

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
January 5, 2016

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on January 5, 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, Jeannie Young (arrived at 7:39 PM), Neal Perron, and Joel D'Angelo*

Members Absent: *Suzanne Sack*

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 7:31 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Audience of Citizens

Stanley Kurasinski of Haddam asked whether the Board will be discussing the high school renovation project.

Approval of Minutes

- A. Approval of Minutes for the December 1, 2015 Board of Education Meeting
- B. Approval of Minutes for the December 15, 2015 Board of Education – Education Session Meeting
- C. Approval of Minutes for the December 22, 2015 Board of Education Special Meeting

*Susan Dean **MOVED** and Sue Twachtman **SECONDED** a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed 9-0-0 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	Absent
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"/>

Report from Student Representatives

Lily Carmichael made her report to the Board on events taking place at the high school. She reported that the HKTV Holiday Show benefitting the Children's Tumor Foundation was held on December 23rd and raised over \$14,000 towards research to fight neurofibromatosis. She also reported that the Student Advisory Council meet monthly with Principal Hayward and the administration to discuss issues of student life including facilities, field house scheduling, and expanding internship opportunities for students. The Student Advisory Council will also be discussing how to manage student stress.

Board Committee Reports and Future Meetings

A. Facilities Subcommittee

Dan Chase updated the Board. He reported that a group of Board members took a tour of the high school with Mike Distefano, the Director of Facilities, prior to the winter break. The next meeting will be February 2, 2016.

B. Finance Subcommittee

Joanne Nesti updated the Board. She reported that they reviewed budget areas, such as Homebound Instruction and Special Education Transportation, as well as the Workman's Comp renewal rate.

C. Policy Subcommittee

Kathy Brown reported that the Policy Subcommittee has not met.

D. Communications Subcommittee

Susan Dean updated the Board. She reported that the subcommittee discussed ideas to help communicate with as many people as possible Board news and updates. They discussed posting a sign or leaving hand outs at the town halls, senior centers, and libraries. Stanley Kurasinski, a member of the audience, suggested that the Board maintain a Facebook page.

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. She reported that the council heard a talk regarding how to deal with stress from a professor with Yale University.

B. LEARN

Maura Cawley will attend the next meeting on January 14, 2016.

C. Parks & Recreation

No report.

D. Haddam Board of Selectmen

Neal Perron updated the Board. He reported that he spoke with Lizz Milardo who met with the Superintendent and that she is working on the town budget.

E. Killingworth Board of Selectmen

Eric Couture updated the Board. He reported that he had a meeting with Cathy Iino on Friday.

Old Business

A. High School Energy and Facilities Upgrade

Board Chair Joel D'Angelo made a presentation regarding the Region 17 High School Renovation Project, which included information on what improvements were proposed and why, the cost and the results of the referendum and then opened up the floor for discussion on what the next steps should be and what essential questions that the Board should consider. The Board discussed the possibility of gathering feedback from the community regarding the results of the referendum and the project. They

also discussed the idea of presenting the project to the Democratic and Republican Town Committees of each town. The Board also discussed that there are additional facilities matters that need addressing at the high school, including the locker rooms and discussed whether the Board or a new subcommittee of the Board should be formed, to look at the needs facing the high school and reconsidering the proposed project and a long-term plan for improvement. The Board also discussed the possibility of holding a referendum in late March, however Superintendent Thiery explained that in speaking with CREC, it is not likely that the roof or boiler projects could be scheduled for Summer 2016 if the project is not approved until March, and that this would have implications for the 2016-2017 budget and would be too far out to plan for work to be completed in Summer 2017. The Board discussed looking at an early fall referendum date. They also discussed the idea of asking questions separately to the public regarding different projects and the possibility of hosting open houses at the high school to allow the community to come in and see what improvements need to be made.

Consent Agenda

- A. Acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$499.00 from the Killingworth Lions. Submitted by Principal Dr. Jennifer Olsen, Haddam-Killingworth Middle School.
- B. Acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$1,000.00 from the Jason Lantieri Memorial Foundation. Submitted by Principal Dr. Jennifer Olsen, Haddam-Killingworth Middle School.
- C. Acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$250.00 from Youth & Family Services of Haddam-Killingworth. Submitted by Principal Dr. Jennifer Olsen, Haddam-Killingworth Middle School.
- D. Acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$1,000.00 from CT Street Rod Assoc., Inc. Submitted by Principal Donna Hayward, Haddam-Killingworth High School.
- E. Acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$60.00 from Karen Castelli. Submitted by Principal Dennis Reed, Killingworth Elementary School.

*Sue Twachtman **MOVED** and Susan Dean **SECONDED** a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. 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	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	Absent
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

None

From the Superintendent

A. Legislative Update

Superintendent Thiery reported that the implementation of the excise tax on health insurance relating to the Affordable Care Act has been delayed until 2020. He also reported that a group of superintendents within the state will be meeting to discuss lobbying strategies for future education-related legal initiatives with the state legislature.

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

Sue Twachtman **MOVED** and Susan Dean **SECONDED** a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. 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	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	Absent
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"/>

Board Discussion/News/Suggestions

Neal Perron recognized Chuck Lewis and the HKHS students on their success with the Holiday Show this year. He said that it was really impressive and congratulated them on raising over \$14,000.

Stanley Kurasinski, a member of the audience, addressed the Board and suggested the Board improve communication with the community regarding the referendum and suggested that the Board create a committee with members of the community to recommend what improvements should be made at the high school.

Adjournment

Board Chair Joel D'Angelo called for the meeting to adjourn at 9:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Larissa B. Johnson
Board Clerk

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