

PUBLIC HEARING
held at a
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
November 5, 2015

A special meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on November 5, 2015 in the Haddam-Killingworth High School Cafeteria for the purposes of holding a Public Hearing. The meeting was called to order at 6:31 o'clock PM by Board Chair Sue Twachtman, who presided.

Members Present: *Kathy Brown, Susan Dean, Amy Jacques-Purdy, Karen Perry, Becky Valenti, Joanne Nesti, Dan Chase, Joel D'Angelo, Michele Amendola (arrived at 6:33 PM), Jeannie Young (arrived at 6:39 PM) and Sue Twachtman*

Members Absent: *None*

Also Present: *Superintendent of Schools, Howard Thiery, and Board Clerk, Larissa Johnson, Representatives from CREC, Paul Drummey, Brian Greene and Doug Rogers*

Visitors: *Approximately 75*

Call to Order/Opening of Meeting

Board of Education Chair, Sue Twachtman called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Secretary of the Board of Education, Rebecca Valenti read the Notice of the Meeting and stated that said Notice, signed by the Chairperson of the Board of Education, had been posted on the District's public signpost on October 27, 2015, and that a copy thereof had been published in the Harford Courant, a newspaper published or having a general circulation in the District, in its issue of October 28, 2015.

The Board Chair declared open the public hearing on the proposed resolution.

Board Member Karen Perry introduced and read the following resolution:

"RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$11,976,000 FOR THE PLANNING, DESIGN, ENGINEERING, AND CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITIONS AND RENOVATIONS AT THE HADDAM-KILLINGWORTH HIGH SCHOOL AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$11,976,000 BONDS OF THE DISTRICT TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION AND PENDING THE ISSUANCE THEREOF THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWINGS FOR SUCH PURPOSE

RESOLVED:

Section 1. The sum of \$11,976,000 is hereby appropriated by Regional School District No. 17 (the "District") for the planning, design, engineering, and construction of additions and renovations at the Haddam-Killingworth High School including, but not limited to, installation of various energy upgrades, a new roof, a new boiler and solar panels and related site improvements, renovations to the auditorium,

installation of athletic fields, and renovations for fire, safety, health and handicapped accessibility improvements for code compliance, and for administrative, printing, legal and financing costs related thereto (collectively, the "Project"), said appropriation to be inclusive of any and all State and Federal grants-in-aid thereof.

Section 2. To meet said appropriation \$11,976,000 bonds of the District or so much thereof as shall be necessary for such purpose, shall be issued, maturing not later than the maximum maturity permitted by the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended from time to time (the "Connecticut General Statutes"). Said bonds may be issued in one or more series as determined by the Chairperson and the Treasurer of the Board of Education (each, respectively, the "District Chairman" and the "District Treasurer") in the amount necessary to meet the District's share of the cost of the Project determined after considering the estimated amount and timing of State and Federal grants-in-aid of the Project, provided that the total amount of bonds to be issued shall not be less than an amount which will provide funds sufficient with other funds available for such purpose to pay the principal of and the interest on all temporary borrowings in anticipation of the receipt of the proceeds of the bonds outstanding at the time of the issuance thereof, and to pay for costs of issuance of such bonds. The bonds shall be in the denomination of \$1,000 or a whole multiple thereof, be issued in fully registered form, be executed in the name and on behalf of the District by the facsimile or manual signatures of the District Chairman and the District Treasurer, bear the District seal or a facsimile thereof, be certified by a bank or trust company, which bank or trust company may be designated the registrar and transfer agent, be payable at a bank or trust company, and be approved as to their legality by Robinson & Cole LLP, Attorneys-at-Law, of Hartford, Connecticut. The bonds shall be general obligations of the District and each of the bonds shall recite that every requirement of law relating to its issue has been duly complied with, that such bond is within every debt and other limit prescribed by law, and that the full faith and credit of the District are pledged to the payment of the principal thereof and interest thereon. The aggregate principal amount of the bonds of each series to be issued, the annual installments of principal, redemption provisions, if any, the certifying, registrar and transfer agent and paying agent, the date, time of issue and sale and other terms, details and particulars of such bonds including approval of the rate or rates of interest, shall be determined by the District Chairman and the District Treasurer in accordance with the Connecticut General Statutes.

Section 3. Said bonds shall be sold by the District Chairman in a competitive offering, or by negotiation at his or her discretion. If sold in a competitive offering, the bonds shall be sold at not less than par and accrued interest on the basis of the lowest net or true interest cost to the District. A notice of sale or a summary thereof describing the bonds and setting forth the terms and conditions of the sale shall be published at least five days in advance of the sale in a recognized publication carrying municipal bond notices and devoted primarily to financial news and the subject of state and municipal bonds. If the bonds are sold by negotiation, provisions of the purchase agreement shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Education.

