

The Board of Education

Town of Vernon

30 Park Street – PO Box 600
Vernon, Connecticut 06066

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Kristiana Wintress, Vice Chair
Karen Colt, Secretary
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September 9, 2024

APPROVED MINUTES

BOARD OF EDUCATION JOINT FINANCE / FACILITIES COMMITTEES MEETING

A JOINT Finance / Facilities Committees meeting of the Vernon Board of Education was held at the Administration Building on Monday, September 9, 2024.

Attendees: Paul Grabowski, Finance Committee Chair; Kristiana Wintress, Facilities Committee Chair; Patricia Buxton, Mason Thrall and Kriste Nucci

Administration Present: Superintendent Dr. Joseph Macary, Assistant Superintendent Mr. Robert Testa, Director of Business and Finance Mr. William Meier, Director of Public Works Dwight Ryniewicz and Supervisor of School Facilities Mark Rizzo

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

A discussion took place and questions were answered regarding the proposed Rockville High School ASTE Program's Aqua Lab project.

The meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Karen Colt, Board Secretary



VERNON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Vernon, CT 06066-0600

Website: www.vernonpublicschools.org

Proposed Aquaculture Addition Project Summary September 4, 2024

In February 2024, The Vernon Board of Education released a competitive bid for design-build teams to submit proposals to complete an aquaculture lab for the ASTE program at Rockville High School. This project will be funded by State of Connecticut Department of Education ASTE program grants. The aquaculture program is currently housed in a shared garage space in the ASTE building. This proposed dedicated lab and classroom space will provide a modern facility and additional space to accommodate the future needs of the program.

The Board received a proposal from 7 Summits Construction to construct a stand-alone building adjacent to the ASTE building, which will offer flexibility to service the aquatic tanks while keeping the ASTE building and high school building secure. The stand-alone building is also more economical than a renovation for both structural engineering and schedule, so as not to disturb students during the duration of construction. 7 Summits was the only bidder.

BUDGET

The complete laboratory building cost, including design, will be built by 7 Summits Construction, with staff experienced in the design-build process, for a construction cost of approximately \$1.5 million dollars. It is expected that the total project costs will be approximately \$1.7 million dollars, inclusive of services, fees, furnishings and fixtures, and other expenses not directed towards the building contractor.

SCHEDULE

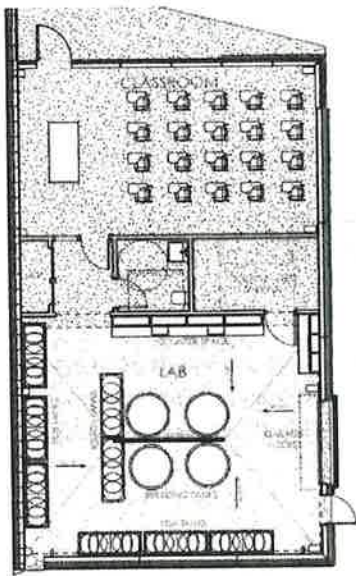
The contractor expects to have the design complete and subcontractors ready to begin work in the coming months, with the laboratory ready for move-in prior to the August 2025 school start. During the 2024-2025 school year while construction is taking place, the contractor is responsible for a complete separation between learning activities and the building project, so as to minimize disruption and maximize safety. The design-build contractor has significant experience in building projects on occupied school sites.

DESIGN CONCEPT

After review of the ASTE program and the specific needs of the aquaculture lab, the concept for the project was determined by Vernon BOE team and its local project management team, STV. STV is experienced in managing complex projects including K-12 public school projects and all the necessary requirements to fulfill curricular needs and funding requirements.

The lab building will consist of both a classroom "dry" space, with student desks & chairs and educational visual display system for delivering written, oral and visual lessons, and a "wet" lab space, containing various sizes of production and ornamental fish tanks, along with the necessary accessories and supplies. The proposed building is approximately 1600 square feet.

The lab entrance, adjacent to the ASTE program entrance, will face west towards the north parking lot and will be a feature our school system can be proud of. Aquaculture, along with our other ASTE program pathways, respond directly to our local and state agrarian research, and future occupations for our students.



Floor plan



View of Aquaculture building entrance adjacent to ASTE building