

REGION 4 BOARD OF EDUCATION

Date: August 03, 2023

Regular Meeting – JWMS Library

(To view a recording of this meeting, please visit our website www.reg4.k12.ct.us and select “Remote Meeting Recordings” under the BOARD OF EDUCATION Heading)

Attendance:	<u>Region 4 BOE</u>		<u>Administration:</u>		<u>Other:</u>	
(√ = attended)	Kate Sandmann	√	Brian White	√	Rebecca Santiago,	√
	Richard Strauss	√			Esq.	
	Lon Seidman	√				
	Lol Fearon	√				
	Jennifer Clark	√				
	John Stack	√				
	Jane Cavanaugh	√				
	Alex Silva					
	Rick Daniels					

Chair Sandmann called the meeting to order at: approx. 4:00 p.m.

A verbal roll call was held.

Public Comment: no comments were made

Superintendent White shared that this meeting was the next step in what the Board has been discussing for the past couple of months, which is the need to pursue an additional appropriation for the purpose of completing the JWMS Security Project. This project was originally approved by the public at referendum on Nov. 02, 2021. Unfortunately, since that time, in part due to supply chain problems, challenges due to the pandemic, the significant escalation in construction costs, and changes to the local building code, we have learned through work with our architect that the approved amount is no longer adequate to complete the project as proposed.

Superintendent White said it's also worth noting that since the original proposed project was approved, with input and feedback from local building officials, the project being contemplated now is slightly different due to the aforementioned code changes. Those codes changes now require either covering the original proposed exterior accessibility ramp, or using an elevator instead of a ramp. Both options (building roofing over the ramp and the elevator) come at significant increased cost, however, it has been determined that the elevator option would cost less than covering the originally proposed exterior ramp.

In keeping with the statutory timelines for such referendum questions, we would like to be in front of voters this fall asking them to approve this additional appropriation so that this project may be completed.

The purpose of the meeting this evening, should the Board choose to do so, is to schedule a district meeting/public hearing on September 6th so that this proposal may be presented to the public for feedback. There would then be a special meeting of the Region 4 BOE immediately following the public hearing that evening in order to allow the BOE to vote on resolutions that would set the referendum language and schedule a referendum date.

There was some discussion regarding how statute determines voting eligibility for district referendum questions and how citizens would be informed of the proposed additional appropriation.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously VOTED to schedule a District Meeting / Public Hearing for Wednesday, September 06 at 7:00 p.m., and publish the following legal warning, as presented, in the next available edition of the Valley Courier (*no less than 5 days before the day of the meeting*):

**WARNING
DISTRICT MEETING - PUBLIC HEARING
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 4
TOWNS OF CHESTER, DEEP RIVER AND ESSEX
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2023**

The electors and citizens qualified to vote in town meetings of the Towns of Chester, Deep River and Essex (the "Member Towns") are hereby warned that a District Meeting of Regional School District No. 4 (the "District") will be held on Wednesday, September 6, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. at the John Winthrop Middle School Library, located at 1 Winthrop Road, Deep River, CT 06417, for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the following recommendation of the District Board of Education:

1. That a supplemental appropriation of \$622,947 be appropriated for the John Winthrop Middle School Security Project (the "Project"). The supplemental appropriation is in addition to the \$952,053 appropriation which was approved at a referendum held on November 2, 2021. The appropriation may be expended for design, construction, renovation and installation costs, engineering and professional fees, costs related to complying with Town building codes, materials, equipment, an elevator, 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 John Winthrop Middle School Security Project 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 \$622,947 of bonds, notes or temporary notes of the District be authorized to finance the supplemental appropriation. The authorization of \$622,947 of bonds, notes or temporary notes of the District to finance the Project is in addition to the \$952,053 authorization which was approved at a referendum held on November 2, 2021. 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 other 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 Deep River, Connecticut this 3rd day of August, 2023.

Public Comment: no comments were made

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously VOTED to move into Executive Session for the purpose of reviewing a privileged Attorney/Client communication.

The Board returned from Executive Session at approximately 5:01 p.m.

There was some additional discussion regarding how statute determines voting eligibility for district referendum questions.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously VOTED to adjourn at approx. 5:04 p.m.