

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
November 3, 2015**

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on November 3, 2015 in the Central Office Board Room. Board of Education Chair, Sue Twachtman, called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM.

Members Present: *Kathy Brown, Susan Dean, Amy Jacques-Purdy, Karen Perry, Becky Valenti, Joanne Nesti, Michele Amendola (arrived at 7:32) and Sue Twachtman*

Members Absent: *Jeannie Young, Dan Chase, and Joel D'Angelo,*

Also Present: *Superintendent of Schools, Howard Thiery, Director of Finance, Martha Vaughn and Board Clerk, Larissa Johnson*

Visitors: *4*

Call to Order/Opening of Meeting

Board of Education Chair, Sue Twachtman called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Audience of Citizens

None

Approval of Minutes

- A. Approval of Minutes for the October 5, 2015 Board of Education Special Meeting – 100515A
- B. Approval of Minutes for the October 5, 2015 Board of Education Special Meeting – 100515B
- C. Approval of Minutes for the October 6, 2015 Board of Education Meeting
- D. Approval of Minutes for the October 20, 2015 Board of Education Special Meeting
- E. Approval of Minutes for the October 20, 2015 Board of Education Meeting – Education Session
- F. Approval of Minutes for the October 26, 2015 Board of Education Special Meeting
- G. Approval of Minutes for the October 26, 2015 Board of Education Special Meeting – Community Information Meeting

*Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Becky Valenti **SECONDED** a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed 7-0-0 by the following votes:*

Michele Amendola	Absent	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	Absent	Becky Valenti	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Joel D'Angelo	Absent	Jeannie Young	Absent
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"/>		

Report from Student Representatives

Luke Bauer presented his report to the Board. He reported that it is a busy month ahead at HKHS. Performances of the drama production, "Harvey" will be held on November 6th and 7th at the high school auditorium at 7:00 PM. The Homecoming Dance, sponsored by the Student Council will be held on November 14, 2015. There will also be a band concert on November 19, 2015 and the Mr. H-K Annual Talent Show will be held on November 20, 2015. He also gave an update on sports.

Board Committee Reports and Future Meetings

A. Facilities Subcommittee

Amy Jacques-Purdy updated that Board. She reported that the high school boiler fuel conversion and cleaning project is almost completed, that the replacement make up air unit at HES is now installed, and the HKHS 18-21 year old transition room is now completed. Members of the Board are encouraged to visit. The room serves students who would otherwise be outplaced and provides them with life skills to help them succeed post-graduation.

The middle school auditorium plaque honoring Miriam Furey-Wagner will be installed soon and a small breakfast may be held in her honor for the dedication of the theater. The wastewater treatment contract for the middle school expires in November, and the Director of Facilities is working on receiving new bids for that contract.

There are also plans in place to resolve some outstanding ADA compliance issues as approved in this year's budget. The electrical switch gear at BES will be replaced on November 11, 2015, while school is not in session. A risk-control consultant also performed inspections at HKHS and HES, as part of a routine of annual inspections to help prevent liability claims. Chatham Health also came in to inspect the pool, HK Cubs and other parts of the high school facility.

Director of Facilities, Mike Distefano also recently participated in a tornado-simulation practice, where he sat with a group of to review the steps the district would need to go through in order to be prepared for an actual tornado or similar weather-related event. She also reported that the project at the middle school to create a fitness trail, presented to the Board last month by Mitchell Bragoni, an Eagle Scout, is underway. And she reported that Mike Distefano has been meeting with building administrators to work on the '16-'17 budget proposal.

B. Finance Subcommittee

Karen Perry updated the Board. She reported that the subcommittee reviewed the monthly vendor detail for checks issued over \$5000 and the budget by object for the current fiscal year, and discussed the 18-21 program.

Karen Perry **MOVED** and Becky Valenti **SECONDED** a motion to approve the Dixworks, LLC Municipal Advisory Agreement as presented. Motion passed 8-0-0 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	Absent			Becky Valenti	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Joel D'Angelo	Absent			Jeannie Young	Absent		
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"/>				

C. Policy Subcommittee

Amy Jacques-Purdy reported that the subcommittee did not meet.

D. Communications Subcommittee

Susan Dean updated the Board. She reported that the subcommittee held a special meeting last week to discuss publicity for the referendum and a plan to provide the public with information regarding the project.

E. Personnel and Evaluation Subcommittee

Karen Perry updated the Board. She reported that the subcommittee met on November 2 to discuss the Superintendent's evaluation. The Board will go into Executive Session at the end of the meeting to discuss his evaluation.

