

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in special session on Wednesday, April 17, 2024 at 6:00 PM in the library at Coginchaug Regional High School.

Board members present: Mrs. Dahlheimer, Dr. Darcy, Mr. DelVecchio, Mr. Mennone, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Mr. Stone

Board members absent: Ms. Betty and Mrs. Caramanella

Administration present: Dr. Schuch, Superintendent of Schools; Mrs. Neubig, Director of Finance; Mr. Pietrasko, Director of Infrastructure and Security Technology and Mrs. Quarato, Associate Director of Learning, Innovation and Development.

Mrs. Dahlheimer called the regular meeting to order at 6:08 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda

Mrs. Petrella made a motion, seconded by Mr. DelVecchio, to approve the agenda, as presented.

In favor of approving the agenda, as presented: Mrs. Dahlheimer, Dr. Darcy, Mr. DelVecchio, Mr. Mennone, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Mr. Stone. Motion carried.

Public Comment - at the beginning of the meeting public comment should refer to items on the agenda

A. In-person public comment

None.

B. Remote public comment

None.

Vote to approve the 2024-2025 Educator and Leader Evaluation Plan

Mrs. Dahlheimer noted that they got two separate emails from the teachers' union and the administrators' union in full support of this work that she forwarded to the board members.

Mrs. Quarato that she and Dr. Taber met the day after the last meeting and made two minor changes to wording based on the feedback they received. On the leader evaluation plan, they removed where it said "or other mutually agreed upon framework" so that all leaders will evaluate using the same rubric. On the educator growth plan, they replaced the words "observation protocols" with "observation form." Both she and Dr. Taber appreciated everyone's feedback and guidance and agreed that their goal is to meet the state guidelines this year though there are a lot of other things they'd like to do. They did not want to overwhelm everyone with too much information.

Dr. Darcy made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roraback, to approve the 2024-2025 Educator and Leader Evaluation Plan.

Dr. Darcy thanked them for taking their feedback.

In favor of approving the 2024-2025 Educator and Leader Evaluation Plan: Mrs. Dahlheimer, Dr. Darcy, Mr. DelVecchio, Mr. Mennone, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Mr. Stone. Motion carried.

Mrs. Quarato noted that they will submit the plan to the state and hopefully distribute it to the teachers and leaders, noting that there may still be changes from the state.

Vote to approve the Educational Specifications for the Memorial School Renovation/Expansion Project

Mrs. Dahlheimer noted that she just sent this out to everyone prior to the meeting. It is 184 pages and includes a lot of language that the state looks for in Ed Specs. Mrs. Neubig added that most of it is what the state wants to see and she went through every page of it today and made some necessary changes. This has to be done in order to file for the grant application. Mrs. Dahlheimer noted that the project mission, goals and objectives were changed a bit to match the district's language. Dr. Schuch added that some of it looked more high school-related so they took that out.

Mr. Mennone asked if the Building committee has seen the document and Mrs. Neubig stated that they have not. Mrs. Dahlheimer added that they are more educational specs than anything else. Mrs. Neubig added that the state will provide feedback on it if they feel appropriate and we can make adjustments.

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Petrella, to approve the Educational Specifications for the Memorial School Renovation/Expansion Project.

In favor of approving the Educational Specifications for the Memorial School Renovation/Expansion Project: Mrs. Dahlheimer, Dr. Darcy, Mr. DelVecchio, Mr. Mennone, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Mr. Stone. Motion carried.

Vote to approve proposed amendments to the Plan of Regionalization for Regional School District 13

Mrs. Dahlheimer thanked everyone for their efforts on this.

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stone, to approve the proposed amendments to the Plan of Regionalization for Regional School District 13.

