

REGION 4 BOARD OF EDUCATION

John Winthrop Security Project Building Committee Meeting

Date: Thursday, March 23, 2023 at 12:00 PM

Location: Google Meet (Remote)

Membership:

Region 4 BOE Representatives:

Rick Daniels, Chairman JWMS Security Project Building Committee	Present
Kate Sandmann	Present
John Stack	Not Present
Jane Cavanaugh	Not Present

Town of Chester Representatives

Tom Englert, Board of Selectpersons	Present
John O'Hare, Board of Finance	Not Present

Town of Deep River Representatives

Jim Olson, Board of Selectpersons	Present
Bud Eckenroth, Board of Finance	Not Present

Town of Essex Representatives

VACANT, Board of Selectpersons	Not Present
Keith Crehan, Board of Finance	Not Present

Region 4 Administration Representatives

Brian White, Superintendent, ex officio	Not Present
Melissa Morgan Hostetler, Principal JWMS, ex officio	Present
Jim Jake, Facilities Supervisor JWMS, ex officio	Present
Robert Grissom, Finance Director, financial consultant	Present
Rusty Malik, QA+M Architecture, architect	Present

Call to Order

Chairman Rick Daniels called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM

Mr. Daniels performed a verbal roll-call.

Items / Discussion

Mr. Grissom began discussing agenda item 3, *JWMS Security Project Building Permit Status Update*, by informing the Committee that updated project documents and the building permit fee were both presented to the Town of Deep River following the last meeting on January 26, 2023. Mr. Grissom then informed the Committee that we have not yet received a response from the Town in regards to the resubmitted documents, and that the Administration has concerns with completing this project prior to the start of school in the fall of 2023, as originally planned.

Mr. Grissom asked Mr. Malik to provide an update on the application, and what he believes needs to be done in order to proceed. Mr. Grissom also asked members of the Committee to come to a consensus on actionable steps to be taken to advance this project and reduce additional delay.

Mr. Malik informed the Committee that the revised documents provided to the Town addressed the concerns within the Town's letter dated December 7, with the exception of the Town's concerns over the safety of the proposed ramp during inclement weather. The Town has requested a canopy be added to the project to prevent the build-up of snow and ice, which would lead to a safety hazard. Mr. Malik informed the Committee that there would be cost challenges with adding a canopy, adding several hundreds of thousands of dollars to the projected cost. Mr. Malik discussed alternative construction options to a canopy over the ramp, including the addition of an integrated ice-melt system in the ramp that would prevent it from freezing or accumulating snow, as well as eliminating the ramp entirely and adding an external elevator to the proposal. Mr. Malik noted that these alternates would also need to be discussed and approved by the Committee but they would each also pose cost issues and other challenges.

Following a discussion by several members of the Committee, Mr. Daniels agreed that he would contact the Building Inspector for the Town of Deep River to determine exactly what is being required by the Town, and what options the school and Committee have in proceeding. The options, if available, would include: (1) maintaining the project as-is but including a site management plan outlining the procedures to be followed to maintain safety of the students, staff, and visitors in inclement weather; (2) including a canopy in the

project scope; (3) incorporating an alternative ice-melt system; or (4) other solutions to their concerns. Mr. Olson stated that he would be available to have a similar conversation with the Town Building Official as well, following an update from Mr. Daniels.

Finally, Mr. Grissom offered Friday, March 31, 2023 as the next date for this Committee to meet. Agenda and meeting invite will follow.

Public Comment

There was no Public Comment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Daniels at 12:36 PM