

Herkimer BOCES Board of Education

Special Meeting

Friday, January 26, 2018

Members Present

Daniel LaLonde, President
Thomas Shypski, Vice President
Jack Bono
Ronald Loiacono
Janine Lynch
William Miller
James Schmid
Michele Szarek
Linda Tharp
Daniel Voce

Absent

Others Present

Sandra Sherwood, District Superintendent

President LaLonde called the meeting to order at 5:55pm.

PATHWAYS PROGRAM LOCATION

President LaLonde shared an email correspondence that Jeremy Rich, Central Valley Acting Superintendent, sent to his faculty and staff regarding his proposal to the Central Valley Board of Education at its January 24, 2018, meeting addressing the future of Remington. In the email, he explained that CV administration explored possible housing solutions for the Pathways Program at CVA, which seemed like simple solutions, but were burdened with problems. He further explained that the Remington building is an ideal, centrally located space in which to provide our most vulnerable students with an education specifically tailored to meet their needs. He proposed the Central Valley Board enter into a five-year binding lease with Herkimer BOCES with the option to buy Remington with a goal to vote on the sale of the building to BOCES in the future.

Mrs. Sherwood stated the Cabinet of Superintendents met twice in the last week. She shared some of the dialogue among the superintendents. In conclusion, of their meetings, the component superintendents stated what they would like to see in the terms and conditions of the lease and the timeframe of the sale of the building and the athletic fields. It was further stated that the lease agreement needs to be timely and provided to the BOCES Board for its consideration at its February 8, 2018, regular meeting. Mr. Voce echoed this message about a timeline for getting the lease drawn up and fully executed.

Mr. Bono stated his concern with leasing classroom space from Central Valley in the future and would like to see explicit language in any future lease agreements. It was noted that the rooms built specifically for BOCES special education classes at Central Valley are governed by its capital project.

Mr. Voce stated he appreciates Mr. Rich's conviction and appreciates that he is looking at the greater good of the students and is moving forward in a positive manner.

There was discussion on the cost of leasing the building. Mrs. Sherwood noted that through conversations with the superintendents it was brought to BOCES attention that \$39,000 in expenses, such as utilities, were not being covered by BOCES. She stated this was not the intent of the BOCES. It was agreed that BOCES pay what is owed to Central Valley. It was noted that these expenses will need to be factored into the new lease agreement.

Mr. Voce requested an outline of the capital improvements that need to be addressed at the WEB Complex.

A brief discussion was held regarding installing acoustic panels in the lobby to improve the sound. Mrs. Sherwood will check into this.

Mrs. Tharp expressed concern with adequate space for the LPN and continuing education programs at Remington.

In response to Mrs. Szarek's inquiry about a pre-vocational program, Mrs. Sherwood stated that plans are underway to bring this program back in the fall of 2018.

In reply to Mr. Schmid's question on where the Central Valley students are going to be placed while the Jarvis building is being renovated, it was stated that Mr. Rich has met with the architects and they are developing a plan.

Mr. Voce noted that in case there is a need for more space, Herkimer CSD has rooms available at the elementary now that the sixth grade is being moved to the high school.

Ms. Lynch asked if the superintendents are aware of the cost of the Remington lease and Mrs. Sherwood indicated that they are.

In conclusion, the Board will consider the Remington lease agreement at its February meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Voce moved and Mrs. Tharp seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:52pm. All voted in favor; motion carried 10:0.

Shawn Maxson
Board Clerk