

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
August 2, 2016

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on August 2, 2016 in the Central Office Board Room. Board of Education Chair, Joel D'Angelo, called the meeting to order at 7:34 PM.

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

Members Absent: *Suzanne Sack, Sue Twachtman, and Neal Perron*

Also Present: *Superintendent of Schools, Howard Thiery, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Holly Hageman, Director of Fiscal Operations, Martha Vaughn and Board Clerk Larissa Johnson*

Visitors: 3

Call to Order/Opening of Meeting

Board of Education Chair, Joel D'Angelo called the meeting to order at 7:34 PM.

Public Comment

Maurice Adams of Haddam addressed the Board. He inquired as to whether the Board is working on having a completion date for its strategic planning including setting milestones or check points.

Christine Pierce of Haddam addressed the Board and asked the Board to consider increasing the number of Second Grade sections at Haddam Elementary from two sections to three sections based on enrollment. She said that students in this grade have had three sections for Kindergarten and First Grade and that there would be approximately twenty students per class, whereas enrollment for Second Grade at Killingworth Elementary is approximately fifteen students per class with a total enrollment of forty-four students divided into three sections. She also mentioned that Burr District Elementary has lower enrollment levels per class than the proposed Haddam Elementary Second Grade sections. She asked the Board to please consider adding a third section to the Haddam Elementary Second Grade.

Mike Baklik introduced himself as Head Football Coach in attendance for the proposed Overnight Football Camp discussion.

*Maura Wallin **MOVED** and Eric Couture **SECONDED** a motion to move New Business Item 7.D – "Overnight Football Training Camp" up in the agenda to follow Public Comment. Motion passed 8-0-0 by the following votes:*

Kathy Brown	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Joanne Nesti	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Dan Chase	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Neal Perron	Absent
Maura Wallin	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Suzanne Sack	Absent
Eric Couture	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Sue Twachtman	Absent
Susan Dean	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Jeannie Young	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
		Joel D'Angelo	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>

New Business

D. Overnight Football Training Camp

Superintendent Thiery introduced the Overnight Football Training Camp. This is an annual trip for the football team. All members of the team are able to attend, Freshman typically come up for the double-session day and have lunch with the team but do not spend the night. The camp takes place at St. Thomas Seminary and will run August 25-27, 2016. Students pay for their own attendance, however this year the Touchdown Club is making a donation to help offset the cost for each student.

*Jeannie Young **MOVED** and Susan Dean **SECONDED** a motion to approve the Overnight Football Training Camp Trip from August 25-27, 2016 as presented. Motion passed 8-0-0 by the following votes:*

Kathy Brown	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Joanne Nesti	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Dan Chase	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Neal Perron	Absent
Maura Wallin	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Suzanne Sack	Absent
Eric Couture	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Sue Twachtman	Absent
Susan Dean	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Jeannie Young	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
		Joel D'Angelo	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>

Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of Minutes for the July 12, 2016 Board of Education Meeting

*Maura Wallin **MOVED** and Susan Dean **SECONDED** a motion to approve the minutes from July 12, 2016 as presented. Motion passed 8-0-0 by the following votes:*

Kathy Brown	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Joanne Nesti	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Dan Chase	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Neal Perron	Absent
Maura Wallin	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Suzanne Sack	Absent
Eric Couture	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Sue Twachtman	Absent
Susan Dean	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Jeannie Young	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
		Joel D'Angelo	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>

Board Committee Reports, Future Meetings and Board Liaison Reports

Dan Chase reported that the Facilities Subcommittee met prior to the Board meeting at 6:30 PM and primarily discussed the water quality and conditions of the field. The turf and water have been tested twice since the new water aeration and turf treatment program has been put in place and the field has been showing signs of improvement. The next scheduled time point for testing is in mid-September and the Board discussed possibly adding an additional time point for testing in early September once the field is more in use by the football team.

Susan Dean reported that the Communications Subcommittee will be sending out a Board Update at the beginning of school. She also mentioned that she would like to further discuss a communication plan for the fall referendum.

Joanne Nesti updated the Board regarding the Finance Subcommittee meeting on Thursday, July 28, 2016. The subcommittee met and discussed that the balance for the end of the fiscal year 2015-2016 is approximately \$140,000. There is approximately \$400,000 in open purchase orders that will be closed in the coming months. The new copiers have been delivered and installed and the substitute calling system has also been implemented.

For 2016-2017 thus far, expenditures are approximately \$500,000 mostly spent in salaries and insurance. The next meeting is September 1, 2016.

