

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION – EDUCATION SESSION
November 17, 2015**

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on November 17, 2015 in the Haddam-Killingworth Middle School Media Center. Board of Education Chair, Sue Twachtman, called the meeting to order at 7:34 PM.

Members Present: *Kathy Brown, Susan Dean, Joanne Nesti, Dan Chase, Joel D'Angelo, Jeannie Young Karen Perry, Amy Jacques-Purdy, Michele Amendola (arrived at 7:41 PM), and Sue Twachtman*

Members Absent: *Becky Valenti*

Also Present: *Superintendent of Schools, Howard Thiery, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Holly Hageman, and Board Clerk, Larissa Johnson*

Visitors: 9

Call to Order/Opening of Meeting

Board of Education Chair, Sue Twachtman called the meeting to order at 7:34 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Audience of Citizens

None

Special Board Recognition

Board Chair Sue Twachtman congratulated Jeannie Young and Joel D'Angelo on their re-election to the Board. She also welcomed newly elected members, Suzanne Sack and Eric Couture of Killingworth and Neal Perron and Maura Cawley. She also recognized retiring Board members for their service: Amy Jacques-Purdy who served on the Board for 12 years, Karen Perry who served for 4 years, Becky Valenti who served for 4 years, and Michele Amendola who served for 2 years. Superintendent Thiery also spoke about how grateful he is for the work these members have put in over the years and his appreciation for their passion for schools and students and commitment.

4. Approval of Minutes

- A.** Approval of Minutes for the November 5, 2015 Board of Education Special Meeting Public Hearing
- B.** Approval of Minutes for the November 5, 2015 Board of Education Special Meeting

*Susan Dean **MOVED** and Joel D'Angelo **SECONDED** a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed 10-0-0 by the following votes:*

Michele Amendola	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"/>
Kathy Brown	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Karen Perry	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"/>	Becky Valenti	Absent
Joel D'Angelo	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"/>
Susan Dean	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"/>
Amy Jacques-Purdy	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>		

Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Susan Dean **SECONDED** a motion to move New Business Items A and B to follow the Approval of Minutes. Motion passed 10-0-0 by the following votes:

Michele Amendola	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"/>
Kathy Brown	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Karen Perry	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"/>	Becky Valenti	Absent
Joel D'Angelo	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"/>
Susan Dean	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"/>
Amy Jacques-Purdy	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>		

New Business

A. HKMS 7th Grade Trip to Quebec City February 5-7, 2016 and February 3-5, 2017

Laura Gardener, French teacher at HKMS presented the 7th grade trips to Quebec City in February 2016 and February 2017. She explained some of the activities that students will be participating in such as Carnival, a Ghost Walking Tour, visit an Ice Hotel, and a walking tour of Place Royale. She explained that trips like these help the French language come alive for students. The cost will be between \$520 and \$675 per student, depending on the number of students. In the past, they have had as many as thirteen parent chaperones attend as well.

Karen Perry **MOVED** and Amy Jacques-Purdy **SECONDED** a motion to approve the 7th Grade Trip to Quebec City on February 5-7, 2015 and February 3-5, 2017. Motion passed 10-0-0 by the following votes:

Michele Amendola	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"/>
Kathy Brown	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Karen Perry	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"/>	Becky Valenti	Absent
Joel D'Angelo	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"/>
Susan Dean	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"/>
Amy Jacques-Purdy	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>		

B. HKMS Overnight Cultural Trip to New York City, March 23-24, 2016

Elizabeth Pascucci, Spanish teacher at HKMS presented the trip to New York City in March 2016. She explained some of the activities that students will be participating in such as a visit to the Museum of Natural History, the Goya Exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Spanish Counsel of Count Don Ralundo jousting tournament at Medieval Times, and a Spanish-language scavenger hunt.

Karen Perry **MOVED** and Amy Jacques-Purdy **SECONDED** a motion to approve the HKMS Overnight Cultural Trip to New York City, March 23-24, 2016. Motion passed 10-0-0 by the following votes:

Michele Amendola	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"/>
Kathy Brown	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Karen Perry	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"/>	Becky Valenti	Absent
Joel D'Angelo	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"/>
Susan Dean	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"/>
Amy Jacques-Purdy	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>		

Board Liaison Reports

A. Curriculum Council Update

Susan Dean updated the Board. Curriculum Council met on November 17, 2015 and discussed several proposed textbooks for Physics and Physical Science, Pre-Calculus, and Social Studies at the high school level and Human Biology at the middle school level. She also reported that Pupil Services is starting a committee on Dyslexia to help support students with Dyslexia.

B. Curriculum Subcommittee

A meeting date is to be determined.

