

II.B.

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION Hartford

TO BE PROPOSED:

August 4, 2015

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-64 of the Connecticut General Statutes grants approval of the application of Regional School District 12 in cooperation with the boards of education of the towns of Brookfield, Danbury, New Fairfield, New Milford, Newtown, and Sherman, to establish a Regional Agricultural Science and Technology Education Center at Shepaug Valley School, subject to the conditions noted in the Commissioner's August 4, 2015, memorandum to the State Board of Education, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Approved by a vote of _____, this fourth day of August, Two Thousand Fifteen.

Signed: _____
Dr. Dianna R. Wentzell, Secretary
State Board of Education

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Dr. Dianna R. Wentzell, Commissioner of Education

DATE: August 4, 2015

SUBJECT: Regional School District 12 Application to Establish a Regional Agricultural Science and Technology Education Center

Introduction

On March 6, 2015, the Connecticut State Department of Education (“CSDE”) received an application to establish a Regional Agricultural Science and Technology Education Center (“ASTE”) at Shepaug Valley School located in Regional School District 12 in Washington, Connecticut. The application contained a proposal for Shepaug Agriscience STEM Academy.

In accordance with Section 10-64 of the Connecticut General Statutes (“C.G.S.”), the State Board of Education (“SBE”) may approve ASTE applications from any local or regional board of education. Any local or regional board of education may enter into agreements with other boards of education to establish a Regional Agricultural Science and Technology Education Center in conjunction with its regular public school system, provided the center forms a regional ASTE consulting committee to advise the operating board of education, but have no legal authority with respect to the center. Such agreements may include matters pertaining to the admission of students, including the establishment of a reasonable number of available program acceptances and the criteria for program acceptance. Each participating board of education appoints two representatives to the committee, who have a competent knowledge of agriculture or aquaculture, as appropriate, and are not members of the board of education.

The CSDE seeks the SBE’s approval of Shepaug Agriscience STEM Academy as a new ASTE center located at Shepaug Valley School in Regional School District 12 subject to the conditions described herein. Pending SBE approval, as well as building and equipment grants allocations approval (beginning in 2018-19), Shepaug Agriscience STEM Academy will serve up to 70 students in Grades 9-10. In 2019-20, Shepaug Agriscience STEM Academy will serve up to 155 students in Grades 9-11. In 2020-21, Shepaug Agriscience STEM Academy will serve up to 240 students in Grades 9-12. If approved, the specific number of students served during the school’s inaugural year will be determined at a later date based on available funding and the best interests of the State of Connecticut; however, enrollment will not exceed the enrollment figures outlined herein.

Background

Connecticut agriculture has grown to a \$3.8 billion industry, providing over 20,000 jobs. Agriculture is a major contributor to the State’s economy and quality of life for its residents. Nationally, there is growing demand for students with agriculture degrees. The United States Department of Agriculture forecasts

54,400 new agricultural employment opportunities per year through 2018 and only 29,300 agricultural graduates annually.

Enrollment in Connecticut's existing 19 ASTE Centers has increased by 18 percent over the past 10 years, from 2,899 in 2004 to 3,422 students in 2014. To meet increasing enrollment demands, many ASTE programs statewide have added teachers, modernized equipment and facilities, and invested in technology. However, several ASTE programs have reached their enrollment capacity and cannot expand student enrollment due to facilities constraints. Over the past five years, the Regional School District 14 ASTE Center, (the ASTE program to which Regional School District 12 currently send students), has had an average of 52 students denied enrollment annually due to space constraints.

In response to enrollment demand and constraints around existing, local ASTE programs, Regional School District 12 has agreed to have Shepaug Valley School host the Shepaug Agriscience STEM Academy. The following local boards of education support and will collaborate in this endeavor: Brookfield, Danbury, New Fairfield, New Milford, Newtown, and Sherman. The aforementioned districts agree to send students with an interest in agriculture to the Shepaug Agriscience STEM Academy beginning in the fall of 2018, with the expectation and understanding that the Regional School District 12 program will provide a comprehensive, state-of-the-art agriscience educational experience.

Shepaug Valley School (the proposed Regional School District 12 host facility) houses 459 students in Grades 6-12 from Washington, Roxbury, and Bridgewater. Enrollment at Shepaug Valley School has declined by 29 percent over the past five years; the building capacity is 800 students, allowing for colocation with the Shepaug Agriscience STEM Academy. The school campus consists of 80 acres and has 30 undeveloped acres available.