Old Business

A. High School Energy and Facilities Upgrade

The Board discussed a possible timeline holding the High School Energy and Facilities Upgrade referendum on October 18, 2016. For a possible October 18, 2016, the Board discussed holding a Public Hearing on September 15, 2016. The Board discussed sending out letters or press releases to the local media and news outlets, mailing out a brochure or pamphlet to residents of the two towns outlining the proposed upgrade projects, and sending out two reminder postcards for the public hearing or community input sessions and a reminder to vote at the referendum. The Board discussed that there will need to be further review regarding the content of these reminders and informational pamphlets to ensure compliance with statutory and legal requirements. The Board also discussed holding two community input meetings where the Board Chair would present, one at Haddam-Killingworth Middle School on September 7, 2016 at 7:00 PM and a second at Haddam-Killingworth High School on September 8, 2016 at 7:00 PM. The Board discussed that an informational mailing regarding these sessions should be sent out in late August. Reminders for the referendum itself would ideally go out approximately one week prior to the referendum.

Consent Agenda

The donations on the Consent Agenda are made to the school system as a whole, and the Superintendent may direct any monies to specific schools or programs at his discretion.

- A. Acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$363.10.00 from Box Tops for Education. Submitted by Principal Eric Larson, Burr District Elementary School.
- B. Acceptance of a donation of a shed rental for the football team’s practice field from Go Mini (the DiGiacomo family) for a four-month term, valued at \$712.57. Submitted by Principal Donna Hayward, Haddam-Killingworth High School.

Susan Dean **MOVED** and Eric Couture **SECONDED** a motion to accept the items on the consent agenda as presented with great appreciation. Motion passed 8-0-0 by the following votes:

Kathy Brown	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Joanne Nesti	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Dan Chase	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Neal Perron	Absent
Maura Wallin	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Suzanne Sack	Absent
Eric Couture	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Sue Twachtman	Absent
Susan Dean	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Jeannie Young	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
		Joel D’Angelo	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>

New Business – Continued

A. Fixed Asset Disposal Request from HKHS

Board Chair Joel D'Angelo and Superintendent Thiery presented the Fixed Asset Disposal Request from HKHS. The high school is requesting that geometry textbooks be disposed of which are no longer in use.

*Susan Dean **MOVED** and Eric Couture **SECONDED** a motion to accept the Fixed Asset Disposal Request from Haddam-Killingworth High School as requested. Motion passed 8-0-0 by the following votes:*

Kathy Brown	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Joanne Nesti	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Dan Chase	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Neal Perron	Absent
Maura Wallin	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Suzanne Sack	Absent
Eric Couture	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Sue Twachtman	Absent
Susan Dean	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Jeannie Young	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
		Joel D'Angelo	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>

B. Enrollment Update

Superintendent Thiery updated the Board regarding Killingworth Elementary School enrollment levels. KES has 16 new students enrolled, many at grade levels other than Kindergarten. The current projected enrollment for Kindergarten at KES is 59, with three sections of 19-20 students. Burr District Elementary also received several new students and current enrollment is at 47 students, and a third section has been added so that class sections have 15-16 students currently. Haddam Elementary has two sections for 34 students, at 17 students per section. The Board discussed the budgetary impact of adding a third section at Burr Elementary Kindergarten and also discussed whether a third section at Haddam Elementary should be added for Second Grade. The Board also discussed that as a general guideline, as enrollment grows to 19 or 20 students per section, if the Principal deems it necessary, they request an additional class section, from the Board.

C. Second August Meeting

The Board discussed meeting as scheduled on August 16, 2016 to further discuss the communication plans for the fall referendum.

From the Superintendent

A. Legislative Update

Superintendent Thiery updated the Board.

B. Personnel Report

Superintendent Thiery presented the Personnel Report.

C. Enrollment Report

Superintendent Thiery presented the Enrollment Report.

From the Director of Fiscal Operations

A. Budget Transfers

None

Board Discussion/News/Suggestions

Susan Dean asked about the Strategic Planning meeting and when that will take place. The Board will likely be meeting in early fall or incorporating strategic planning in a scheduled business meeting to discuss strategic planning. The executive members of the Board are also meeting on August 10, 2016 to discuss how they want to proceed with strategic planning.

Audience of Citizens/Public Comment

Maurice Adams of Haddam said that the Board still didn't provide a completion date or final date for strategic planning, milestones or check points.

Adjournment

Board Chair Joel D'Angelo called for the meeting to adjourn at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Larissa B. Johnson
Larissa B. Johnson
Board Clerk

Approval: *Kathy* Date: 9/6/16
Kathy Brown, Secretary