

DISTRICT RESTRUCTURING PLAN

JULY 2018 UPDATE

As the 2017-2018 school year came to a close, the RSD 17 Board of Education's Strategic Capital Planning Committee continued the work of implementing the District Restructuring Plan, encompassing the creation of two K-3 Primary Schools and an Intermediate School, as well as the future use of Haddam Elementary School. The following is the first in a series of updates that will be issued as we progress with this work:

PRIMARY SCHOOL/INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

A Primary School Planning Committee and an Intermediate School Planning Committee have been established, and each group met in late May and early June. The Primary School Committee was facilitated by the Assistant Superintendent, but will be co-chaired by the three elementary school principals. The Committee will also include the Director of Student Services as well as teachers, special education personnel, and parents from Burr Elementary and HES.

The Intermediate School Committee will be chaired by the Assistant Superintendent and also includes the three elementary school principals, the Middle School principal, the Director of Student Services, as well as teachers, special education personnel, guidance counselors and parents.

Both Committees are reviewing topic areas including Program

Design, Transition Design and District-based planning tasks, including staffing, transportation and technology. In addition, they will consider other questions about the process, opportunities they envision, the roles they would like to play and the other stakeholders they would recommend be invited to participate. The RSD 17 Administrative team has scheduled meetings every Wednesday throughout the summer to focus on this work.

HES BUILDING AND GROUNDS

The District and the Board of Education remain focused on and committed to the future of the Haddam Elementary School building and grounds and to responsible stewardship of the property. Strategic Capital Planning Committee members have continued a dialogue with town officials, exploring opportunities that will contribute to renewal in Higganum Center. The Committee met with three commercial realty professionals for an informal discussion about the real estate landscape in Connecticut and the possibilities for sale or re-use of the HES property. All three stressed that work must begin immediately to market the property, with the goal of having a workable resolution in place by the close of the 2018-2019 school year. The Committee is putting together its checklist/timeline of benchmarks that will be reached over the next 12 months. In addition, developers have toured the site, offering their perspectives about its future use. Committee members have researched the deed and other

documents related to the original ownership of the property and its transfer to RSD 17. The Board of Education is sending a formal notification to the Town of Haddam seeking to gauge its interest in the HES property as part of our continuing dialogue. The Committee will pursue further options and an understanding of redevelopment in and around the area to ensure that any recommendations to the Board of Education support a positive vision for the community.

COMMUNICATION

The Committee also resolved to provide regular updates like this one through a number of media on the progress of restructuring as the various committees go about their work.