Mrs. Neubig explained that a public hearing needs to take place before a referendum, which needs to be a certain number of days before the referendum. The public hearing also starts the silent period before the referendum. Setting the public hearing now allows for a little more time to talk about the plan amendment. On May 1st, there will need to be two separate public hearings: one on the proposed changes to the plan and the other on the funding authorization. The two hearings must be separate. The plan amendment question will be sent to referendum that evening which starts the silent period with the referendum hopefully on June 11th. The plan amendment needs to be approved in order to vote for the bonding. Once that is approved, the board can meet in special session as soon as a few days following the

vote to send the funding authorization to referendum. This means that there has to be two referendums since there is a difference in who can vote for which referendum. Property owners and registered voters can vote on bonding, but only registered voters can vote on the plan amendment.

Mrs. Dahlheimer noted that they had wanted everything to be on the same day, but they really need to be sure the plan amendment passes before they ask for the funding. She suggested they wait until August for the funding referendum. Mrs. Neubig noted that the positive side is that they have all summer to talk about it. They will need to make it very clear that the funding cannot pass without the plan amendment. Dr. Schuch reminded everyone that the plan amendment needs to pass in both towns separately whereas the bonding is by majority across the two towns.

Mrs. Dahlheimer highlighted what was in the proposed amendments, noting that it lays out the three-school model and does state the closure of both Brewster and John Lyman schools upon the transition to the three-school model. This information will be part of the presentation for the public hearing. Mr. Moore explained that it is called temporary because that was its original name, with approvals going back to 1967 and 1968.

In favor of approving the proposed amendments to the Plan of Regionalization for Regional School District 13: Mrs. Dahlheimer, Dr. Darcy, Mr. DelVecchio, Mr. Mennone, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Mr. Stone. Motion carried.

Vote to (i) schedule a Special District Meeting/Public Hearing on Wednesday, May 1, 2024 at 7:00 PM at the Coginchaug Regional High School Auditorium, 135 Pickett Lane, Durham, Connecticut for the purpose of holding a public hearing to present and receive public comment on proposed amendments to the Plan of Regionalization for Regional School District 13 and (ii) to approve the Warning of the Special District Meeting/Public Hearing.

Mr. Mennone made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stone, to (i) schedule a Special District Meeting/Public Hearing on Wednesday, May 1, 2024 at 7:00 PM at the Coginchaug Regional High School Auditorium, 135 Pickett Lane, Durham, Connecticut for the purpose of holding a public hearing to present and receive public comment on proposed amendments to the Plan of Regionalization for Regional School District 13 and (ii) to approve the Warning of the Special District Meeting/Public Hearing.

In favor of scheduling a Special District Meeting/Public Hearing on Wednesday, May 1, 2024 at 7:00 PM at the Coginchaug Regional High School Auditorium, 135 Pickett Lane, Durham, Connecticut for the purpose of holding a public hearing to present and receive public comment on proposed amendments to the Plan of Regionalization for Regional School District 13 and (ii) approving the Warning of the Special District Meeting/Public Hearing: Mrs. Dahlheimer, Dr. Darcy, Mr. DelVecchio, Mr. Mennone, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Mr. Stone. Motion carried.

Vote to authorize the Superintendent to submit the proposed amendments to the Plan of Regionalization for the Regional School District 13 to the State of Connecticut Commissioner of Education and the Town Clerks of Durham and Middlefield respectively.

Mrs. Petrella made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stone, to authorize the Superintendent to submit the proposed amendments to the Plan of Regionalization for the Regional School District 13 to the State of Connecticut Commissioner of Education and the Town Clerks of Durham and Middlefield respectively.

Dr. Darcy thought that it sounds premature to send it to the state before the referendum and Mrs. Neubig explained that the statute says they need to submit it to the state. Mr. Moore noted that the last time they did this, they submitted to the state before the referendum and they never responded.

In favor of authorizing the Superintendent to submit the proposed amendments to the Plan of Regionalization for the Regional School District 13 to the State of Connecticut Commissioner of Education and the Town Clerks of Durham and Middlefield respectively: Mrs. Dahlheimer, Dr. Darcy, Mr. DelVecchio, Mr. Mennone, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Mr. Stone. Motion carried.