CSDE Application Review Process

Application Review: The CSDE formed a representative review committee to review the application for Shepaug Agriscience STEM Academy. The review committee was comprised of an ASTE superintendent, CSDE staff, an ASTE-certified teacher, a member of the Connecticut State Consulting Committee for Agricultural Science and Technology Education, and the director of a 4-H Educational Farm. The application was evaluated based on the standards and review criteria detailed in the CSDE Form ED501: Application to Establish a Comprehensive Regional Agricultural Science and Technology Education Center. The review team determined the application demonstrates demand for a new ASTE Center and that Regional School District 12 has the capacity to operate a successful center.

Site Visit:

Review Committee members met with representatives at Shepaug Valley High School. The purpose of the meeting was to determine the applicant's commitment and capacity to establish and operate a high-quality ASTE center and to view the building plans and equipment needs.

Regional School District 12 is proposing to remodel the 27,860 sq. ft. existing, unused, education technology space to accommodate an agriculture shop, laboratory, classroom and plant science facilities. An additional 9,751 sq. ft. will be added to the existing building, making available 37,611 sq. ft. for the agriscience program. In addition to the main building remodel, two additional buildings will be constructed for equine, as well as large and small animal housing. The equine facility will be 17,200 sq.

ft., the large and small animal facility will be 12,150 sq. ft. space. Included in the plan are pastures and paddocks for the animals. The total building space for the proposed agriculture program will be 66,961 sq. ft. with an estimated cost of \$35 million dollars. See appendix A.

In addition, Regional School District 12 is requesting vehicles and equipment to start the program in the fall of 2018 that total \$1,552,750.00.

Recommendation with Conditions

The review committee recommends that the SBE consider the application favorably. It is further recommended that the SBE grant this approval subject to the following conditions:

1. A majority of each of Regional School District 12's towns (Washington, Roxbury, and Bridgewater) pass a referendum for the financial support of the ASTE Center;
2. Regional School District 12 obtains agreements from sending towns' local boards of education, signed by the town and the local board of education, expressing they are willing to increase the number of students they send to Regional School District 12 above their 3-year average they currently support at Regional School District 14: (subsection (b) of Connecticut General Statute 10-65);
3. Regional School District 12 provide a Five-Year Ethnic and Racial Diversity Plan for the proposed student enrollment at the ASTE Center that has measurable goals and outcomes, (subsection (a) of Connecticut General Statute 10-65a); and
4. Regional School District 12 submit minutes to the ASTE program manager at CSDE of consulting committee meetings where discussions for programmatic activities, agriculture pathways, scope and sequences of courses, Supervised Agriculture Experiences (SAE), and program application and acceptance criteria were discussed.

Prepared by: _____
Harold Mackin, Education Consultant
Academic Office

Approved by: _____
Ellen E. Cohn
Deputy Commissioner of Education of Implementation for
Reform
Connecticut State Department of Education

APPENDIX A

Region 12 Vocational Agriculture Program			
Space Needs Program - DRAFT WORKSHEET			
February 23, 2015			
Area/Room Title	No. Rms.	Rm. Area	Total
Educational			
Labs/Shops			
Agricultural Mechanical Shop	1	3200 sf	
Tool Room	1	450 sf	
Aquaculture Lab	1	2000 sf	
Storage Room	1	300 sf	
Food Science Lab	1	1300 sf	
Food Storage Room	1	230 sf	
Bio-technology Lab	1	1000 sf	
Prod. Greenhouse/Conservatory/Plant Cult.	1	4200 sf	
Pesticide Storage	1	180 sf	
Sales Greenhouse	1	1500 sf	
Labs/Shops Total:			14,360 sf
Classrooms			
Large Animal Classroom	1	1000 sf	
Animal Science Classroom	1	1000 sf	
Agriculture Technology Classroom	1	1000 sf	
Natural Res./Enviro. Science/Aquaculture	1	1000 sf	
Evaporator Room	1	300	
Biotech Classroom	1	1000 sf	
Plant Science Classroom	1	1000 sf	
Classrooms Total:			6,300 sf
Other			
Plant Workroom and Sales	1	2000 sf	
Other Total:			2,000 sf
Support			
Support			
Student Male Toilet Room	1	300 sf	
Student Female Toilet Room	1	300 sf	
Faculty Male Toilet Room	1	75 sf	
Faculty Female Toilet Room	1	75 sf	
Custodial	1	50 sf	
Receiving	1	250 sf	
Storage	1	150 sf	
Support Total:			1,200 sf
Administration			
Administration			
Vocational Agriculture Main Office	1	2000 sf	
Faculty Workroom	1	2000 sf	
Administration Total:			4,000 sf
Main Building Program Area:			27,860 sf
Net to Gross Adjustment		35 %	9,751
Exterior Walls, Mechanical, Circulation			
Main Building Total Area:			37,611 sf

