

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17  
BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING  
October 20, 2015**

*A special meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on October 24, 2015 in the Haddam-Killingworth Middle School Media Center. Board of Education Chair, Sue Twachtman, called the meeting to order at 6:38 PM.*

**Members Present:** *Kathy Brown, Susan Dean, Joanne Nesti, Dan Chase, Joel D'Angelo, Jeannie Young Karen Perry, Amy Jacques-Purdy (arrived at 7:08 PM), and Sue Twachtman*

**Members Absent:** *Michele Amendola and Becky Valenti*

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

**Visitors:** *2*

**Call to Order/Opening of Meeting**

*Board of Education Chair, Sue Twachtman called the meeting to order at 6:38 PM.*

**Referendum Timeline Approval**

*Superintendent Thiery presented the Referendum Timeline. The Board discussed the logistics surrounding the timeline and a scheduling conflict with the Selectmen Debate sponsored by the League of Women Voters on Tuesday, October 27. They discussed the possibility of changing the referendum date from December 1, 2015 to December 15, and re-printing the mailers with new dates for the Public Hearing and Special Meeting.*

*Karen Perry **MOVED** and Joel D'Angelo **SECONDED** a motion to approve the Referendum Timeline as presented. Motion passed 6-3-0 by the following votes:*

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

**Appointment of Public Building Committee**

*Superintendent Thiery stated that the Board will need to appoint a Public Building Committee, which should be comprised of five or six members of the Board and community who will govern the project and oversee the actual specifications, selection, and completion of the project as well as the public disbursement of funds. He suggested that the Board consider if they have any interest in serving personally and if there are any community members who might be interested.*

**Approval of Bond Counsel**

*Superintendent Thiery proposed that the Board consider having Robinson & Cole, LLP serve as bond counsel and oversee the preparation for bonding, draft the referendum language, and ensure that the district's bond rating is in place. He explained that Robinson & Cole, LLP has had a long history serving the district in this capacity, and that their knowledge of the district's history does matter to this process. He also said they are a*

highly recommended in the area of municipal bonding, and Dixworks, the district's municipal bond advisor also recommends Robinson & Cole, LLP.

Joel D'Angelo **MOVED** and Susan Dean **SECONDED** a motion to approve Robinson & Cole, LLC to serve as bond counsel. Motion passed 9-0-0 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	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"/>		

### Structure of Referendum

Superintendent Thiery explained that bond counsel derives the referendum question, which relates to the bonding amount, rather than the specifications of the project and is posed as a "Yes/No" question. The Board determines the nature and scope of the project, and the purpose of the referendum is to approve the bonding to fund the project. He explained that the amount is really a "not to exceed" amount, and includes funds for which that the district anticipates being reimbursed. The Board discussed whether the referendum should be broken into two questions breaking down the funding for the project into two categories. There was discussion regarding whether actual facilities upgrades that are needed and energy-related, such as the new roof and new boilers, would not be approved if combined with other upgrades such as the turf field or new high school entrance, or if they were separated, the items energy-related items would not be approved, but other upgrades would be. The Board discussed that the project could be adjusted should the referendum not pass.

Karen Perry **MOVED** and Amy Jacques-Purdy **SECONDED** a motion to have one referendum question for the total amount of the project. Motion passed 6-3-0 by the following votes:

Michele Amendola	Absent	Joanne Nesti	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Kathy Brown	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" 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"/>		

### Adjournment

Board Chair Sue Twachtman called for the meeting to adjourn at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Larissa B. Johnson  
Board Clerk

Approval:  Date: NOV 3 2015  
Becky Valenti, Secretary