Section 4. The District Treasurer is authorized to make temporary borrowings in anticipation of the receipt of the proceeds of said bonds. Notes evidencing such borrowings shall be signed by the District Chairman and the District Treasurer, have the seal of the District affixed, be payable at a bank or trust company designated by the District Chairman, be approved as to their legality by Robinson & Cole LLP, Attorneys-at-Law, of Hartford, Connecticut, and be certified by a bank or trust company designated by the District Chairman pursuant to Section 7-373 of the Connecticut General Statutes. They shall be issued with maturity dates which comply with the provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes governing the issuance of such notes, as the same may be amended from time to time. The notes shall be general obligations of the District and each of the notes shall recite that every requirement of law relating to its issue has been duly complied with, that such note is within every debt and other limit prescribed by law, and that the full faith and credit of the District are pledged to the payment of the principal thereof and the interest thereon. The net interest cost on such notes, including renewals thereof, and the expense of preparing, issuing and marketing

them, to the extent paid from the proceeds of such renewals or said bonds, shall be included as a cost of the Project. Upon the sale of the bonds, the proceeds thereof, to the extent required, shall be applied forthwith to the payment of the principal of and the interest on any such notes then outstanding or shall be deposited with a bank or trust company in trust for such purpose.

Section 5. The District hereby expresses its official intent pursuant to Section 1.150-2 of the Federal Income Tax Regulations, Title 26 (the "Regulations"), to reimburse expenditures paid sixty days prior to and anytime after the date of passage of this resolution in the maximum amount and for the Project with the proceeds of bonds or bond anticipation notes, or other obligations ("Tax-Exempt Obligations") authorized to be issued by the District. The Tax-Exempt Obligations shall be issued to reimburse such expenditures not later than 18 months after the later of the date of the expenditure or the substantial completion of the project, or such later date the Regulations may authorize. The District hereby certifies that the intention to reimburse as expressed herein is based upon its reasonable expectations as of this date. The District Chairman or his or her designee is authorized to pay Project expenses in accordance herewith pending the issuance of Tax-Exempt Obligations, and is authorized to amend this declaration.

Section 6. The District Chairman and District Treasurer are hereby authorized, on behalf of the District, to enter into agreements or otherwise covenant for the benefit of bondholders to provide information on an annual or other periodic basis to the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (the "MSRB") and to provide notices to the MSRB of material events as enumerated in Securities and Exchange Commission Exchange Act Rule 15c2-12, as amended, as may be necessary, appropriate or desirable to effect the sale of the bonds and notes authorized by this resolution. Any agreements or representations to provide information to the MSRB made prior hereto are hereby confirmed, ratified and approved.

Section 7. The District Chairman is hereby authorized, on behalf of the District, to enter into any other agreements, instruments, documents and certificates, including tax and investment agreements, for the consummation of the transactions contemplated by this resolution.

Section 8. The Board of Education is authorized in the name and on behalf of the District to apply to the Connecticut Commissioner of Education for any and all State grants-in-aid of the Project, and the District Chairman is authorized in the name and on behalf of the District to apply for an accept any and all Federal grants-in-aid of the Project and is further authorized to expend said funds in accordance with the terms hereof and in connection therewith."

Board Member Karen Perry stated that the full text of the resolution is available and on file at the Town Clerk's offices of Haddam and Killingworth.

The following members of the community addressed the Board:

Keith Ainsworth, Esq. of New Haven, representing Mr. Shukis of 33 Little City Road, Higganum addressed the Board. He expressed concern regarding adherence to environmental law and for consideration of the surrounding wetlands and pond on the Shukis's property with the proposed artificial turf field. He recommended the district have adequate oversight for the project to ensure that the project is done correctly.

Phil Devlin of Higganum addressed the Board. He spoke in favor of the replacement of the roof, saying that he recalls roof issues back when the building was nearly new in 1975 or 1976, there were issues with the roof leaking. He also expressed concern regarding the possibility of an artificial turf field being made of rubber and suggested the Board consider other materials. He also spoke in favor of adding solar panels to the roof and expressed that he would like to see the high school pool improved to meet regulation depth so that that district could have a diving team once again.

Dick Dupuis of Higganum addressed the Board. He spoke about his experience with the fields as a former athletic director for the district. He spoke in favor of installing an artificial turf field because he said that they have tried other grass/turf solutions and tried to improve the field and it can't last. He said that an artificial turf field could also take a lot of stress off of the other dirt fields in the district.

Paul Coaty of Killingworth addressed the Board. He said that if you look at other town's facilities, they have artificial turf fields and more modern facilities. He said that the high school needs uplifting and expressing that he was saying this out of love for this town. He mentioned that many surrounding and shoreline have artificial turf fields. He also said that a team he coaches almost had to forfeit a game recently, due to not being able to play on the football field, and if it weren't for the town of South Windsor offering for the teams to play there they would have forfeited. He said that an improved school and facilities will help everyone.

