

## REGION 4 BOARD OF EDUCATION

### John Winthrop Security Project Building Committee Meeting

**Date:** Wednesday, February 28, 2024 at 12:00 PM

**Location:** Google Meet (Remote)

#### Membership:

##### *Region 4 BOE Representatives:*

Rick Daniels, Chairman JWMS Security Project Building Committee	Present
Kate Sandmann	Not Present
John Stack	Present
Jane Cavanaugh	Not Present

##### *Town of Chester Representatives*

Tom Englert, Board of Selectpersons	Present
John O'Hare, Board of Finance	Present

##### *Town of Deep River Representatives*

Jim Olson, Board of Selectpersons	Not Present
Bud Eckenroth, Board of Finance	Not Present

##### *Town of Essex Representatives*

VACANT, Board of Selectpersons	Not Present
Keith Crehan, Board of Finance	Not Present

##### *Region 4 Administration Representatives*

Brian White, Superintendent, ex officio	Not Present
Melissa Morgan Hostetler, Principal JWMS, ex officio	Present
Jim Jake, Facilities Supervisor JWMS, ex officio	Not Present
Robert Grissom, Finance Director, financial consultant	Present
Rusty Malik, QA+M Architecture, architect	Present
Erin Benken, QA+M Architecture	Present

#### Call to Order

Mr. Daniels, called the meeting to order at 12:02 PM

Mr. Grissom performed a verbal roll-call.

#### Items / Discussion

Mr. Daniels began with a brief update on the current status of the Security Project work.

Mr. Grissom then led the group through a timeline of events from the previous Committee meeting, held May 11, 2023, through the current date. Mr. Grissom reminded the committee that at the last meeting, the project scope was revised to eliminate the need for a ramp and add an exterior elevator to the facility to provide access to the second story security vestibule. Mr. Grissom reminded the Committee of the actions taken by the Region 4 Board of Education to initiate a process to secure additional funding for the project by way of a referendum in June 2023, and reminded the Committee that the referendum was successfully held on November 7<sup>th</sup>, through which the revised total estimated \$1,575,000 project cost was approved by the voters of the three towns. Mr. Grissom also reminded the Committee that the project was placed on hold as a result of the Mold Remediation issues at the middle school, and the ensuing uncertainty about the reentry plan for that building, but that now, with the March 26<sup>th</sup> referendum established and an associated plan to be back in the building at the start of the 2024-2025 school year, the security project would proceed again.

Mr. Malik then provided an overview of the next steps on this project, which includes reengaging with the State on our grant application, and creating new project design documents to share with the local officials including their recommended design changes. Mr. Malik ensured the group that his firm would be taking the lead to move forward as quickly as possible, and will be reporting back out to the Committee periodically over the next month with updates.

Mr. Engler posed a question to Mr. Malik, wondering if the presence of mold in the middle school would jeopardize the security project's ability to proceed, for example, preventing security project contractors from entering the building prior to the building being cleaned. Mr. Malik stated that most of the work for the security project will occur outside of the building, or very close to the exterior of the building, and therefore, he did not see an issue, but would be sure to communicate this issue to prospective bidders for the security project work.

Based on this update from Mr. Malik, the Committee agreed to wait until we had new information from QA+M before setting a future meeting date.

Lastly, Mr. Daniels requested that the administration work with the Town Halls of Deep River and Essex to identify alternates for their vacancies on the Building Committee, given some of those previously appointed members have since stepped down from local government and/or moved out of the town. Mr. Grissom will provide future updates on identifying those alternates.

#### **Public Comment**

There was no Public Comment

The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Daniels at 12:25 PM