Regional School District 13 **Board of Education** **July 15, 2026**

Building Committee

The Regional District 13 Board of Education Building Committee met in special session on Wednesday, July 15, 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. Croston, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Cowan, and Mr. Giammatteo (arrived at 5:30).
Building Committee Members Absent: Mr. Dwire, Mr. Cross, and Mr. Simmons
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. Luccarelli
QA+M Associates present: Mr. Collier and Mr. Malik
STV present: Ms. Cahill (attended virtually)

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

Mrs. Petrella 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. Croston, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Moore, and Mrs. Cowan. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes – June 12, 2026, June 17, 2026 and July 1, 2026

Mrs. Petrella made a motion, seconded by Mr. Putnam, to approve the June 12, June 17, and July 1, 2026 meeting minutes as presented.

All in favor of approving the June 12, June 17, and July 1, 2026 meeting minutes as presented: Mr. Weissberg, Mr. Overton, Mr. Putnam, Mr. Croston, Mrs. Petrella, and Mr. Moore. Mrs. Cowan abstained. Motion passed by majority vote.

Memorial Renovation/Expansion

A. Construction Partner Updates

Mr. Luccarelli reported that construction is progressing on schedule, with erosion control, playground relocation, topsoil stripping, and site excavation underway, while foundation work for the two-story classroom addition is expected to begin in about two weeks after rebar delivery. Interior layout, plumbing preparation, and masonry infill work are also advancing, with weekly website updates continuing and the construction team received positive feedback for maintaining a clean, organized job site.

QA+M continues to support construction through regular coordination meetings, submittal and RFI reviews, and FF&E planning with school staff, while preparing to share updates with the board later this summer. A previously undocumented abandoned underground electrical chamber was discovered near the front of the school; after Eversource confirmed it was inactive, the team is developing removal costs to address the unforeseen site condition.

B. Discussion and Possible Vote on Bid Alternates

The Building Committee continued its review of value engineering options to address an approximately $180,000.00 budget shortfall, focusing on reducing costs while preserving long-term project value. Members discussed removing the front entrance canopy and the irrigation system, bringing the project back within budget while preserving infrastructure that would be difficult or costly to install later, such as the site work for future pickleball courts. The Building Committee also requested revised pricing for eliminating court lighting and potentially deferring court surfacing, emphasizing that any additional savings should be directed toward higher-priority educational features, including the outdoor classroom.

Several value engineering items were deferred pending additional information. The Building Committee agreed that proposed roofing attachment modifications should first be reviewed with local building officials before any decision is made and postponed action on eliminating stamped and colored concrete after discussing its long-term maintenance concerns. Members also conducted an extensive review of the outdoor classroom concept, exploring opportunities to reduce its estimated $275,000.00 cost by simplifying pathways, landscaping, grading, and shade structures while maintaining accessibility, safety, and its intended function as a secure, low-maintenance learning space for up to two classes. To advance this work, the committee established a small subcommittee to develop lower-cost design alternatives for future consideration.

The Building Committee discussed accessibility and safety considerations for the outdoor classroom, emphasizing the need for ADA-compliant pathways and expressing support for maintaining educational features such as the outdoor classroom and safer playground surfacing as higher priorities than restoring recreational amenities.

Mr. Overton stated he was not comfortable approving any additional project reductions until revised outdoor classroom designs and final cost estimates for the remaining value engineering items were available. Other members agreed, expressing support for deferring further decisions until more complete information is received.

Mr. Croston made a motion, seconded by Mr. Giammatteo, to remove Item 27 Irrigation Allowance, $30,000.00.

All in favor of accepting the removal of Item 27 Irrigation Allowance, $30,000.00 as presented: Mr. Weissberg, Mr. Overton, Mr. Putnam, Mr. Croston, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Cowan, and Mr. Giammatteo. Motion passed.

Mr. Giammatteo made a motion, seconded by Mr. Croston, to remove Item 10B: front entrance canopy number four without benches for $164,378.00.

All in favor of accepting the removal of Item 10B: front entrance canopy number four without benches for $164,378.00 as presented: Mr. Weissberg, Mr. Overton, Mr. Putnam, Mr. Croston, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Cowan, and Mr. Giammatteo. Mrs. Petrella opposed. Motion passed by majority vote.

C. Invoice Approval

Mrs. Neubig presented the following invoices for approval:

Eversource	Invoice 5189-758-0163 – Electricity for portables (June)	$439.20
QA+M	Invoice 18113- Construction administration	$42,544.56
O&G	Payment 8 – Construction Manager	$847,711.83
Mobile Modular	Invoice 2925938-– Portable rental for June	$3,554.00
DACO	Invoice 36215 – Transportation services for June	$14,296.80
CubeSmart	Invoice 177473 – Storage rental for July	$272.00

Mrs. Petrella made a motion, seconded by Mr. Giammatteo, to accept the invoices as presented.

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

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjournment

Mr. Giammatteo *made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cowan, to adjourn the meeting.*

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

Respectfully submitted by Meghan Shortell-Fratantonio