

WATCHUNG SCHOOLS

Heating, air conditioning improvements approved

By **ERIC HOSTETTLER**
STAFF WRITER

WATCHUNG - Both Bayberry School and Valley View School will receive HVAC (Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning) systems upgrades, but those are not the only improvements planned.

The Board of Education unanimously approved the hiring of Design Resources Group (DRG) Architects on Wednesday, April 11, to replace 16 HVAC units between the two schools. The project will cost about \$41,450, and is expected to be completed prior to the 2018-2019 school year.

At an additional cost of \$28,000, the board also hired DRG to examine and provide feedback on the district's long-range facilities plan, and seek



TINA KELLY **MARGO LANGER**

out grant opportunities that would generate energy savings for the district, according to district Business Manager Ernest Turner.

Turner called the hire a "big money-saver" for the district.

"We're going to hit the ground running on this and we're going to keep going," said Turner. "It's very exciting to see what improvements will be made for the district."

Board Vice President Tina Kelly briefly said the firm provided an "impressive" presenta-

tion to the board's operations committee. She said the committee and administration chose DRG after looking at four other firms.

Board President Margo Langer added she was impressed with the firm and "how much they knew about the district."

"On behalf of the board I would like to say that we are really looking forward to working with DRG," she said in a Saturday, April 14, email. "They will assist us in maintaining our buildings and grounds in good working condition and to help us with our long range facilities planning. They will also assist us in seeking grants and other funds that may be available to us for certain types of repairs and maintenance of our facilities."