

The Regional District 13 Board of Education Building Committee met in regular session on Wednesday, February 4, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. in the library at Coginchaug Regional High School.

Committee Members Present: Mr. Weissberg, Mr. Cross, Mr. Dalles, Mr. Putnam, Mr. Dwire (attending virtually), Mr. Croston (arrived late), Mr. Simmons, Mr. Moore, and Mrs. Petrella

Committee Members Absent: Mr. Overton, Mr. Giamatteo, and Mrs. Cowan

Administration Present: Dr. Leggett, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Proia, Supervisor of Facilities and Grounds, and Mrs. Neubig, Director of Finance

O&G Associates present: Mr. Boyle and Ms. Purcell

QA+M Associates present: Mr. Collier and Mr. Malik

STV present: Ms. Liska and Ms. Cahill

Mr. Weissberg called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Cross made a motion, seconded by Mr. Putnam, to approve the agenda as presented.

All in favor of approving the agenda as presented: Mr. Weissberg, Mr. Cross, Mr. Putnam, Mr. Dwire, Mr. Simmons, Mr. Moore, and Mrs. Petrella. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes – January 21, 2026

Mr. Cross made a motion, seconded by Mr. Putnam, to approve the January 21, 2026 meeting minutes as presented.

All in favor of approving the January 21, 2026 meeting minutes as presented: Mr. Weissberg, Mr. Cross, Mr. Putnam, Mr. Dwire, Mr. Simmons, Mr. Moore, and Mrs. Petrella. Motion passed.

Memorial Renovation/Expansion

Ms. Liska and Ms. Cahill reported project updates, identifying that the PCR meeting last week went well, with detailed follow-up items underway. Phase Two bids were extended to February 10, with scope review meetings scheduled shortly after and a recommendation expected by the February 18 meeting. Budget work is ongoing, including coordination with the technology director to refine eligible technology costs and manage reductions. Lastly, attention will soon shift to the FF&E package pending approval to bid Phase Three.

Mr. Malik continued to provide project updates, noting the PCR review meeting was thorough with minor document coordination and eligibility adjustments pending a safety waiver, as well as identifying the needed approvals from local officials. The Building Committee clarified that town officials are processing the approvals needed.

Mr. Collier presented an animation, in addition to graphic still images, that reflect the construction document updates, highlighting a redesigned main entrance with canopies, dedicated pre-K access and playgrounds, outdoor courtyard, and overall campus perspective and building design layout. Mr. Collier clarified the septic system will be located south of the new courts, existing wells will remain unchanged, and no new wells are required. The floor plan is largely finalized, with academic spaces organized around a central thoroughfare connecting major assembly areas, clustered pre-K and K classrooms near a dedicated entrance, grades 1–2 on the first floor, and grades 3–5 on the second floor, all designed for long-term flexibility. Graphics of new and renovated interior spaces were showcased, including an expanded, light-filled main lobby, a redesigned cafeteria with improved acoustics and flexible seating for 400+ people, and a media center updated to address noise and lighting while preserving key wood elements. The gymnasium was featured with a wood floor with six basketball hoops, in addition to a divider curtain that will separate the space into two separate zones to have two classes running concurrently. Once a mascot and school colors are chosen, the graphics can be updated to feature the chosen design elements.

Mr. Collier continued to show images of the academic spaces. Classroom designs emphasize functionality, storage, durability, and limited visual distraction, with age-appropriate layouts and standardized millwork to control costs. Specialty spaces such as art and music rooms were also highlighted, featuring dedicated storage, improved acoustics, and age-appropriate furnishings. The Building Committee also addressed mobile checkout solutions that would be utilized in the media space, in addition to double wall construction for noise mitigation between rooms.

The Building Committee members praised the project's progress and design quality, recognizing the long process from the budget referendum through design constraints, state requirements, and efforts to maximize reimbursement. With Phase Two bids expected soon, Mr. Cross marked this as a major project milestone and acknowledged the extensive collaborative work by staff, consultants, and the building committee. Mr. Collier made clarifications about on-site safety and access features, including removable bollards for emergency access, landscape elements, and the preservation of existing soccer fields and paths.

Dr. Leggett stated the graphic and animation from tonight's presentation will be posted on the website and will also be featured in the upcoming newsletter. The Middlefield newsletter will also include project updates. The Good Neighbor document will have project updates and that will be mailed to every resident in Middlefield.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjournment

Mr. Cross made a motion, seconded by Mr. Putnam, to adjourn the meeting at 5:45 pm.

All in favor of adjourning the meeting: Mr. Weissberg, Mr. Cross, Mr. Putnam, Mr. Dwire (attending virtually), Mr. Croston, Mr. Simmons, Mr. Moore, and Mrs. Petrella. Motion passed and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Meghan Shortell-Fratantonio