Vote to (i) schedule a Special District Meeting/Public Hearing on Wednesday, May 1, 2024 at 7:30 PM at the Coginchaug Regional High School Auditorium, 135 Pickett Lane, Durham, Connecticut to discuss a “RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE \$76,130,000 FOR THE EXPANSION AND RENOVATION OF MEMORIAL SCHOOL IN MIDDLEFIELD INTO A PRE-KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE 5 SCHOOL AND TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS, NOTES OR TEMPORARY NOTES IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$39,000,000 TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION, OR SO MUCH AS MAY BE NECESSARY AFTER DEDUCTING GRANTS TO BE RECEIVED FOR THE PROJECT” and (ii) to approve the Warning of the Special District Meeting/Public Hearing.

Mr. Stone made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mennone, to (i) schedule a Special District Meeting/Public Hearing on Wednesday, May 1, 2024 at 7:30 PM at the Coginchaug Regional High School Auditorium, 135 Pickett Lane, Durham, Connecticut to discuss a “RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE \$76,130,000 FOR THE EXPANSION AND RENOVATION OF MEMORIAL SCHOOL IN MIDDLEFIELD INTO A PRE-KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE 5 SCHOOL AND TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS, NOTES OR TEMPORARY NOTES IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$39,000,000 TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION, OR SO MUCH AS MAY BE NECESSARY AFTER DEDUCTING GRANTS TO BE RECEIVED FOR THE PROJECT” and (ii) to approve the Warning of the Special District Meeting/Public Hearing.

In favor of (i) scheduling a Special District Meeting/Public Hearing on Wednesday, May 1, 2024 at 7:30 PM at the Coginchaug Regional High School Auditorium, 135 Pickett Lane, Durham, Connecticut to discuss a “RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE \$76,130,000 FOR THE EXPANSION AND RENOVATION OF MEMORIAL SCHOOL IN MIDDLEFIELD INTO A PRE-KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE 5 SCHOOL AND TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS, NOTES OR TEMPORARY NOTES IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$39,000,000 TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION, OR SO MUCH AS MAY BE NECESSARY AFTER DEDUCTING GRANTS TO BE RECEIVED FOR THE PROJECT” and (ii) approving the Warning of the Special District Meeting/Public Hearing: Mrs. Dahlheimer, Dr. Darcy, Mr. DelVecchio, Mr. Mennone, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Mr. Stone. Motion carried.

Adjournment

Mr. Stone made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mennone, to adjourn the special meeting of the Board of Education.

In favor of adjourning the special meeting of the Board of Education: Mrs. Dahlheimer, Dr. Darcy, Mr. DelVecchio, Mr. Mennone, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Mr. Stone. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Debi Waz

Debi Waz
Alwaz First

Full Text of Warning of District Meeting/Public Hearing – Plan Amendment

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 13
WARNING OF SPECIAL DISTRICT MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2024**

The electors of the Towns of Durham and Middlefield, Connecticut, are hereby warned and notified that a Special District Meeting will be held at the Coginchaug Regional High School Library, 135 Pickett Lane, Durham, Connecticut, on Wednesday, May 1, 2024 at 7:00 P.M. for the following purposes:

- ITEM 1. To choose a moderator for said meeting.
- ITEM 2. To hold a public hearing to present and receive public comment on proposed amendment to the Plan of Regionalization for Regional School District 13.

A copy of the report on the proposed amendment to the Plan of Regionalization is on file and available for inspection at the Office of the Town Clerk of Durham, the Office of the Town Clerk of Middlefield and on the District’s website at www.rsd13ct.org. Following the Special District Meeting, the District Board of Education is expected to set the date for a referendum vote in Durham and Middlefield for approval or disapproval of the proposed amendment to the Plan of Regionalization.

Dated at Durham, Connecticut this 17th day of April, 2024.

