

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
July 12, 2016

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on July 12, 2016 in the Central Office Board Room. Board of Education Chair, Joel D'Angelo, called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

Members Present: *Kathy Brown, Eric Couture, Joanne Nesti, Suzanne Sack, Susan Dean, Sue Twachtman, and Joel D'Angelo*

Members Absent: *Jeannie Young, Dan Chase, Maura Wallin, and Neal Perron*

Also Present: *Superintendent of Schools, Howard Thiery, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Holly Hageman, 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 7:35 PM.

Public Comment

Maurice Adams of Haddam addressed the Board. He wished to clarify the information he provided at the previous Board of Education meeting and provided the Board with a chart titled, "A Way to Save \$2 million for Auditorium" which outlined how if the budget remains flat funded over the next four years, the declining enrollment will lead to an increase in per pupil spending and generate enough funds to pay for the renovation of the auditorium. He emphasized, "Therefore, maintaining the Gross Budget at \$41.8 million, and providing \$2 million for Auditorium, still provides an increase of \$991 per Student by 2019-20 because of the declining Student Population." He also mentioned that according to the RiverCog LEARN estimate for RSD 17, the total number of students will be down 21% by 2024-25.

*Sue Twachtman **MOVED** and Eric Couture **SECONDED** a motion to move New Business Item 8.A and 8.B up in the agenda to follow Public Comment. Motion passed 7-0-0 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	Absent	Neal Perron	Absent
Maura Wallin	Absent	Suzanne Sack	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Eric Couture	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Sue Twachtman	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Susan Dean	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Jeannie Young	Absent
		Joel D'Angelo	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>

New Business

A. Contract for Copier Equipment and Service

Director of Technology Scott Butson and Suzanne Sack presented information about the new copier equipment and service contract. Following the expiration of the district contract with Xerox, the copier equipment and service contract was put out for bid. Five companies came in for a walk-through and four bid. A&A Office Supply had the winning bid with a contract for equipment and service for three years. The total amount of the contract is close to the contract amount with Xerox, with increased machine speeds and a decrease in the total number of copiers provided.

Suzanne Sack **MOVED** and Joanne Nesti **SECONDED** a motion to accept the contract for copier equipment and service with A&A Office Supply for a term of three years. Motion passed 7-0-0 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	Absent	Neal Perron	Absent
Maura Wallin	Absent	Suzanne Sack	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Eric Couture	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Sue Twachtman	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Susan Dean	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Jeannie Young	Absent
		Joel D'Angelo	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>

B. 2016-2017 Technology Lease Purchase with First Niagara Bank

Superintendent Thiery and Director of Technology Scott Butson discussed the Technology Lease Purchase. Superintendent Thiery explained that with each Technology Lease Purchase, the district tries to focus on three strategies – keeping end-user appliances and the infrastructure backbone up-to-date, which represents about 70% of the funding and use about 30% of the funds for technological innovation. Scott Butson further discussed the rotation schedule for equipment such as laptops and other user appliances, and discussed how it can take two years to replace technology appliances in either the middle school or the high school, and about one year for the elementary schools. He explained that he typically finds that there is about a four-year usable life for laptops and desktops, which are then retired and re-used in more basic computer labs for the kids. He also explained that as the price for technology appliances has decreased, he is able to do more with the same amount of funding. The Board also discussed how the district was able to do a lot of upgrading from a state technology grant which was offered in support of the transition to SBAC and online testing. Suzanne Sack also mentioned that she asked the Director of Finance to review the agreement with First Niagara and confirm that should the bank be bought out by another organization, that this agreement would not be interrupted or subject to change.

Suzanne Sack **MOVED** and Sue Twachtman **SECONDED** a motion to accept the Technology Lease Purchase with First Niagara Leasing Inc. for a four-year term as presented. Motion passed 7-0-0 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	Absent	Neal Perron	Absent
Maura Wallin	Absent	Suzanne Sack	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Eric Couture	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Sue Twachtman	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Susan Dean	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Jeannie Young	Absent
		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 May 31, 2016 Board of Education Special Meeting – 51916A
- B. Approval of Minutes for the May 31, 2016 Board of Education Special Meeting – 51916B
- C. Approval of Minutes for the June 7, 2016 Board of Education Meeting
- D. Approval of Minutes for the June 21, 2016 Board of Education -- Education Session Meeting
- E. Approval of Minutes for the January 28, 2016 Board of Education Special Meeting

Sue Twachtman **MOVED** and Eric Couture **SECONDED** a motion to approve the minutes, Items 3.A-3.E as presented. Motion passed 7-0-0 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	Absent	Neal Perron	Absent
Maura Wallin	Absent	Suzanne Sack	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Eric Couture	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Sue Twachtman	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Susan Dean	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Jeannie Young	Absent
		Joel D'Angelo	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>

Board Committee Reports and Future Meetings

A. Facilities Subcommittee

Eric Couture reported that the subcommittee did not meet.

B. Finance Subcommittee

Suzanne Sack reported that the subcommittee has not met since June. At the previous meeting, the subcommittee discussed contracts for the copier equipment and service and year-end projections, as well as outstanding POs and the audit process.

C. Policy Subcommittee

Kathy Brown reported that the subcommittee did not meet.

D. Communications Subcommittee

Susan Dean reported that the subcommittee did not meet. She said that she recently sent out a Board Update with the Top Ten Students for 2016.

E. Personnel and Evaluation Subcommittee

Sue Twachtman updated the Board. She reported that the Negotiations Committee has been meeting with the custodians' union and the contract is included on the agenda for this evening for ratification.

