

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION - EDUCATION SESSION
December 15, 2015

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on December 15, 2015, in the Haddam-Killingworth Middle School Media Center. Board of Education Chair, Joel D'Angelo called the meeting to order at 7:35 P.M.

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

Members Absent: *None*

Also Present: *Superintendent of Schools, Howard Thiery and Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Holly Hageman*

Visitors: *4*

Call to order/opening of meeting

Board of Education Chair, Joel D'Angelo called the meeting to order at 7:35 P.M. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Audience of Citizens

None

Board Liaison Reports

A. Curriculum Council

Dr. Holly Hageman reported that the Next Generation Science Standards were adopted by the state of CT and that in place of 11th graders participating in SBAC testing, the state has also adopted the SAT at no cost to students.

B. Curriculum Subcommittee

Dan Chase reported that the subcommittee will meet in January.

Old Business

None

New Business

A. Introduction to the Budget Process

The Board discussed that a multi stakeholder health care committee should be formed so that the district can look at ways to reduce healthcare/insurance costs. Members of the Board asked questions about the Excess Cost Grant (ECG) and the variability of special education costs and talked about how to look at efficiencies in programming.

The Board also discussed long-range technologies and facilities plans, as well as asset management of facilities and facilities utilization.

Board Chair Joel D'Angelo suggested a pre-budget workshop so that we can give Howard guidance while he's developing his budget, which Howard agreed would be a good idea. The Board also discussed program innovation in relation to the budget.

B. Board of Education Orientation Planning

The Board discussed topics relating to orientation for new Board members. The Board discussed that it might be helpful to know the attorneys, insurance brokers, and auditors for the Board of Education. They also discussed the possibility of having CABE come and present on the roles and responsibilities of the Board of Education. Sue Twachtman suggested that members of the Facilities Subcommittee take a tour of the facilities with Mike Distefano to become more familiar with the facilities. They also expressed an interest in learning more about the roles and responsibilities of the leadership team, and asked about how to look at school productivity in relationship to the Superintendent's evaluation.

News and Information from the Board Chair

Board Chair Joel D'Angelo asked that if Board members are unable to attend a meeting, would they please contact him and let him know. He said he is also looking into whether a roll call vote is necessary for small motion items, such as moving agenda items within the agenda. He also mentioned that the referendum did not pass and the Board will be taking a step back and then discussing next steps in January.

Adjournment

Board Chair Joel D'Angelo called for the meeting to adjourn at 9:28 P.M.