

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

*A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on February 2, 2016 in the Central Office Board Room. Board of Education Chair, Joel D'Angelo, called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM.*

**Members Present:** *Dan Chase, Sue Twachtman, Kathy Brown, Susan Dean, Maura Cawley, Eric Couture, Joanne Nesti, Suzanne Sack, Jeannie Young, Neal Perron (arrived at 8:05 PM) and Joel D'Angelo*

**Members Absent:** *None*

**Also Present:** *Superintendent of Schools, Howard Thiery, Director of Finance, Martha Vaughn, Director of Facilities, Michael Distefano, Student Representative Lily Carmichael, and Board Clerk, Larissa Johnson*

**Visitors:** *4*

**Call to Order/Opening of Meeting**

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

**Audience of Citizens**

*None*

*Suzanne Sack **MOVED** and Susan Dean **SECONDED** a motion to move New Business Item 9.A to Item 3, following the Audience of Citizens. Motion passed 10-0-0 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 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"/>

**New Business**

**A. Fiscal Year 2015 Audit Presentation by Michele Loso of Seward & Monde**

*Michele Loso of Seward & Monde presented a summary of results from the finance audit. She said that it was an unmodified, clean opinion. The district is in compliance with State and Federal audit requirements and she said that there were no compliance issues, material control issues, or deficiencies. She invited the Board to contact her with any further questions they might have once they have had the opportunity to review the full audit report. Superintendent Thiery added that Seward & Monde has also been a great resource throughout the year for questions regarding recording matters. Suzanne Sack also remarked that it was good to see the report not only to see that the district is in compliance but also to see how the report illuminates the inner-workings of the budget.*

## Approval of Minutes

- A. Approval of Minutes for the January 5, 2016 Board of Education Meeting
- B. Approval of Minutes for the January 19, 2016 Board of Education – Education Session Meeting

*Susan Dean **MOVED** and Eric Couture **SECONDED** a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Kathy Brown **AMENDED** the motion to add Neal Perron to the Members Present of the January 5, 2016 minutes. Susan Dean **ACCEPTED** the amendment. Motion passed 9-0-1 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 Cawley	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	Suzanne Sack	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input checked="" 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"/>

## Report from Student Representatives

*Lily Carmichael reported that on Friday, students and staff from different schools in the Shoreline Conference will be collaborating at Lyme-Old Lyme High School to talk about “Balancing the Ride,” a meeting to discuss ways to decrease the amount of stress high school students have to bear. She also reported that Joey Bosco is directing a one-act play, “Customer Service” which will be performed on Friday, February 5, 2016 at 7:00 PM. There will also be a Pep Rally on Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup> and on February 4<sup>th</sup>, actor and comedian John Morello will perform a one-man show, “Dirt” which is about substance abuse and choices.*

## Board Committee Reports and Future Meetings

### A. Facilities Subcommittee

*Dan Chase updated the Board. He reported that the subcommittee met prior to this meeting and began looking at the next steps for moving forward in the high school renovation project.*

### B. Finance Subcommittee

*Suzanne Sack updated the Board. She reported that the subcommittee met this evening and reviewed the audit.*

### C. Policy Subcommittee

*Kathy Brown reported that the Policy Subcommittee has not met.*

### D. Communications Subcommittee

*Susan Dean updated the Board. She reported that she has been in contact with several public or community centers in Haddam and Killingworth and that several have agreed to put out Board Updates. She also discussed working further with the Killingworth Krier and Haddam Now and said that the subcommittee has also discussed that it may be most effective to send out periodic mailings to the community. The next meeting will be February 23, 2016.*

### E. Personnel and Evaluation Subcommittee

*Sue Twachtman reported that the subcommittee has not met.*

## Board Liaison Reports

### A. Healthy Communities – Healthy Kids Council

*Susan Dean updated the Board. The developmental asset for February is Peaceful Conflict Resolution. She also reported that the coalition has received a grant for \$100,000 over five years for work in studying mental health issues.*

### B. LEARN

*Maura Cawley updated the Board. She reported that LEARN made a presentation regarding the services that LEARN offers and the role that LEARN plays, and that there were two representatives from the Eastern CT Chamber of Commerce who spoke as well.*

### C. Parks & Recreation

*No report.*

### D. Haddam Board of Selectmen

*Sue Twachtman updated the Board. She reported that Neal Perron spoke with Lizz Milardo who is working on the town budget and an economic development plan for the town.*

### E. Killingworth Board of Selectmen

*Eric Couture updated the Board. At the last meeting, they spoke about the district's capital fund and suggested that the capital fund be fully funded in the budget this year.*

## Old Business

### A. High School Energy and Facilities Upgrade

*The Board discussed the Facilities subcommittee's task of reviewing the scope of the high school facilities upgrade project. The subcommittee will determine a list of the capital improvement needs of the high school, formulate recommendations for the Board as to what facilities projects need to be completed at the high school, and may include suggestions as to the timing and phasing of projects. The Facilities Subcommittee is planning on meeting approximately every two weeks before presenting recommendations to the Board in April.*

## Consent Agenda

- A. Acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$200.00 from Connelly-3-Publishing Group. Submitted by Principal Dr. Jennifer Olsen, Haddam-Killingworth Middle School.
- B. Acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$57.48 from the A+ Bonus Bucks Program at Stop & Shop. Submitted by Principal Dr. Jennifer Olsen, Haddam-Killingworth Middle School.
- C. Acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$501.90 from General Mills. Submitted by Principal Bryan Kerachsky, Haddam Elementary School.
- D. Acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$2,000.00 from QSR Steel Corporation. Submitted by Principal Bryan Kerachsky, Haddam Elementary School.
- E. Acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$508.40 from Box Tops for Education. Submitted by Principal Eric Larson, Burr District Elementary School.

Susan Dean **MOVED** and Jeannie Young **SECONDED** a motion to approve the consent agenda Items A-E as presented. Motion passed 11-0-0 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	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
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"/>

### From the Superintendent

#### A. Legislative Update

Superintendent Thiery reported that he has recently attended two meetings with legislators in various regional groups and has learned that the primary focus of state legislators is on fiscal considerations relating to the state budget for the time being. However, Superintendent Thiery is part of a group of superintendents who are looking at ways to build relationships with state legislators and help influence legislative efforts.

#### 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 inquired about the final amount that was raised for the HKTU Holiday Show, to which Superintendent Thiery responded that they raised approximately \$19,000.

Suzanne Sack asked whether other subcommittees, such as the Communications Subcommittee or the Finance Subcommittee should be doing parallel work to the Facilities Subcommittee in preparing for a second referendum. The Board discussed that it may make more sense to wait for the Facilities Subcommittee to follow up with their recommendations before other subcommittees move forward.

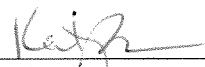
## Adjournment

Board Chair Joel D'Angelo called for the meeting to adjourn at 8:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Larissa B. Johnson  
Board Clerk

Approval:  Date: 3/22/16  
Kathy Brown, Secretary