

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
October 6, 2015

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on October 6, 2015 in the Central Office Board Room. Board of Education Chair, Sue Twachtman, called the meeting to order at 7:36 PM.

***Members Present:** Kathy Brown, Susan Dean, Amy Jacques-Purdy, Dan Chase, Joel D'Angelo, Karen Perry, Becky Valenti, Jeannie Young, Joanne Nesti, and Sue Twachtman*

***Members Absent:** Michele Amendola*

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

***Visitors:** 20*

Call to Order/Opening of Meeting

Board of Education Chair, Sue Twachtman called the meeting to order at 7:36 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Board Chair welcomed Joanne Nesti, a new member, to the Board of Education.

Audience of Citizens

The following citizens addressed the Board:

Bill Burley of Killingworth said that he is an HK Youth Lacrosse coach and would really like to have a turf field. He said that a lot of parents and grandparents watch games and it would be beneficial to kids' programs.

Michael Trahan of Higganum, thanked the Board for their hard work. He said that as a former member of the Board, he understands that it requires a lot of time and commitment. He coaches Boys' Youth Lacrosse and spoke in favor of the artificial turf field. He also offered to help consult on the solar panel project for the HKHS roof.

Ronald Lelke of Killingworth said that we need to look at what we are providing students besides education, including extra curriculums, such as playing a sport distinguishes students as they apply for college. He asked that we look at what we are providing to help kids with theater, sports, etc. and that we should look at what gives the kids an advantage to get into college.

Matt Link of Killingworth, a Physical Education teacher in Madison said that in Madison, the artificial turf field is shared between the middle school and high school, and that the space is open almost until the holiday break. He said there are a number of turf fields in Madison and this provides more space and time for sports, including baseball, softball, and field hockey and that it's invaluable.

Sy Soobitsky of Higganum said that the turf field makes it difficult for parents to come to games because they are in the afternoon, however with an artificial turf field and lights, more parents will be given an opportunity to attend games after work. He said it's also an opportunity to show off what the school has and that the artificial turf field would be an invaluable asset for the community. He also suggested that there is another type of artificial turf field consisting of coconut husk and cork, in place of tires, which may be healthier. He also

said that he feels that all of these improvements are “needs” and should not be separated by “wants” and “needs.”

Melissa Monington Steinhilper of Higganum said that she is a mother of four athletes in the district and that she supports the artificial turf field. She said that we need opportunities for more sports and consider the whole child, not just one aspect, and that we should use what we have to its best advantage.

Daniel Moriarty of Higganum added that other sports can use the field such as soccer and field hockey, and that there will be additional concession incomes. He further emphasized that an artificial turf field will allow for more than two sports to be played on the field, and that multiple sports will be able to be played.

Approval of Minutes

- A. Approval of Minutes for the September 1, 2015 Board of Education Meeting
- B. Approval of Minutes for the September 1, 2015 Board of Education Special Meeting
- C. Approval of Minutes for the September 8, 2015 Board of Education Special Meeting
- D. Approval of Minutes for the September 10, 2015 Board of Education Special Meeting – 091015A
- E. Approval of Minutes for the September 10, 2015 Board of Education Special Meeting – 091015B
- F. Approval of Minutes for the September 15, 2015 Board of Education Meeting – Education Session

Susan Dean **MOVED** and Becky Valenti **SECONDED** a motion to approve the minutes as presented.
Motion passed 9-0-1 by the following votes:

Michele Amendola	Absent	Joanne Nesti	YES ___ NO ___ A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Kathy Brown	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO ___ A ___	Karen Perry	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO ___ A ___
Dan Chase	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO ___ A ___	Becky Valenti	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO ___ A ___
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 ___		

Report from Student Representatives

Lily Carmichael and Luke Bauer presented their reports to the Board. