

REGION 4 BOARD OF EDUCATION

Date: October 30, 2023

Special Meeting – VRHS Media Center

(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 √	Jim Jake √
	Richard Strauss	Sarah Brzozowy √	Niki Waz √
	Lon Seidman √	Bob Grissom √	
	Lol Fearon √	Mike Barile √	
	Alex Silva √	Mel Morgan-Hostetler √	
	Rick Daniels √		
	John Stack √		
	Jane Cavanaugh √		
	Jennifer Clark √		

Chair Sandmann called the special meeting to order at: 6:30 p.m.

Niki Waz, union president, provided a Region 4 teachers update. She shared the results of a survey sent to JW and Valley teachers regarding their interest in the use of portable offices to provide teacher prep space, and quiet/professional space, as previously requested of the Board by teachers. She shared that of approx. 30 JW teachers, 14 responded. Of those responding 11 said “yes” they would like to utilize the portable office space, and 3 said “no” they would not utilize the space. She also shared that of approx. 50 Valley teachers, 5 responded. Of those responding 3 said “yes” they would like to utilize the space and 2 responded “no”. That equaled 14 teachers from JW and Valley who would like to use the offices vs. 5 who said they would not utilize them. Ms. Waz said she does not believe that the Board should move forward on securing the portable trailers based on the survey results.

The Board discussed whether or not they felt that administration should continue to move forward in the portable office procurement process. In the absence of action to the contrary, the administration will continue to move forward with the process, as previously directed by the Board on October 18th.

Superintendent White shared that tonight’s meeting is a follow up to the October 18, 2023 meeting, and a chance to share administrative updates since that meeting.

Finance Director Bob Grissom reported that based on the Board’s action at the last meeting, administration has been continuing to meet with and talk to Deep River Town officials about the use of proposed portable offices on the grounds of VRHS. A site plan proposal has been submitted to the Town’s building department for review. The building department has 30 days to review the site plan before a response is due, but it may occur more quickly. Administration has continued to look into potential portable office vendors and has determined through conversations with them that gravel work, and not concrete, could potentially allow the temporary use of them for 90 days, or less. Administration has also learned through conversations with a portable office provider and one of our electrical vendors, that a more reasonable solution for short term use would be to avoid running electrical lines to hook into the building and to instead use portable generators. Mr. Grissom shared some of the cost estimates associated with the current approach, the specifications of which have been submitted to the Town of Deep River for review, as previously mentioned.

Superintendent White shared that the bid responses to the emergency RFP for Owner’s Project Manager were due today at 2:00 p.m. We received 3 bids and anticipate engaging with a provider by the end of the week.

Superintendent White shared that the Movable Objects Inventory was initiated and will identify the objects in the school that would require cleaning, what type of cleaning would be required, and allow for the possible removal of items from the building. He directed EnviroMed to conduct additional randomized surface testing to accelerate this process which will allow for a quicker determination and return of items using a safe protocol.

Administration also directed EnviroMed to perform humidity and moisture testing to be used to confirm current building conditions, and to further inform the root cause analysis.

Administration is working through the public bidding process to secure the services of a Mechanical Engineer, or like firm, to conduct a root cause analysis, and develop a site remediation design protocol. In accordance with the public bid process, bids will be opened this Friday, Nov. 3rd and as soon as a firm is selected, District administration will engage their services so that the firm may complete their physical inspection of the building, “as is”. Upon completion of the report of root cause analysis and necessary mechanical remediation, we will be able to determine next steps for building improvements to address the identified root cause(s), and the ultimate restoration of the building.

Administration also directed EnviroMed to develop a mold remediation cleaning specification. This cleaning specification will be used to put out an emergency RFP to select a company to clean the building and will guide the efforts of that company. The specification is expected on or before November 10th, but we will be receiving an update this week from EnviroMed as to the status of that, and whether, or not it may be completed sooner. We will then use that specification to put out an emergency RFP to locate a firm to perform those cleaning services. We will be looking for a pre-vetted, large firm with a depth of staffing and resources available to perform this work as quickly as possible. No cleaning may occur until after a root cause analysis firm has been secured, and has conducted their on-site analysis. Once the firm has completed their inspection of the building, the selected cleaning company will immediately be brought in to start cleaning the building.

Superintendent White shared an update on the potential Eversource funding opportunity. They are finalizing that document, which was already modified to include thicker pipe insulation, and it may need to be further modified based on the root cause analysis that will be completed by the selected firm.

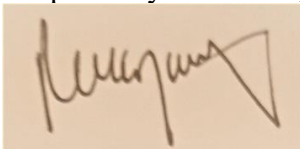
Finally, Superintendent White shared that our insurance company has a site visit scheduled for this Friday morning at 9:00 a.m. to further inform their determination of any coverage the district may be entitled to.

Public Comment: Some members of the public shared comments (*the entirety of which are able to be heard in the recording of the meeting available through the district website*). Public comments were made by the following: Sue Strecker, Chester resident; Kathryn Ryan, VRHS teacher and Ivoryton resident; Laura Traver, JWMS teacher;

The next Region 4 BOE meeting is November 2nd @ 6:00 p.m. as regularly scheduled.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously VOTED to adjourn at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink on a light-colored rectangular background. The signature is stylized and appears to read "Kathryn Ryan".

Secretary
Regional District #4 Board of Education