*Karen Perry **MOVED** and Joel D'Angelo **SECONDED** a motion to move New Business Item F to follow the Board Liaison Reports. Motion passed 10-0-0 by the following votes:*

Michele Amendola	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"/>
Kathy Brown	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	Karen Perry	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"/>	Becky Valenti	Absent		
Joel D'Angelo	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"/>
Susan Dean	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"/>
Amy Jacques-Purdy	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>				

New Business – Continued

F. High School Substance Abuse Strategies

Board Member Amy Jacques-Purdy introduce the topic of having drug-sniffing dogs perform a search at the high school for drugs and related contraband. She explained that she believes that this can be a training exercise for the dogs and the state troopers and can serve as a deterrent for students. The Board discussed this matter at some length, and Superintendent Thiery and Principal of HKHS, Donna Hayward, shared their experiences with having searches performed at other districts. The Board discussed concerns regarding procedure, preparations, cost, and the social/cultural effect on students and the high school.

Old Business

A) High School Energy and Facilities Upgrade a. Public Building Committee

The Board discussed the timeline for putting together the Public Building Committee and discussed what the make-up of the committee should look like. The Public Building Committee will likely be formed following the passing of the referendum.

B) 2016-2017 District Calendar

Superintendent Thiery presented the District Calendar for 2016-2017. The calendar was designed based on the requirements and criteria set forth by the State of Connecticut and LEARN. The Board also discussed changing the observance of Rosh Hashanah on October 3, 2016 to observing Yom Kippur on October 12, 2016 instead. The Board also discussed moving some professional development

days from Wednesdays to Fridays, especially when they could align with long weekends. It was also discussed that moving those days may not benefit the teachers and staff as greatly.

Susan Dean **MOVED** and Amy Jacques-Purdy **SECONDED** a motion to approve 2016-2017 District Calendar as presented with the exception of changing the religious holiday observance from October 3, 2016 to October 12, 2016. Motion passed 8-2-0 by the following votes:

Michele Amendola	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"/>
Kathy Brown	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Karen Perry	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Dan Chase	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Becky Valenti	Absent
Joel D'Angelo	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"/>
Susan Dean	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"/>
Amy Jacques-Purdy	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>		

New Business – Continued

C. Waste Water Treatment Plant

Director of Facilities Michael Distefano presented the Waste Water Treatment Plant operation contract at Haddam-Killingworth Middle School. He received three proposals in response to the RFP that was posted. For a three-year contract, one proposal was for \$181,125, the second was for \$147,632 and the third was for \$141,750. The third and lowest proposal was from the district's existing operator and represented a reduction over the last contract amount of \$143,640 for the same scope of services.

Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Joel D'Angelo **SECONDED** a motion to renew the contract with Weston and Sampson for Waster Water Treatment Plant operation. Motion passed 10-0-0 by the following votes:

Michele Amendola	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"/>
Kathy Brown	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Karen Perry	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"/>	Becky Valenti	Absent
Joel D'Angelo	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"/>
Susan Dean	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"/>
Amy Jacques-Purdy	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>		

D. Capital Expenditure – BES Playground Fence

Director of Facilities Michael Distefano presented the proposal that a fence be installed around the rear-left playground at BES. It was recommended by the Director of Pupil Services, Tracy Geary, that a fence be installed to help protect students with special needs who participate in the ABA/BCBA program. The cost of the fence including a large, ten-foot gate would be \$4,800.

*Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Karen Perry **SECONDED** a motion to approve an expenditure of \$4,800 to provide fencing at the Burr District Elementary School playground. Motion passed 10-0-0 by the following votes:*

Michele Amendola	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"/>
Kathy Brown	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Karen Perry	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"/>	Becky Valenti	Absent
Joel D'Angelo	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"/>
Susan Dean	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"/>
Amy Jacques-Purdy	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>		

E. Professional Development Update

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Holly Hageman gave an update on the professional development activities which took place on November 3, 2015. At the elementary level and for fifth grade world language teachers, word-work instruction was provided. At the middle school level, teachers worked on effective questioning strategies and received training for maintaining and updating their Weebly platforms. At the high school, teachers learned more about the New SAT, which will be required in place of SBAC testing for high school juniors by the State of Connecticut.

G. Superintendent’s Evaluation and Contract

To be discussed in Executive Session.

Adjournment

*Karen Perry **MOVED** and Susan Dean **SECONDED** a motion to go into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing personnel matters. Motion passed 10-0-0 by the following votes:*

Michele Amendola	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"/>
Kathy Brown	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Karen Perry	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"/>	Becky Valenti	Absent
Joel D'Angelo	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"/>
Susan Dean	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"/>
Amy Jacques-Purdy	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>		

The Board went into Executive Session at 9:20 PM.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 10:04 PM.


Karen Perry **MOVED** and Dan Chase **SECONDED** a motion to increase the Superintendent's salary by 3%.
Motion passed 10-0-0 by the following votes:

Michele Amendola	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"/>
Kathy Brown	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	Karen Perry	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"/>	Becky Valenti	Absent		
Joel D'Angelo	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"/>
Susan Dean	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"/>
Amy Jacques-Purdy	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>				

Board Chair Twachtman called for the meeting to adjourn at 10:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Larissa B. Johnson
Board Clerk

Approval:  Date: 12/1/15
Secretary