Regional School District 13 **Board of Education** **July 29, 2026**

Building Committee

The Regional District 13 Board of Education Building Committee met in special session on Wednesday, July 29, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. in the library at Coginchaug Regional High School.

Building Committee Members Present: Mr. Weissberg, Mr. Overton (attended virtually), Mr. Putnam, Mr. Cross, Mr. Croston, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Moore, Mr. Dwire (attended virtually), and Mr. Giammatteo (arrived at 5:10 p.m.)
Building Committee Members Absent: Mrs. Cowan and Mr. Simmons
Administration Present: Dr. Leggett, Superintendent of Schools and Mr. Proia, Supervisor of Facilities and Grounds
O&G Associates Present: Mr. Cravanzola and Mr. Luccarelli
QA+M Associates Present: Mr. Collier and Mr. Malik
STV Present: Ms. Liska

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. Overton, Mr. Putnam, Mr. Cross, Mr. Croston, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Moore, and Mr. Dwire. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes – July 8, 2026 and July 15, 2026

Mr. Cross made a motion, seconded by Mr. Croston, to approve the July 8 and July 15, 2026 Meeting Minutes as presented.

All in favor of approving the July 8, 2026 and July 15, 2026 Meeting Minutes as presented: Mr. Weissberg, Mr. Overton, Mr. Putnam, Mr. Cross, Mr. Croston, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Moore, and Mr. Dwire. Motion passed.

Memorial Renovation/Expansion

Mr. Luccarelli reported that the project continues to make steady progress, with ongoing site work, utility coordination, excavation, interior framing, and preparations for concrete foundations. The main schedule challenge remains the Area F/G classroom addition, where delays caused by late structural steel shop drawings have pushed the timeline into mid-September; however, a recovery plan has been implemented that includes overtime, Saturday work, and close coordination with contractors to regain lost time so the overall schedule can be recovered.

A. Outdoor Classroom

The Building Committee reviewed a preliminary concept for the outdoor classroom, emphasizing a simple, cost-conscious design featuring two classroom spaces connected by an accessible pathway, with future enhancements such as shade sails and a perimeter walking loop to be added as funding allows. Committee members generally supported the layout, discussed material options (favoring asphalt walkways with concrete classroom pads), and agreed to refine the design and obtain pricing for different configurations while keeping the project within the available budget.

B. Financial Update

Ms. Liska reviewed the project's financial status, noting that recent value engineering savings from eliminating the fourth canopy and site irrigation have balanced the project budget, though approximately $400,000.00 in potential change orders are still being tracked, leaving an estimated owner contingency of about $216,000.00. Committee members discussed several pending contingency items, including propane tank installation, a possible emergency radio amplification system, roofing cost adjustments, and ongoing legal expenses.

Ms. Liska also discussed a potential additional cost for crushed stone beneath the classroom addition foundations after poor subsurface conditions were encountered, with the expense currently estimated at $50,000.00 and included in the owner's contingency, pending further review. Committee members stressed the need to carefully vet whether the work is truly an owner responsibility before approving any change orders while also confirming the outdoor classroom remains funded and discussing deferring nonessential items, such as the gym projector and screen, until after construction to preserve contingency funds.

The committee also reviewed several potential project savings and deferred items, including audio enhancement equipment, foot grills, conferencing technology, stamped concrete, and other alternates. Members agreed to remove the stamped and colored concrete, defer the BDA system decision, and continue evaluating remaining items while balancing budget constraints and maintaining necessary ADA requirements.

Lastly, the committee members discussed the pickleball/tennis court reduction and lighting, with differing opinions on whether the savings justified removing community amenities that existed previously. The committee ultimately recognized the need for further discussion and timing considerations, particularly regarding light procurement and potential future funding solutions, before making a final decision.

Mr. Cross made a motion, seconded by Mr. Putnam, to approve the removal of the stamped and colored concrete from the project, resulting in a $38,000.00 credit.

All in favor of approving the removal of the stamped and colored concrete from the project, accepting the $38,000.00 credit as presented: Mr. Weissberg, Mr. Overton, Mr. Putnam, Mr. Cross, Mr. Croston, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Moore, Mr. Giammatteo, and Mr. Dwire. Motion passed.

C. Invoice Approval

Dr. Leggett presented the following invoices for approval:

Shipman and Goodman	Invoice #687679 – Legal services	$19,873.00
Weston & Sampson	Invoice #26070773 – Phase B implementation and Phase C inspections	$2,648.12
STV	Invoice #2673 – June labor	$13,555.00
Pennoni	Invoice #1334490 – Asbestos abatement monitoring and administrative charges	$44,068.75

Mr. Cross made a motion, seconded by Mr. Giammatteo, to approve the invoices as presented.

All in favor of approving the invoices as presented: Mr. Weissberg, Mr. Overton, Mr. Putnam, Mr. Cross, Mr. Croston, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Moore, Mr. Giammatteo, and Mr. Dwire. Motion passed.

Request for Information for Tennis Courts

The committee discussed a draft request for information regarding the high school tennis courts, with the goal of holding a dedicated August 28 meeting to focus on the courts separately from the larger construction project. The RFI will seek market feedback on short-term resurfacing options, full replacement costs, and long-term solutions to help inform future capital planning, with members asked to provide comments before the document is distributed.

Update on ADA Projects

The committee received an update on plans to move forward with a Strong Middle School entryway and ADA improvement project next summer, with the goal of submitting plans to the state for approval by October or November. The proposed work will focus on improving accessibility and security at the main entrance, including an exterior ramp, ADA parking and stair upgrades, and potential security enhancements, with available grant funding expected to support the project. The committee was also informed that an elevator replacement at Strong is underway due to ongoing reliability issues and that future ADA work at the high school will depend on decisions regarding the scope of an auditorium upgrade.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjournment

Mr. Cross made a motion, seconded by Mr. Putnam, to adjourn the meeting.

All in favor of adjourning the meeting: Mr. Weissberg, Mr. Overton, Mr. Putnam, Mr. Cross, Mr. Croston, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Moore, Mr. Giammatteo, and Mr. Dwire. Motion passed and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Meghan Shortell-Fratantonio