Lindsay Dahlheimer, Chairman
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 13
BOARD OF EDUCATION

Full Text of Bonding Resolution**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 13
TOWNS OF DURHAM AND MIDDLEFIELD**

RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE \$76,130,000 FOR THE EXPANSION AND RENOVATION OF MEMORIAL SCHOOL IN MIDDLEFIELD INTO A PRE-KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE 5 SCHOOL AND TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS, NOTES OR TEMPORARY NOTES IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$39,000,000 TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION, OR SO MUCH AS MAY BE NECESSARY AFTER DEDUCTING GRANTS TO BE RECEIVED FOR THE PROJECT

BE IT RESOLVED:

SECTION 1. That Regional School District No. 13 (the “District”) appropriate \$76,130,000 for the expansion and renovation of Memorial School in Middlefield into a Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 5 school (the “Project”). The appropriation may be expended for design, construction, renovation and installation costs, engineering and professional fees, materials, equipment, purchase costs, legal fees, financing costs, interest expense on temporary borrowings, and other costs related to the Project. The appropriation shall include any federal, state or other grants-in-aid received for the Project. The Regional School District 13 Building Committee (the “Building Committee”) is authorized to determine the particulars of the Project, and may reduce or modify the scope of the Project as desirable, and the entire appropriation may be spent on the Project as so reduced or modified. The District anticipates receiving grants from the State of Connecticut for a portion of the eligible costs of the Project to defray in part the appropriation.

SECTION 2. That the District finance the Project by issuing the District’s bonds or notes in an amount not to exceed \$39,000,000 which bonds or notes shall be issued pursuant to the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended. The bonds or notes may be sold as a single issue or consolidated with any other authorized issues of bonds or notes of the District. The bonds or notes shall bear the District seal or a facsimile thereof. The bonds or notes shall each recite that every requirement of law relating to its issue has been fully complied with, that such bond or note is within every debt and other limit prescribed by law, and that the full faith and credit of the District and the towns of Durham and Middlefield (the “Member Towns”) are pledged to the payment of the principal thereof and the interest thereon. The Chairman and Treasurer of the District Board of Education are hereby authorized to determine the amount, date, interest rates, maturities, form and other details of the bonds or notes; to designate a bank or trust company to be certifying bank, registrar, transfer agent and paying agent for the bonds or notes; to designate the persons to sign such bonds or notes by their manual or facsimile signatures in the name or on behalf of the District; to sell the bonds or notes at public or private sale; to deliver the bonds or

notes; and to perform all other acts which are necessary or appropriate to issue the bonds or notes.

SECTION 3. That the District is authorized to issue temporary notes in anticipation of the receipt of the proceeds of said bonds or notes. The temporary notes shall be issued with maturity dates in accordance with the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended. The temporary notes shall each recite that every requirement of law relating to its issue has been fully complied with, that such note is within every debt and other limit prescribed by law, and that the full faith and credit of the District and its Member Towns are pledged to the payment of the principal thereof and the interest thereon. The Chairman and Treasurer of the District Board of Education are authorized to determine the amounts, dates, interest rates, maturities, form, and other details of the notes; to sell the notes at public or private sale; to designate the persons to execute and deliver the notes; and to perform all other acts which are necessary or appropriate to issue the notes. The net interest cost on such notes, including renewals thereof, and the expense of preparing, issuing, and marketing such notes, to the extent paid from the proceeds from the issuance of bonds or notes, shall be included as a cost of the appropriation.

SECTION 4. That the District hereby declares its official intent under Treasury Regulation Section 1.150-2 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, that the project costs may be paid from temporary advances of available funds and that the District reasonably expects to reimburse any such advances from the proceeds of borrowings in an aggregate principal amount not in excess of the amount of borrowing authorized for the Project; that the Chairman and Treasurer of the District Board of Education are authorized to bind the District pursuant to such representations and agreements as they deem necessary or advisable in order to ensure and maintain the continued exemption from Federal income taxation of interest on the bonds, notes or temporary notes authorized by this resolution, if issued on a tax-exempt basis, including covenants to pay rebates of investment earnings to the United States in future years; and that the Chairman and Treasurer of the District Board of Education are authorized to make representations and agreements for the benefit of the holders of the bonds, notes or temporary notes to provide secondary market disclosure information and to execute and deliver on behalf of the District an agreement to provide such information with such terms and conditions as they, with the advice of bond counsel, deem necessary and appropriate.

