

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education Building Committee met in regular session on Wednesday, August 14, 2024 at 5:00 PM in the library at Cuginchaug Regional High School.

Committee members present: Mr. Faiella, Mr. Mennone, Mr. Moore (remotely), Mr. Overton and Mr. Weissberg.

Committee members absent: Mr. Cross and Mr. Giammatteo

Administration present: Mrs. Neubig, Mr. Proia, and Dr. Schuch

Board members present: Mrs. Dahlheimer

Mr. Weissberg called the meeting to order at 5:11 PM.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

### **Approval of Agenda**

*Mr. Mennone made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Dahlheimer, to approve the agenda, as presented.*

*In favor of approving the agenda, as presented: Mr. Faiella, Mr. Mennone, Mr. Moore, Mr. Overton and Mr. Weissberg. Motion carried unanimously.*

### **Public Comment**

None.

### **Approval of Minutes - June 5, 2024**

*Mrs. Dahlheimer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mennone, to approve the minutes from the June 5, 2024 meeting, as presented.*

*In favor of approving the minutes of the June 5, 2024 meeting, as presented: Mr. Faiella, Mr. Mennone, Mr. Moore, Mr. Overton and Mr. Weissberg. Motion carried unanimously.*

### **Pickett Lane Paving Phase 4**

Mr. Proia stated the project is awaiting drainage plans. He and Mr. Overton walked the road after the last meeting. No further paving will be done until they address the drainage at the Pickett Lane/Maiden Lane intersection. Mr. Proia reached back out to Jacobson and they have sent a design with more catch basins than were anticipated. A concern is that infrastructure will get damaged as it is a heavy traffic area and buses pull off to the side of the road. They had asked to have off-road swaling instead, but that would be trial and error. Jacobson responded that the district should do what they feel is best.

Mr. Overton was puzzled that the only design Jacobson is comfortable with is structures and curbing the road. Mr. Proia also reached out to a contractor who thinks he can get the water to move with a 3/4" crushed stone swale on both sides of the road. Mr. Proia felt that they should try swaling the area to see if it improves.

Mr. Weissberg asked if they want to remove the illegal driveway and carry the swale through there. Mr. Overton felt that the swale would make it very hard to use the driveway anyway. Mr. Overton would like to have a plan that could be bid out to a contractor. Mr. Mennone asked if they can use someone other than Jacobson. Mr. Proia felt that they would like to do more paving and/or removal of the front sidewalks, but it is all hinging on the drainage. A different contractor would be doing the paving and has the ability to provide the grading plans. It was also suggested to use a dry well in the area. Mr. Overton added that the road has functioned for many years as a curbless road with roadside swales.

They do still use a sand/salt mix on the road which builds up over time. Mr. Overton felt that they would probably need to run a grader down the side of the road every 10 years or so to reestablish the swale.

Mrs. Neubig needed approval of a payment to Nathan Jacobson for \$7,012 for drainage, Kenneth Jay for \$2,962 for phase 4 (backfill the baseball field pavement and seed), A&C Connection for \$2,100 underground drain cleaning. Mr. Weissberg asked to table the Nathan Jacobson bill until they have a discussion about why they are not willing to help and why they are throwing the fact that they went with a different road project back in their face.

*Mrs. Dahlheimer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Faiella, to approve payment for Kenneth Jay and A&C.*

*In favor of approving payment for Kenneth Jay and A&C: Mr. Faiella, Mr. Mennone, Mr. Moore, Mr. Overton and Mr. Weissberg. Motion carried unanimously.*

Mrs. Neubig added that there is still \$138,000 left if they use all the funds from the culvert grant. Mr. Proia felt they could get the drainage settled next week.

### **School Facilities Update**

Mrs. Neubig noted that the referendum is set for August 27<sup>th</sup>.

### **State Grant for Fieldhouse and Lighting**

Mr. Weissberg reported that the bathrooms are in, approved and functional. Mrs. Dahlheimer checked that the file is complete, authorized and signed at the Town Hall.

There are two bathrooms, one of which is ADA compliant. Mrs. Dahlheimer noted that they need to figure out when they will be available for use. They will be for events only and will be locked otherwise. There will still be a porta-potty at the site. The pipes will be drained during the winter as there is no heat.

Mr. Mennone asked when they will discuss how the building will be finished. Mrs. Neubig stated that once Musco is complete with the lights and they have the final bill, they will know how much is left in the grant. They can then go out to bid to get the bathrooms expanded. Mr. Mennone asked what the expansion would mean to the existing bathrooms and Mrs. Dahlheimer explained that the other ones would be accessible from the inside. One will be flipped around to be accessible from the inside as well. Mr. Mennone asked if there is any intention to use the building as a locker room with heat and Mr. Faiella felt it would be more of a team room. Mrs. Dahlheimer felt it was a funding issue. Mrs. Neubig felt that she could ask to expand the grant to include heat and it did say lighting for the tennis courts as well. Mrs.

Dahlheimer added that she thought they need to look at equity across sports and they will have softball and baseball upset if they are the only sports left without lighting. Mr. Weissberg felt that those fields are for single sport use and the lights are incredibly expensive for that. The tennis courts can also be used for pickleball and unified sports. There are multiple sports using the field. Mr. Weissberg added that the baseball and softball fields both have significant issues that need to be addressed first.

Mr. Faiella noted that there was leakage at the base of the field house. Mr. Proia noted that they have done quite a bit of caulking in the past couple of weeks. The original design had gutters, but the water is coming from different places. There is only one drain on the grass side and they may be able to pitch everything toward that.