Eva Dykas of Higganum addressed the Board. She said that she is concerned about the possible carcinogenic issues that could be related to artificial turf field. She urged the district to consider some alternative materials, such as Nike shoe material or other non-carcinogenic fibers. She suggested that the district look into some additional research on artificial turf field materials.

Superintendent Thiery mentioned that this time that he and the Board appreciate the input on the artificial turf field and that the Building Committee, once appointed will be determining the specifications of each of the projects and that none of the materials have been selected yet. He further suggested that the State of Connecticut and Penn State have some research articles available.

Carol Dupuis of Higganum addressed the Board. She said that as the former school nurse, she had a lot of difficulty helping handicapped students and students in wheelchairs or using crutches with accessing the building. She described the challenges of trying to enter through any of the current entrances and strongly urged the Board to install an elevator and improve accessibility.

Brian Purdy of Haddam addressed the Board. He thanked the Board for all of their hard work and the hours they put in. He also said that many surrounding towns have very nice artificial turf fields and that kids he coaches are always excited to play on those fields. He said that artificial turf fields are also great because there is almost zero concern for injury, such as rolled or sprained ankles. He said that there has only been one longitudinal study done on the carcinogenic nature of artificial turf and suggested the Board look at the research on the whole.

Melissa Monington Steinhilper of Higganum addressed the Board. She said that there is a time and place for improvements and that the high school is worthy of attention, given that not much has changed since she graduated in 1986 and even with her own children graduating now. She said that many of the proposed improvements are necessary and said that many students would benefit from the improvements to the athletic field.

Stanley Kurasinski of Higganum addressed the Board. He expressed concern about the taxes increasing and said that he cares a lot about the community but doesn't think that the community should be concerned with "keeping up with the Joneses" and comparing itself to other surrounding communities. He said that many people are leaving the town and the state due to increasing taxes.

Wayne Leopard of Higganum addressed the Board. He suggested that the Board consider splitting the referendum into five separate items and that not everyone wants all of the changes. He also expressed that he felt Haddam would be paying more for the improvements than Killingworth because of the student ratio and he had expressed that many people are moving away and cannot afford to pay another penny. He also said that he felt that there have not been any issues with handicapped access and most students and parents do not enter the building through the main entrance anyway.

Tammy Engler of Higganum addressed the Board. She also expressed concern about the materials being used for an artificial turf field as well as the cleaning products and paint being used on the field as well as long term maintenance and replacement costs. She suggested that the Board consider using organic materials or find another way to better maintain the turf field.

Ed Vynalek of Higganum addressed the Board. He spoke about his experience as a former Board member. He expressed concern regarding the wetlands behind the high school and traffic issues. He also said that retired members of the community could lose their homes due to tax increases. He said that the Board should re-arrange its priorities for the projects and some expenses should be put off until the springtime and included in the budget.

Bill Leahy of Killingworth addressed the Board. He also spoke about his experience as a former Board member. He said that it was their goal to build an excellent educational environment, however he also performed an energy audit of the building in 2006 and he sees that items which were suggested for improvement nine years ago are now being included in the project. He said that a lot of these energy improvements are necessary to help the district save money on electricity. He said that the energy usage for lighting at the high school is about two watts per square-foot, which was within the standard at the time the building was built. Now the standard is now a half of a watt per square-foot. He also acknowledged that the HVAC system is old and has technology from 1972, prior to the energy crisis of 1978. He said that the energy improvements need to be made because while he is an advocate of solar energy panels, it is almost criminal to put solar panels on an inefficient building. He also added that the state and Eversource may give credits or grants for energy-saving improvements.

Arthur Collins of Higganum addressed the Board. He suggested to the Board that the solar panels could possibly be put in another area, rather than on the roof to reduce the weight on the roof. He also asked about the condition of the roof and the term of the bonding. He thanked the Board for their work and said that the school system is the future of our community.

Steve Bayley of Higganum addressed the Board. He asked about whether the resolution will be posed as one question on the ballot.

Dick Williams of Higganum addressed the Board. He also asked about the ability of the roof to support solar panels.

Joseph Celano of Killingworth addressed the Board. He thanked the Board for their transparency and the answers provided.

Ed Munster of Haddam addressed the Board. He asked about the referendum question being broken in to separate questions, suggesting that people will be forced to vote against the project if there is a portion they don't like and he said he felt it may be better for the Board to split the project into multiple questions.

Adjournment

Board Chair Sue Twachtman stated that the public hearing and Special District Meeting on said resolution is closed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:49 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Larissa B. Johnson
Board Clerk

Approval:  Date: 11-24-2015
Becky Valenti, Secretary