

## **RSU13 Facilities Task Force Committee Meeting – September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Minutes**

Attendees: Coster, Weinand, Andrews, Hunt, McDonald, Sylvester

### **Summer Facilities Upgrades and Repairs**

Steve Sylvester provided the committee with an update on the many projects executed over the summer, which included extensive repair and upgrade of windows, sidings, bathrooms at the High School, South School and Thomaston Grammar. The Facilities team have made tremendous progress in executing asbestos abatement and ADA-compliance projects at the High School, South School.

Committee agreed that there is much to celebrate, and that the school should promote these accomplishments. RSU team agreed to do this.

Board Members expressed their appreciation of the great work done this summer!

### **Funding our Future 501(c)3 Update.**

Gerald Weinand provided an update on FOF progress, reminding the Committee of its scope, which includes the proposed auditorium upgrade and creation of a sports complex. Evergreen Philanthropy has started the due-diligence process, which will assess community capacity for funding these projects, and help define a case statement.

The Superintendent stated that he has met with Evergreen and is comfortable with their methodology and intent, suggested also that the FOF case statement can be aligned with the RSU13 Schools of our Future 2.0 Vision statement.

Board Chair stressed that the Auditorium/Sports complex initiatives, if they proceed, must do so with full support of the community, including the school staff. FOF will communicate this need to Evergreen.

Auditorium. No specific developments at this time.

Sports Complex. Gerald Weinand provided an overview of concept. FOF team have met with Town Manager to assess feasibility. Separately, FOF will meet with Peter Orne, former RSU13 Business Manager, to understand public finance options for funding this kind of investment (Katy Hunt to attend this meeting too).

### **Capital Improvement Plan 2024-2025**

Steve Sylvester and Kati Hunt agreed to have a draft of the CIP ready for the next meeting. Steve Sylvester advised that the focus should shift toward Middle School upgrades: windows, asbestos abatement, ADA upgrades. Security and access controls will also be an area of focus.

Committee agreed to start looking into solar, starting with Ash Point school. Steve Sylvester to invite vendors in to educate the committee.

### **Long Term Strategy**

Coster provided the committee with a summary of the Maine State population forecast through 2040 for Knox County and the RSU13 Towns. It was agreed that this is an important consideration when considering longer-term investments, the replacement of older assets, and overall capacity planning.