

Minutes
Regular Meeting of the RTM Education Committee
Monday, June 4, 2018

Place: Darien Town Hall, Room 213

Start Time: 7:30 p.m.

Members Present: Ann Reed, Bill Smith, Theresa Vogt, Sandy Savage, Lucy Fiore, Janet Grogan, Jay Hardison, Barbara Thorne; Patrick Keane, Edward Washecka, Clara Sartori, Carolina McGoey

Members Absent: Young-Sup Lee and Peter Riordan (both traveling for work)

Members of the Public: Michael Burke (BOE), Jill McCammon (BOE), Catherine Piorkowski

Call to Order:

- Ann Reed called the meeting to order with a quorum at 7:30 p.m.
- Sandy Savage made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting on April 23
- Barbara Thorne seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously

Agenda:

The committee agreed to approve an amended agenda that reflects the revised bonding amounts for the DHS Turf Field and the Holmes Roof/Skylight Project.

Item 1: Consideration and action on increasing the appropriation and bonding for the previously approved DHS Cafeteria Project from \$1,689,359 to \$1,951,359.

After a lengthy discussion, Ann Reed called for a vote in which 8 members voted for the increase in the bonding and 4 members voted against; **therefore the consideration passed 8-4.**

The 8 members who voted for the increase in bonding were: Ann Reed, Bill Smith, Theresa Vogt, Sandy Savage, Janet Grogan, Barbara Thorne, Clara Sartori, and Carolina McGoey.

The 4 members who voted against the increase were: Lucy Fiore, Edward Washecka, Jay Hardison and Patrick Keane.

Those members opposed to the increase did so for several reasons primarily related to their initial vote against the expansion last year. With the trench project delaying matters further, those members opposed asked if the Town could simply fix the trench and not expand the cafeteria at all. One member spoke to putting that money towards the Ox Ridge re-build. These members also opposed the idea of bonding the project. BOE member and DHS Cafeteria Project Chair Jill McCammon explained that not expanding the cafeteria is not an option and would mean breaking existing contracts and throwing away money already spent on the project which has started.

Clara Sartori asked if Eversource would be able to mitigate some of the costs and Ms. McCammon explained that Eversource will be very flexible in their scheduling and will cover the labor cost on their end of the project.

Item 2: Consideration and action on authorizing the bonding of \$585,000 for the Darien High School turf (baseball) field replacement.

- Theresa Vogt made a motion to approve the bonding
- Patrick Keane seconded the motion
- The motion was approved unanimously 12-0

Item 3: Consideration and action on authorizing the bonding of \$1,020,000 for the Holmes School roof and skylight replacement project.

- Barbara Thorne made a motion to approve the bonding
- Clara Sartori seconded the motion
- The motion was approved unanimously 12-0

Agenda Item regarding Thoughts and Questions to send to BOE members when they conduct their “deep dive” into the DHS Athletic Program:

Who hires the coaches, assistant coaches, etc and what is the vetting process. Is it the same as it is for teachers and other district employees?

How does the Board work with the DAF?

Are there rules in place with regard to coaches making money from outside clinics and programs that their own student athletes are “encouraged” to join? Are they held to the same standard as a teacher who cannot tutor their own student?

Would the administration consider looking into the money raised by each sport and letting them keep more than \$1,000 in their funds at the end of the season. Is it fair for monies raised by one sport to go into the general fund at the end of the year?

Adjournment:

Patrick Keane made a motion to adjourn the meeting

Sandy Savage seconded the motion

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Theresa Vogt

RTM Education Clerk