Area/Room Title	No. Rms.	Rm. Area	Total
Out Buildings			
Equine Facility			
Equine Facility	1	9600 sf	
Stalls/Grooming/Carriage Stor./Tack/Grain/Shavings	1	2600 sf	
Classroom	1	900 sf	
Office	1	150 sf	
Male Toilets/Showers	1	300 sf	
Female Toilets/Showers	1	300 sf	
Equipment Storage	1	1500 sf	
Mechanical	1	450 sf	
Circulation/Walls	1	1400 sf	
Large Animal Barn Total:			17,200 sf
Considerations: Hay storage			
Large and Small Animal Facility and Garage			
Small Animal Housing	1	2700 sf	
Demonstration/Classroom	1	3300 sf	
Storage	1	500 sf	
Equipment Storage/Garage (62'x54')	1	3300 sf	
Custodial	1	50 sf	
Toilet Room - Male	1	200 sf	
Toilet Room - Female	1	200 sf	
Mechanical	1	400 sf	
Circulation/Walls	1	1500 sf	
Out Building Total:			12,150 sf
Out Building Total Area:			29,350 sf

Gross Vocational Agriculture Total:	66,961 sf
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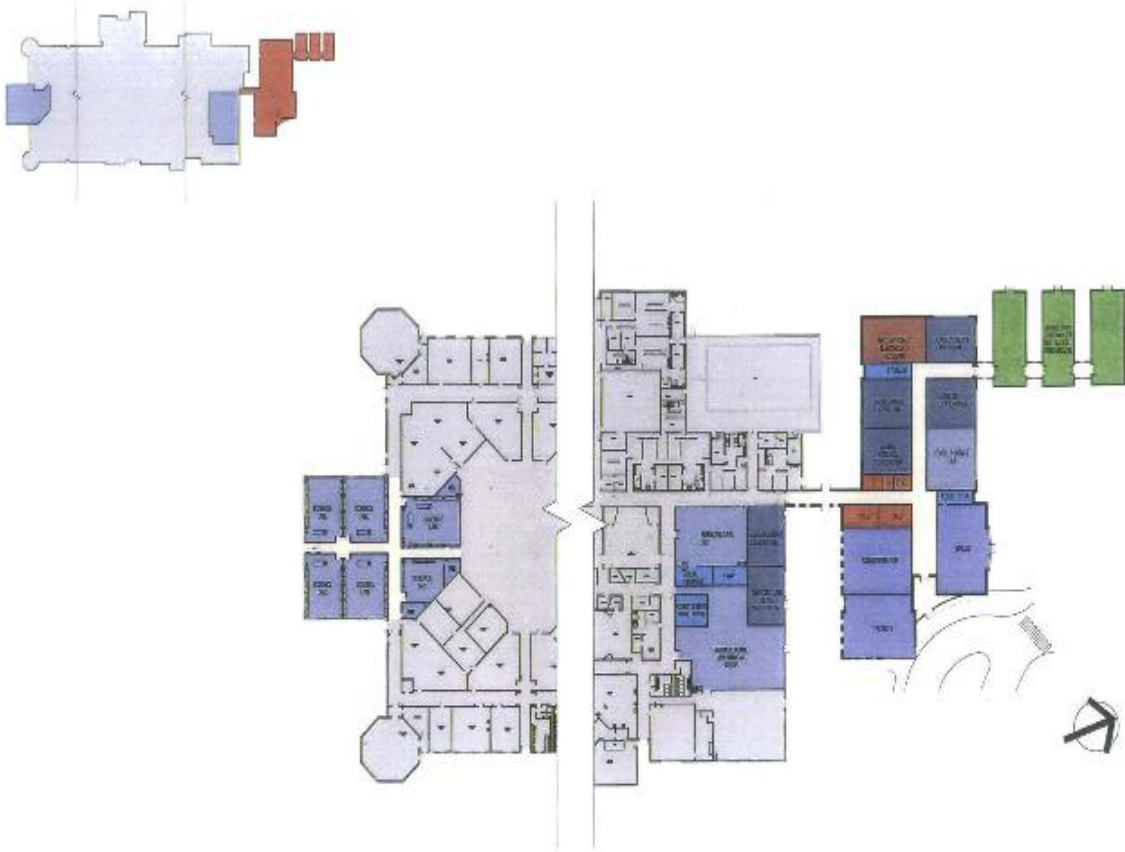
SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

