

Regional School District 13
Board of Education
Utilization Study Committee Meeting

June 25, 2015

Members Present: Kerrie Flanagan, Robert Fulton, Merrill Adams

Board Members Present: Nancy Boyle, Victor Friedrich

Staff Members Present: Kathryn Veronesi, Ronald Melnik

Chairman Fulton called the meeting to order.

Public Comment: There was no public comment

Approval of Agenda: Mrs. Adams made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Fulton second the motion.

Opposed to the motion: None

Abstained from voting: None

Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes: Mrs. Adams made a motion to approve the minutes to the June 15, 2015 Utilization Study Committee meeting. Mr. Fulton second the motion.

Opposed to the motion: None

Abstained from voting: None

Motion passed.

Discuss proposed Korn School closing FAQs: Mr. Fulton reviewed the fact that the committee received email communications from parents as well as comments from parents at the last meeting.

Mrs. Adams submitted a series of questions that parents asked. Ultimately the point needs to be made there will likely be two less buildings that the district will have to maintain. From the financial standpoint the district will be carrying less costs. In the meantime there will be lots of additions and subtractions along the way.

Dr. Friedrich recommended a spreadsheet with columns with savings and expenditures so that the net result can be demonstrated over time.

From a cost standpoint the sooner the process begins the better.

Superintendent's Update: What is the vision for our students? What is the vision of for the committee? Dr. Veronesi suggested that the BOE begin the visioning process as a group and then

move to district-wide strategic planning. The strategic planning can be used to highlight the opportunity that comes with change rather than just focusing on the change.

Discuss District cost impact on declining enrollment: Mrs. Adams noted that some community members would like to see the savings go back to the towns rather than being re-directed within the school district. There was a discussion of action items and review of the Day Pitney Timeline Renovation and Additions Project.

What bonding do we need to be able to do renovations to Brewster and Memorial?

Mrs. Flanagan suggested that at a subsequent meeting the committee create a multiple year timeline.

Discuss operating costs of closing Korn School: Dr. Friedrich suggested that as savings are discussed due to declining enrollment that a cumulative savings is used as opposed to the year to year savings.

The committee discussed the chart that Mr. Melnik shared and discussed the merit of referencing the cost savings to declining enrollment on the same chart. Dr. Friedrich shared a suggestion for statistical analysis and graphing that might help to display this condition/phenomenon.

Discuss report on inventory of public uses of Korn School: Mr. Melnik reviewed the overview about building use at Korn School for the 14-15 school year. The committee discussed what activities could be relocated, what costs would be incurred if only the gym were used.

Mr. Fulton reminded the group that if the option of mothballing or partial mothballing was used it would be a short term solution i.e. one to two years. If the building were to be partially mothballed, the kitchen would not be operational.

The committee discussed having a Board/community discussion. This should happen in September with a possible vote in October.

Discuss other items as related to proposed Korn School closing: The administration should be ready to talk about the vision. The conversation will be held within the context of a bigger issue of long-term planning and address the consideration of the fact that things may change as we move along.

What will it cost to move students out of Korn? What will it cost to close it?

A question was asked about amortization-we will not have to pay the \$65,000 as long as we own the building or it is used for public use.

Mr. Fulton assigned questions to the group.

How are we going to communicate this to the public? Dr. Veronesi is going to send out a newsletter on this topic this summer. She will reach out to Mark Dionne about writing an article in August.

Public Comment: Carl Stoup requested a cost savings form, asked about any costs associated with activities at Korn, and about the amortization schedule.

Laura Samperi suggested some ideas for the use of Korn School, and would like to have voting moved to somewhere else instead of the school.

Sarah Overton thanked the Board for looking at this. Barbara Allen thought the idea of 4th grade at Memorial would be good because she will be the one who will ultimately have to help with the transitioning of students.

Adjournment: Mrs. Flanagan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Friedrich second the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:19pm.