F. Strategic Capital Planning Subcommittee

Suzanne Sack updated the Board. She reported that the subcommittee met prior to this meeting and discussed that the end-product for this subcommittee will be a clear capital plan. The committee plans to look at capital assets and the costs of maintaining and renewing those assets over time. They are also looking at how assets are being utilized and how to keep them vibrant and useful. Superintendent Thiery presented information regarding capital asset utilization for the committee to review and Board Chair D'Angelo added that the committee is still in information-gathering mode. Superintendent Thiery is also going to a meeting of DMC members to look at a case study of Montville schools and their capital plan.

Board Liaison Reports

A. Healthy Communities – Healthy Kids Council

Susan Dean reported that the council does not meet in the summer, however the Harley Motorcycle raffle at the Gelston House is taking place this fall.

B. LEARN

No report.

C. Parks & Recreation

Sue Twachtman did not have a report.

D. Haddam Board of Selectmen

No report.

E. Killingworth Board of Selectmen

Eric Couture did not have a report.

Old Business

A. High School Energy and Facilities Upgrade

Before discussing a possible communication plan, the Board discussed that it would be helpful to determine what the possible referendum date would be in order to consider what the steps should be taken in communicating the referendum project and bonding structure with the community before the voting.

b) Referendum Timeline

The Board discussed three possible referendum dates: September 27, October 4, and October 11 and how each date would relate to the general public's availability based on typical vacations and holidays, as well as what the timing would be of a possible second referendum should the first not succeed. Referendums scheduled for September or early October would require a Public Hearing in late August or very early September, prior to Labor Day and either before start or on the second day of school. Many Board members felt that this was not an ideal time to raise community awareness and involvement and would limit the opportunity to better communicate with community members. The Board also proposed possibly holding the referendum on October 13 or October 18, to avoid any conflicts with Columbus Day. The Board discussed that a referendum date of October 18 would allow the Board the most time to communicate with the community regarding the referendum.

a) Communication Plan

The Board discussed that it was their perception that most members of the community understand and support that the high school is in need of new boilers and a new roof, and that it is even more crucial for members of the community to understand the budgetary impact, retirement of current debt, and bonding structure. The Board discussed several possible methods for communication including offering additional public information and input sessions prior to the Public Hearing, creating an informational video regarding the project with supplementary charts demonstrating the budgetary impact posted online, tent signs posted around the community to communicate meeting and referendum dates, and a mailed informational brochure.

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 \$50.00 from Target 2016 Take Charge of Education. Submitted by Principal Dennis Reed, Killingworth Elementary School.
- B. Acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$1,932.96 from the Stop & Shop A+ Rewards Program. Submitted by Principal Dennis Reed, Killingworth Elementary School.
- C. Acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$280.00 from the HKMS PTO for 10 yearbook scholarships. Submitted by Principal Dr. Jennifer Olsen, Haddam-Killingworth Middle School.
- D. Acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$1544.22 from the Stop & Shop A+ Rewards Program. Submitted by Principal Dr. Jennifer Olsen, Haddam-Killingworth Middle School.
- E. Acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$1,902.48 from the Stop & Shop A+ Rewards Program. Submitted by Principal Donna Hayward, Haddam-Killingworth High School.
- F. Acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$50.00 from the University of New Haven for Project Lead the Way. Submitted by Principal Donna Hayward, Haddam-Killingworth High School.

Susan Dean **MOVED** and Eric Couture **SECONDED** a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, Items 7.A-3.E, with gratitude, as presented. Motion passed 7-0-0 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	Absent	Neal Perron	Absent
Maura Wallin	Absent	Suzanne Sack	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Eric Couture	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Sue Twachtman	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Susan Dean	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Jeannie Young	Absent
		Joel D'Angelo	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>

New Business – Continued

C. Custodial Contract

Board Member Sue Twachtman presented the Custodial Contract. The contract represents a 2% increase each year over all three years of the contract. The wage scale was restructured based on position. The contract also includes a wage cap of \$25.54 and insurance co-pays were added to this contract. The additional health insurance co-pays offset the wage and benefit increases of approximately \$22,000 by approximately \$18,000. The Board also discussed that the committee did not want to introduce a Health Savings Account plan at this time until the district has had further opportunity to explore those options and observe how similar plans are working in other districts.

D. HKYFS Survey

Superintendent Thiery discussed the HKYFS survey with the Board. He explained that the survey, created by the SEARCH Institute has been delivered to students in grades 7-12 every other year since 2006. The survey entails students answering questions about the 40 developmental assets, which help to measure the likelihood of students' personal and academic support and success, including alcohol and drug use, etc. He also explained that the questions have remained the same since 2006 as the survey seeks to create longitudinal data, which would be compromised should the survey change. The Board also discussed that parents do receive notification that the survey is being delivered and that they have the opportunity to opt their child out of the survey. Superintendent Thiery explained that in response to a parent concern regarding the survey, the district will seek to have a link to the survey on the HKYFS website provided in its parent communications so that parents will have the opportunity to gather more information regarding the survey and decide whether or not it is appropriate for their child to participate.

From the Superintendent

A. Legislative Update

Superintendent Thiery did not have a report.

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

Board Chair Joel D'Angelo said that he will be sending out some additional possible dates to hold a Strategic Planning meeting.

Sue Twachtman asked whether the bus GPS app for parents will be available soon. Superintendent Thiery responded that he has a meeting with STA planned to discuss the app.

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

Board Chair Joel D'Angelo called for the meeting to adjourn at 8:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Larissa B. Johnson
Board Clerk

Approval:  Date: 8/2/16
Kathy Brown, Secretary