### **Athletic Field Maintenance and Repairs**

Mr. Proia noted that there are funds budgeted and the plan was to use the least amount as possible to clean up the curtain drain behind the varsity baseball field and incorporate warning tracks. He and Mr. Overton walked the area and it was camera inspected. The storm drains in rightfield are piped to the curtain drain. There is a third drain that is still blocked, with a tree growing into the outlet. The tree has been removed. The contractor wants to do a little at a time so that we can use the funds elsewhere if they are not needed. The same contractor will swale the roadside on Pickett Lane and Maiden Lane as well as clean up the retention pond behind the track.

Mr. Faiella did not feel that the warning track will be effective at the softball field. Mr. Proia was concerned that installing a warning track at the baseball field only could create a title IX issue. Mrs. Dahlheimer will look into that. Mr. Faiella did not feel that the drainage issue will be solved by a warning track. He felt that the field needs to be laser leveled. Mr. Proia suggested they start with the varsity baseball field. Mr. Mennone asked where the issue was at the softball field and Mr. Proia noted that centerfield needs fill. The warning track would be strictly for aesthetics and to match the baseball field. Mr. Faiella added that a warning track is never designated as a safety feature.

Mr. Overton reviewed that catch basin on the first base side of the baseball field was clogged and they are in the process of cleaning it out. That catch basin discharges to the stream in the woods. The catch basin in centerfield is piped into the second basin on that side and into the existing curtain drain. Mr. Overton felt that the catch basins should have outlets to Allyn Brook. Mr. Proia stated that they do not and lead to dry wells. He added that they included running an outlet to Pickett Lane from centerfield. Mr. Overton felt that that would be money well-spent. Mr. Overton felt that the problem is that the drainage got clogged up and hasn't been functioning. Mr. Mennone added that there have always been infield issues, but not so much in centerfield. He also mentioned that the baseball team could not have the majority of home games this year.

Mr. Overton felt that the most important thing is to get an outlet pipe from the catch basins out to the drainage that goes down Pickett Lane which would then go down to Allyn Brook. Mrs. Neubig wanted to confirm with the committee that the warning track on the baseball field will help with drainage, but will not on the softball field. She will research the title IX issue. Mr. Proia estimated the total cost of warning tracks for both fields would be about \$50,000 and the money may need to be allocated to the softball field drainage issue rather than aesthetics.

Mr. Overton added that there are issues with the softball third base dugout being too low and there could be issues with the movement of soil on the infield over time. It needs to drain out behind home plate or the first base dugout.

**Fire Pump**

Mr. Proia reported that Coginchaug was tied into city water last week. The contractor would like to get the work done by the end of the year. The cost was originally budgeted for over \$800,000.

*Mrs. Dahlheimer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mennone, to approve payment to Central Systems in the amount of \$349,000.*

*In favor of approving payment to Central Systems in the amount of \$349,000: Mr. Faiella, Mr. Mennone, Mr. Moore, Mr. Overton and Mr. Weissberg. Motion carried unanimously.*

**CRHS Turf**

Mrs. Neubig reported that they need to pay Field Turf the balance of \$219,562. There is \$66,000 that has not been paid yet and will stay until the district accepts the project as complete.

*Mrs. Dahlheimer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mennone, to pay Field Turf \$219,562.*

*In favor of approving payment to Field Turf in the amount of \$219,562: Mr. Faiella, Mr. Mennone, Mr. Moore, Mr. Overton and Mr. Weissberg. Motion carried unanimously.*

Mrs. Dahlheimer added that there was some frustration that the soccer lines weren't dark enough and that the football lines would not mix in well with the soccer lines and that lacrosse has been added. She wanted everyone to understand that the extra set of lines for lacrosse means that the district can expand programming. The field can be rented for lacrosse tournaments. Mrs. Dahlheimer has also talked with different towns and the CIAC and all the lines are CIAC-approved. No lines have been changed by the Building committee, Board of Education or booster clubs. The athletic director and coaches all seem okay with it.

**Fieldhouse Update**

Mrs. Neubig needed approval to pay Leading Edge Construction for the bathrooms in the amount of \$43,908.01.

*Mrs. Dahlheimer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mennone, to approve payment to Leading Edge Construction in the amount of \$43,908.01.*

*In favor of approving payment to Leading Edge Construction in the amount of \$43,908.01: Mr. Faiella, Mr. Mennone, Mr. Moore, Mr. Overton and Mr. Weissberg. Motion carried unanimously.*

Mrs. Neubig noted that the fieldhouse account is now fully expended. They are now planning a ribbon cutting ceremony. She asked if the committee had any comments about where the signage should be installed. Mrs. Dahlheimer would like to look into a smaller bronze plaque to be placed on the

fieldhouse. Mr. Weissberg felt they should keep the freestanding sign somewhere on the facility to recognize the people who participated in the original construction. Mrs. Dahlheimer would rather the old sign be moved to inside the fieldhouse. Mrs. Neubig added that the old sign is a little weathered and could be replaced. Mrs. Dahlheimer felt they could find a way to honor it without having it on the same plaque.

**Sidewalk**

It was agreed to table this until the next meeting. Mrs. Dahlheimer will send an update as there have been some conversations with the town.

**Public Comment**

None.

**Adjournment**

*Mr. Mennone made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Dahlheimer, to adjourn the meeting.*

*In favor of adjourning the August 14, 2024 meeting: Mr. Faiella, Mr. Mennone, Mr. Moore, Mr. Overton and Mr. Weissberg. Motion carried unanimously.*

The meeting was adjourned at 5:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debi Waz

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Alwaz First