SECTION 5. That the bonds, notes or temporary notes authorized above, or any portion thereof, may bear interest which is includable in the gross income of holders thereof for Federal income tax purposes pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, as the issuance of such taxable bonds, notes or temporary notes is hereby determined to be in the public interest.

SECTION 6. That the Superintendent and the Building Committee are authorized to apply for and accept or reject grants-in-aid for the Project.

SECTION 7. That the Superintendent and Building Committee are authorized to execute agreements and other documents on behalf of the District for the Project; and that other

District officials and employees are authorized to take all actions necessary and proper to carry out the Project and to issue the bonds, notes or temporary notes to finance the appropriation.

SECTION 8. That the Board of Education is authorized to prepare a concise, explanatory text of this appropriation and bonding resolution which has been submitted to a referendum vote on the voting tabulators in each of the Member Towns Subject to the approval of the Board of Education’s Attorney, the Board of Education is authorized to prepare and print explanatory materials regarding this resolution, such explanatory text and explanatory materials to be prepared in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 9-369b.

SECTION 9. That the Board of Education hereby refers the Project to the Town of Middlefield Planning & Zoning Commission for a report under Section 8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Full Text of Warning of District Meeting/Public Hearing – Bonding

**WARNING
DISTRICT MEETING - PUBLIC HEARING
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 13
TOWNS OF DURHAM AND MIDDLEFIELD
MAY 1, 2024**

The electors and citizens qualified to vote in town meetings of the Towns of Durham and Middlefield (the “Member Towns”) are hereby warned that a District Meeting of Regional School District No. 13 (the “District”) will be held on Wednesday, May 1, 2024 at 7:30 P.M. at the Cuginchaug *Regional High School Auditorium*, 135 Pickett Lane, Durham, Connecticut for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the following recommendation of the District Board of Education:

1. That \$76,130,000 be appropriated for the expansion and renovation of Memorial School in Middlefield into a Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 5 school (the “Project”). The appropriation may be expended for design, construction, renovation and installation costs, engineering and professional fees, materials, equipment, purchase costs, legal fees, financing costs, interest expense on temporary borrowings, and other costs related to the Project. The appropriation shall include any federal, state or other grants-in-aid received for the Project. The Regional School District 13 Building Committee (the “Building Committee”), established by the District Board of Education as the building committee for the Project, shall be authorized to determine the scope and particulars of the Project, and may reduce or modify the scope of the Project as desirable, and the entire appropriation may be spent on the Project as so reduced or modified. The District anticipates receiving grants from the State of Connecticut for a portion of the eligible costs of the Project to defray in part the appropriation.

2. That \$39,000,000 of bonds, notes or temporary notes of the District be authorized to finance the appropriation. The amount of the bonds authorized shall be reduced by the amount of any grants received by the District for the Project.

3. That the Chair of the District Board of Education and the District Treasurer, be authorized to make representations and enter into written agreements for the benefit of holders of the bonds or notes to provide secondary market disclosure information.

4. That the Building Committee be authorized to contract with architects, engineers, contractors and others in the name and on behalf of the District with respect to the Project, to approve design and construction expenditures for the Project, and to exercise such others powers as are necessary or appropriate to complete the Project.

5. That the authorization of the issuance of bonds, notes or temporary notes shall be submitted to referendum vote by the electors and citizens qualified to vote in town meetings of the Member Towns of the District.

Dated at Durham, Connecticut this 17th day of April, 2024.

Lindsay Dahlheimer, Chairman
Board of Education