

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION – EDUCATION SESSION
April 19, 2016

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on April 19, 2016 in the Haddam-Killingworth Middle School Media Center. Board of Education Chair, Joel D'Angelo, called the meeting to order at 7:36 PM.

Members Present: *Joanne Nesti, Susan Dean, Sue Twachtman, Eric Couture, Suzanne Sack, Maura Cawley, Jeannie Young, Dan Chase, and Joel D'Angelo*

Members Absent: *Neal Perron and Kathy Brown*

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 Joel D'Angelo called the meeting to order at 7:36 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Audience of Citizens

None

Board Liaison Reports

A. Curriculum Council Update

Susan Dean and Dr. Hageman updated the Board. Susan Dean reported that the Spanish 4 class is being recognized by UConn as an Early College Experience course so that students may now take the course for college credit. She also reported that HKMS has developed a Program of Studies which provides parents and students further information about daily schedules, course descriptions, support services and extra-curricular activities. The Board also discussed the attendance of the elementary principals at the National Science Teachers Association Conference in Nashville, as well as the Shoreline Principals Professional Development conference, where students and faculty attended and participated in group discussions about balancing stress and anxiety relating to school. Principal Donna Hayward was available to answer further questions regarding the conference as well as provide a progress update on how the students and faculty in attendance have shared the information learned from the conference at a faculty meeting and student proposals for how stress can be managed.

B. Curriculum Subcommittee

Dan Chase had no report.

Susan Dean **MOVED** and Eric Couture **SECONDED** a motion to add a Communications Subcommittee update to the Board Liaison Report agenda. Motion passed 9-0-0 by the following votes:

Kathy Brown	Absent	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 Cawley	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	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	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"/>

C. Communications Subcommittee

Susan Dean reported that the Communications Subcommittee met prior to the Education Session and is proposing that the Board send out a postcard to all of the households in Haddam and Killingworth as a reminder to vote, with the referendum date and times at a cost of approximately \$1,500. The Board discussed whether it was appropriate to make this expenditure in light of the current budget freeze and whether there was enough time to send the postcards and their effectiveness.

Suzanne Sack **MOVED** and Eric Couture **SECONDED** a motion to send out a postcard with voting information included at a cost not to exceed \$1,500. Motion failed 2-7-0 by the following votes:

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

Eric Couture **MOVED** and Susan Dean **SECONDED** a motion to add a Finance Subcommittee update to the Board Liaison Report agenda. Motion passed 9-0-0 by the following votes:

Kathy Brown	Absent	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 Cawley	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	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	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"/>

D. Finance Subcommittee

Suzanne Sack reported that the Finance Subcommittee met on April 7, 2016 and discussed Martha Vaughn's projections for the end of the year. She said that the lesson the Finance Subcommittee is learning is that the tighter the budget is, the harder it is at the end of the year. She said that Martha Vaughn is completely on top of it and has a tremendous amount of information about what is happening budgetarily. She said that the Finance Subcommittee would like to be involved in reviewing the Capital Plan so that they can assist in financially planning for future capital expenditures. She also said that the Finance Subcommittee would like to coordinate with the Policy Subcommittee and look at policies relating to finance.

Old Business

A. High School Energy and Facilities Upgrade

a) Report from Facilities Subcommittee

Dan Chase presented the Facilities Subcommittee's proposed improvements to the high school facilities. He first explained the committee's recommendation that the Board continue with its current course of action in remediating the athletic fields by aerating the pond water used for irrigation. They are recommending that the Board try this course of action for 2-3 years in order to give the fields a chance to recover. Included in this plan is over-seeding the fields with the appropriate type of grass species for athletic play. The cost would be approximately \$18,000-\$20,000 per year.

The second recommendation by the committee is to continue on the course of gathering further information and a rough order of magnitude (ROM) on the proposed alternative front entrance to the high school. The new proposed entrance location would be on the far-side of the high school near the tennis courts. There is already an entrance at this location that many students use and it is conveniently accessible by the parking lot. This proposal may include moving the current English department to the location where guidance and the administrative offices currently are, and moving the guidance and administrative offices closer to the entrance area. He explained that in this location, the administration will have visibility of visitors. There are also still working on getting a timeline for when the ROM will be prepared and when it can be submitted to CREC for furthering budgeting and information. He clarified that the committee is currently recommending the pursuit of further information and pricing for the project, and is not yet currently recommending the project itself.

The third recommendation by the Facilities Subcommittee is for a renovation of the high school auditorium, including new paint, carpeting, and replacement of seating, as well as renovation of the stage, (referred to as ECM13 a-d from the CREC proposal) and upgrading of the rigging, lighting and audio equipment. The total estimated cost for this project would be approximately \$640,243.

The fourth recommendation by the Facilities Subcommittee is to move forward with what is referred to as the "CORE" facilities upgrades, which include items ECM1- roof replacement, ECM2 - installation of a solar voltaic system, ECM3- replacing of the heating plant and domestic hot water system, ECM4 – exterior and interior lighting upgrades, and ECM5 – upgrades to the pumps, transformers, and power factor from the CREC proposal. The cost of many of these items would be offset by government grants and energy savings over time.

The Board reviewed a cost analysis spreadsheet provided by Dan Chase and discussed the possible savings and credits that would be received for the project as well as debt service figures and overall costs. The Board discussed having CREC begin work on estimating costs for these project items and possible referendum timelines.

New Business

None

Adjournment

Board Chair Joel D'Angelo called for the meeting to adjourn at 9:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Larissa B. Johnson
Board Clerk

Approval:  Date: 5/3/16
Kathy Brown, Secretary