Board Liaison Reports

A. Healthy Communities – Healthy Kids Council

Susan Dean updated the Board. She reported that the Pumpkin Run was held on November 1, 2015. Sue Twachtman added that it was a great event. Superintendent Thiery added that the district fundraising will be tied to November instead of October this year, to renew peoples' interest, connected to "#GivingTuesday."

B. LEARN

No report.

C. Parks & Recreation

No report.

D. Haddam Board of Selectmen

No report.

E. Killingworth Board of Selectmen

No report.

Old Business

A. High School Energy and Facilities Upgrade

Superintendent Thiery reported that that Thursday, November 5, 2015 will be the Public Hearing on the high school renovation project immediately followed by a Special Meeting of the Board. On October 26, 2015, a Community Information meeting was held and members of the community are welcomed to contact members of the Board of Education to ask questions or give input regarding the project. There is a Q&A posted on the district website, along with a financial pro forma and a copy of the presentation given on October 26. The meeting can also be viewed on the district website, www.rsd17.org.

Consent Agenda

- A. Acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$100.00 from Haddam Junior Women's Club. Submitted by Principal Bryan Kerachsky, Haddam Elementary School.
- B. Acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$2,220.00 from the class of 2015 for two students to attend leadership training from the Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership and for one student to attend the World Leadership Conference. Submitted by Principal Donna Hayward, Haddam-Killingworth High School.
- C. Acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$100.00 from Iguanas Ranas Taqueria. Submitted by Principal Dr. Jennifer Olsen, Haddam-Killingworth Middle School.
- D. Acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$542.00 from the HKMS PTO to Haddam-Killingworth Middle School. Submitted by Principal Dr. Jennifer Olsen, Haddam-Killingworth Middle School.
- E. Acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$1,250.00 from the HKMS PTO to Haddam-Killingworth Middle School. Submitted by Principal Dr. Jennifer Olsen, Haddam-Killingworth Middle School.

*Susan Dean **MOVED** and Becky Valenti **SECONDED** a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented with gratitude. Motion passed 8-0-0 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	Absent			Becky Valenti	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Joel D'Angelo	Absent			Jeannie Young	Absent		
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. HKHS Fixed Asset Disposal

Superintendent Thiery introduced the Fixed Asset Disposal request from HKHS. The high school is requesting that outdated chemistry and astronomy textbooks be disposed of as they are long out of date and no longer an approved text book.

*Becky Valenti **MOVED** and Susan Dean **SECONDED** a motion to approve the HKHS Fixed Asset Disposal request as presented. Motion passed 8-0-0 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	Absent			Becky Valenti	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Joel D'Angelo	Absent			Jeannie Young	Absent		
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. Budget Timeline for Fiscal Year 2016-2017

The Board reviewed the proposed budget timeline for development of the 2016-2017 fiscal year budget.

*Karen Perry **MOVED** and Amy Jacques-Purdy **SECONDED** a motion to approve the Budget Timeline as presented. Motion passed 8-0-0 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	Absent			Becky Valenti	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Joel D'Angelo	Absent			Jeannie Young	Absent		
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"/>				

From the Superintendent

A. Legislative Update

Superintendent Thiery updated the Board and presented information regarding revisions to the minimum budget requirement. The revised law also for more exclusions to the minimum budget requirement, including based on district achievement, however it is uncertain whether or not these changes will have any impact on the district.

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

Karen Perry remarked that the lights which were installed at Parmelee Farm look very nice and provide a much safer pathway to walk between the farm and parking lot.

Board Chair Sue Twachtman also announced that the Board is invited to attend an event honoring veterans at HES on November 9, 2015 at 2:15 PM in the gymnasium.

Adjournment

Karen Perry **MOVED** and Amy Jacques-Purdy **SECONDED** a motion to go into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing personnel matters. Motion passed 8-0-0 by the following votes:

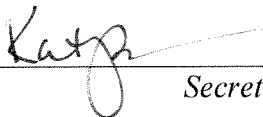
Michele Amendola	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Joanne Nesti	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Kathy Brown	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Karen Perry	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Dan Chase	Absent	Becky Valenti	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Joel D'Angelo	Absent	Jeannie Young	Absent
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 8:07 PM.

The Board returned to public session at 8:24 PM. Board Chair Sue Twachtman called for the meeting to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Larissa B. Johnson
Board Clerk

Approval:  Date: 12/1/15
Secretary