**REGION 12
SHEPAUG VALLEY REGIONAL AGRISCIENCE STEM ACADEMY
WASHINGTON, CT**

JULY 19, 2019

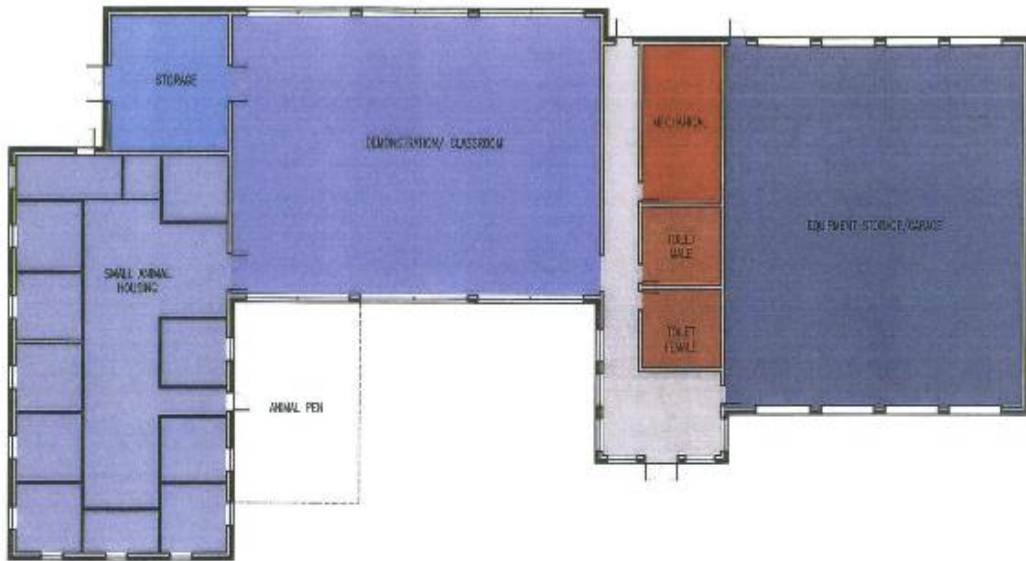


KAESTLE BOOS
associates, inc



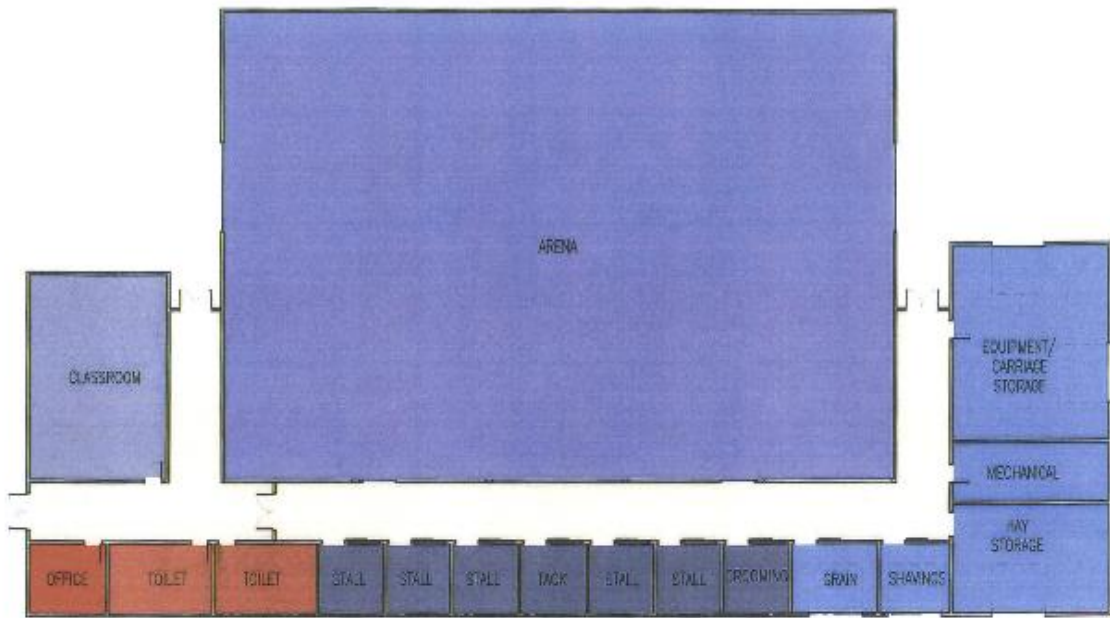
AGRSCIENCE STEM ACADEMY ADDITION/ RENOVATIONS





LARGE & SMALL ANIMAL FACILITY GARAGE





EQUINE FACILITY

