

Regional School District 13  
Board of Education  
Utilization Study Committee Meeting

July 20, 2015

Revised

Members Present: Kerrie Flanagan, Robert Fulton, Norm Hicks

Staff Members Present: Kathryn Veronesi, Ronald Melnik

Chairman Fulton called the meeting to order.

**Public Comment:**

Mrs. Stephan stated Korn teachers have been told that their school is closing but has the Board voted on this? Dr. Veronesi stated teachers have been told it was a possibility but the Board has not voted on it yet, they hope to have this vote happen by early Fall.

Alma Elder stated she is an interested citizen and she is hoping the district will keep costs low while providing an excellent education. Why is Korn closing rather than getting rid of all modulars and putting all classrooms in Korn? The response to her question is the modulars will be gone anyway. The long range plan is to close them.

Mrs. Elder also stated Korn is part of a campus; shouldn't it be kept as part of the campus rather than closing it? The response was the district would like to have schools in both towns and in looking at the capacity for buildings to be adaptable for change, Korn is least feasible. There is a very detailed section in the DRA report on the mechanicals and the infrastructure on each school which points to Korn being closed. If all other variables were "equal" having a campus school might be a good idea. Korn is too small of a school to accommodate the 4 school plan.

Tom Stephan asked if the declining enrollment has actually been realized. The response is yes it has and this information has been published as part of the budget process. Enrollment projections will be updated.

**Approval of Agenda:** Mr. Hicks made a motion to approve the agenda. Mrs. Flanagan second the motion.

Opposed to the motion: None

Abstained from voting: None

Motion passed.

**Approval of Minutes:** Mrs. Flanagan made a motion to approve the minutes to the June 25, 2015 Utilization Committee meeting. Mr. Hicks second the motion.

Opposed to the motion: None

Abstained from voting: None

Motion passed.

Mr. Fulton stated at the last meeting the committee said that Korn School could close at the end of the 2015-16 school year pending the superintendent's recommendation and also pending no detriment to students and maintaining class size.

What is the existing cushion in the buildings for the projected enrollment? What can the building accommodate and what is projected? As enrollment continues to decline the current time frame can be used. The sooner a final plan is known the plan to move can begin. Dr. Veronesi will put the information together as to projected capacity and how the schools can accommodate the enrollment and the benefit to students. There are benefits to students being in a school with more grades, so there are fewer transitions and more opportunities for teachers to collaborate.

**FAQs:** The committee will continue to compile the FAQs including: what is the projected capacity of each building, variance with the actual versus the projected class enrollment, how is the enrollment predicted, and what is happening state and nationwide in terms of birthrate.

**Plan for Public Meeting/Community Discussion:** The committee discussed having a panel discussion the first week of October with suggested talking points including: demographic update, financial estimates, long term plan, FAQs and alternative considerations for the use of Korn School including the financial ramifications.

Some assumptions include: partially mothballing Korn and maintaining it for weekend and evening use as well as continuing to have BASREP use the building, identify what can be moved, look at CRHS to accommodate the town voting, estimated costs associated with reductions in staff, and estimated costs for moving. What are the implications of changing the moving date to the end of the 2016-17, will student enrollment decline that significantly a year from now? What are the costs of removing the modular?

Mr. Melnik will send an update regarding enrollment and will also talk about this at our next meeting.

**Public Comment:**

Chuck Stengel told the Board it will be bringing the plan to the public in the middle of an election. His suggestion is to share class size boundaries at the high and low sizes i.e. include the lower limit by which we would not want to go below. He asked if Korn School stays open and the gym is used can we sell it to other people, does it limit the salability of the building?

Alma Elder stated it might be a good idea to put the demographic graph in the Town Times. It might also be a good idea to put forward that the Board's intention is to have a "zero growth" budget. She also suggested saying something to the tax payers about the cumulative savings, maybe in 5 years we will be able to return the savings to the tax payers

Mrs. Stephan asked if the resource documents can be appended with the FAQ document.

The next meeting will be August 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.

Mrs. Flanagan made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Hicks second the motion. The meeting adjourned:  
7:50 pm.