flanagan said the Personnel Policies Committee began meeting with the Administrators' union last evening.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mrs. Golschneider, the Board of Education unanimously approved to adjourn.