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Regional School District 13 Board of Education November 11, 2026
School Naming Committee

The Regional District 13 Board of Education School Naming Committee met in special session on Wednesday, November 11, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. in the library at Coginchaug Regional High School.

Committee Members Present: Mrs. Cowan, Mrs. Longley, Mr. Padilla, and Mr. Moore
Board of Education Members Present: Mrs. Petrella and Mr. Viens
Committee Members Absent: Ms. Kahnke, Mrs. Eddinger, Ms. Lynch, Mrs. Marteka, and Mrs. Schlicker
Administration Present: Dr. Leggett, Superintendent of Schools

Mrs. Cowan called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Approval of Agenda

Mrs. Petrella made a motion, seconded by Mr. Padilla, to approve the agenda as presented.

All in favor of approving the agenda as presented: Mrs. Cowan, Mrs. Longley, Mr. Padilla, Mr. Viens, Mrs. Petrella, and Mr. Moore. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes – October 14, 2026

Mrs. Petrella made a motion, seconded by Mr. Viens, to approve the October 14, 2026 Meeting minutes as presented.

All in favor of approving the October 14, 2025 Meeting Minutes as presented: Mrs. Cowan, Mrs. Longley, Mr. Padilla, Mr. Viens, Mrs. Petrella, and Mr. Moore. Motion passed.

Discuss Mascot Naming

Mrs. Cowan reviewed the mascot survey results with the committee members. The committee agreed to put the three leading mascot choices: Mustangs, Owls, and Eagles, to a final vote. Students and staff will participate in voting as older students and staff will vote in an online form and younger students through an in-person vote. Voting is expected to close by November 25, with the results announced at a brief joint meeting on December 2 so the architects can begin developing the design. The committee also suggested letting students name the mascot later, once the school is established.

Discuss Naming of Common Areas

The committee discussed naming the cafeteria, gymnasium, and library after Frederick Brewster, Francis Korn, and John Lyman. The tentative matches were Frederick Brewster for the gym, based on his request to turn his estate into a recreational park; Francis Korn for the library, in recognition of his long service on the school board; and John Lyman for the cafeteria, reflecting his connection to farming and opportunities for food and agriculture activities. These ideas are preliminary and Dr. Leggett will gather more historical information and seek input from family members, including descendants of Korn and Lyman.

The group also discussed moving the existing memorial plaque to a more visible location, possibly the new building's main lobby, and ensuring that memorial mosaics from the existing schools are incorporated into the design. A January meeting may include a brief slideshow of potential locations for the mosaics. Students are also working with the architects on an art installation, and an artist-in-residence project is planned for the spring.

The discussion concluded with the following action plans: Mrs. Cowan will alert administrators that a mascot survey is coming, Dr. Leggett will continue researching the common-area names, and a January Building Committee may include a design presentation.

Public Comment

There was no Public Comment.

Adjournment

Mrs. Longley made a motion, seconded by Mr. Viens, to adjourn the meeting.

All in favor of adjourning the meeting: Mrs. Cowan, Mrs. Longley, Mr. Padilla, Mr. Viens, Mrs. Petrella, and Mr. Moore. Motion passed and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Meghan Shortell-Fratantonio