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Regional School District 13 Board of Education
Minutes of the Educational Resources Committee
January 21, 2015

The Regional District 13 Board of Education Educational Resources Committee met in special session on Wednesday, January 21, 2015, at 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room at the Regional School District 13 Administrative Office, 135 Pickett Lane, Durham, Connecticut.

Committee members present: Mrs. Flanagan, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Onofreo and Mr. Renninghoff

Administrators present: Business Manager Ron Melnik and Superintendent of Schools Kathy Veronesi

Also present: Board of Education member Nancy Boyle, Supervisor of Buildings & Grounds Robert Francis, Eric Bartone and Gary Lane of DBS Energy, Gordon Rossi of Garland Company and Project Consultant Roger LaFleur

Chairman Robert Fulton called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. after it was determined that a quorum was present.

1. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

2. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Hicks moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Renninghoff seconded the motion.

In favor of the motion: Mrs. Flanagan, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Onofreo and Mr. Renninghoff

Opposed to the motion: None
Abstained from voting: None Motion passed.

3. Approval of Minutes of November 20, 2014

Mrs. Flanagan moved to approve the minutes of November 20, 2014. Mr. Renninghoff seconded the motion.

In favor of the motion: Mrs. Flanagan, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Onofreo and Mr. Renninghoff

Opposed to the motion: None
Abstained from voting: None Motion passed.

4. Preliminary Budget Discussion

The meeting was primarily a discussion with Eric Bartone and Gary Lane of DBS Energy, Gordon Rossi of the Garland Company on the potential for a photovoltaic system to be installed at Brewster School with Project Consultant Roger LaFleur

Two documents were distributed to the committee. Mr. LaFlur spoke regarding photovoltaic panels and the economics involved in reimbursement as well as the savings rate. He remarked that owning a system is a much better option than a power-purchase agreement. There was further discussion regarding panel distribution on the rooftops as well as the installation of Enphase mircoinverters that change DC to AC that make the entire installation much safer.

The committee then examined a spreadsheet document that outlined costs and expenses over time. There was continued discussion of how credits that we now reap from Lyman and Memorial that is a financial benefit and can be applied to the Brewster project. There is a considerable overall financial benefit versus overall financial cost. Further, combining the roof project with a photovoltaic project is extremely cost-effective and appropriate to do at the same time. Dr. Onofreo asked where the panels were manufactured. The answer was that most top-of-the-line panels that are currently installed are manufactured in the United States with the exception of Hyundai that are made in Korea and are internationally known and will, in all likelihood, remain in business. It is unknown the type that may be used at the Brewster facility.

Finally, the company is not limited to summer installation and work can be done on weekends, or school vacations. Mrs. Flanagan asked Mr. Melnik about financing and the possibility of going to referendum.

Dr. Onofreo moved that the Educational Resources Committee recommend to the Board of Education the inclusion of the Integrated Roof-Top Solar Photovoltaic system project be included with the larger Brewster roof project. Mr. Renninghoff seconded the motion.

In favor of the motion: Mrs. Flanagan, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Onofreo and Mr. Renninghoff

Opposed to the motion: None
Abstained from voting: None Motion passed.

Mr. Hicks stated for the record, in the interest of full disclosure, that he is involved in a separate project with Mr. LaFleur that is totally unrelated to Regional School District 13 and will have no consequence whatsoever with the service that Mr. LaFleur is providing to Regional School District 13 nor will it influence any decision-making on Mr. Hicks' part.

7. Adjournment

Mrs. Flanagan moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:31 p.m. Dr. Onofreo seconded the motion.

In favor of the motion: Mrs. Flanagan, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Onofreo and Mr. Renninghoff

Opposed to the motion: None
Abstained from voting: None Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Norm Hicks

Norman Hicks