

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**March 7, 2017**

*A special meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on March 7, 2017 in the Haddam-Killingworth High School Lower Media Center. Board of Education Chair, Joel D'Angelo, called the meeting to order at 6:36 PM.*

**Members Present:** *Kathy Brown, Sue Twachtman, Maura Wallin, Susan Dean, Eric Couture, Joanne Nesti, Jeannie Young and Joel D'Angelo*

**Members Absent:** *Suzanne Sack & Dan Chase*

**Also Present:** *Superintendent of Schools, Howard Thiery, Dr. Holly Hageman, Director of Finance, Martha Vaughn, and Board Clerk, Jamie Sciascia*

**Visitors:** *Approximately 17*

**Call to Order/Opening of Meeting**

*Board of Education Chair, Joel D'Angelo called the meeting to order at 6:36 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.*

**Presentation of the Superintendent's Proposed Budget 2017-2018**

*Superintendent Howard Thiery presented to the Board and Visitors the Superintendent's Preliminary Budget for 2017-2018 for Regional School District No. 17.*

*Superintendent Thiery reviewed the High School Mission Statement and also went into detail the terms of the Proposed Gross Operating Budget, Revenue and Proposed Net Budget. He briefly explained that the Gross Budget was \$42,683,867.82 which was a 1.9% increase from 2016-2017 fiscal year budget. He went over the Total Revenue and how it will decrease by approximately \$119,303.73. He addressed the Net Budget of \$41,770,420 which is 2.3% increase from the 2016-2017 year. Further, Superintendent Thiery spoke of how the auditors run a Fund Balance which ultimately gets returned to the communities within the school district around June timeframe. This number \$254,938.00 reflects a 21.9% decrease in the Fund Balance from 2016-2017 year. The Net Assessment of the two communities total \$1,002,029.82 reflecting a 2.5% increase over the assessment from 2016-2017. Superintendent Thiery addressed the \$104,000 Excess Cost Grant which comes from the State which ultimately reimburses the district for any high cost education service. He went over the Gross Budget increase of \$811,116.09 and also stated that \$600,000 is for salary and benefits. He said tuition will decrease and Facilities and Grounds will increase which is because of the Capital Account. The Capital Account is funded at 1%. Benefits are rising 5% and insurance is about half of the budget increase. He briefly reviewed the accounts that are decreasing which were roughly 1% on the budget. He explained the increase items and the highest being health insurance which is \$317,125.00 or 0.76%. Fuel was mentioned how it is up a quarter a gallon which is \$2.00 a gallon and a 14% increase. He further noted that there was a deduction of 14.1 staffing positions which is a savings of \$623,378 and overtime positions were reduced by \$30,650. Items like social security were reduced by about \$29,908 for a total of salary reduction of \$683,936.00. In addition, Superintendent Thiery spoke of the 10% deduction in items like instructional supplies.*

*Further, Superintendent Thiery addressed the preliminary budget which was broken out in a pie graph comparing, Salary, building and grounds, transportation, benefits, learning programs, debt, support*

programs, technology and administration and went into detail about those proposed expenditures for this fiscal year.

Superintendent Thiery addressed the RSD17 Annual Enrollment for Haddam and Killingworth schools for years 2006-2016.

The Gross Operating Budget was discussed for the fiscal year which is approximately \$42,683,867.82 an increase of 1.94% respectively. He quickly noted that the salaries are a total of \$21,956,699 which \$124,527 is a 0.57% increase from last year. The Benefits increase for all the health insurance related topics which include workers' compensation, unemployment, severance payments and other things of the like is a 5.85% increase. Both the Benefits and Salaries increase totals \$589,913 which is a 1.98% increase from 2016-2017 budget.

Superintendent Thiery addressed Professional Developments and how the amount of \$140 per FTE at each building has stayed the same since the 2012-2013 year. Tuition is decreasing by \$220,38. Also, spoke on the ECG Revenue is 70% reimbursement by the State of Connecticut

The reading level of all students was addressed and how it is exceptional. Further, he spoke about how an elementary class is allocated \$225 dollars for reading materials and each of the Middle Schools will receive a \$450.00 per class allocation. In addition, \$4,500.00 is set aside for additional library books for the Elementary, Middle and High School Levels. For all the Districts, \$22,500 total for all library books.

Superintendent Thiery then addressed fuel and how it increased 0.25 cents per gallon from the 2016-2017 fiscal year. The budget for 2017-2018 is \$2.00 per gallon for all oil, diesel and gasoline. He spoke briefly how it fluctuates based on the cold winters we have, obviously last year was less due to weather being warmer.

Technology for the 2017-2018 fiscal year is an investment of \$36,654.00. They will remain using their annual financing for these technology issues that arise. There is a 1% allocation for the Capital Account, Fund 06 in the 2017-2018 Proposed Budget which equals to \$418,727 allocation. Superintendent Thiery went over how the current debt will decrease by \$70,950 for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. He spoke briefly on the outstanding bonds that were used for the construction of the Haddam Killingworth Middle School. They refinanced some of those bonds in 2012; saving the District money each year.

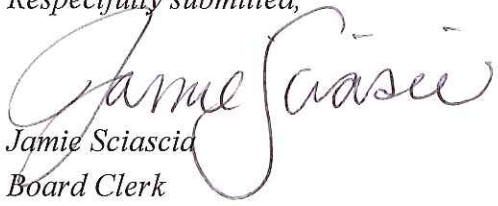
Superintendent Thiery went over the Readers and Writers Workshop for Grades K-8; the continued implementation of the New Math Curriculum for Grades 5-8, World Language Program Grades 5-12; Targeted Intervention model at Haddam Killingworth High School; Maker Spaces Grades K-12; Project Lead the Way instruction unites for Grades K-4 and the New Science and Social Studies programs.

Lastly, he addressed the Governor's Proposed Budget and all the unknowns and what the revenue could be. He said he spoke to our state legislators and is keeping abreast of what is going on to make sure we are ready and prepared to change if need be. He reiterated what he presented, 138 communities lose funding and 38 communities gain funding along with the Governor's Proposed Budget.

## **Adjournment**

Board Chair Joel D'Angelo called for the meeting to adjourn at 7:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jamie Sciascia  
Board Clerk

Approval:   
Kathy Brown, Secretary

Date: 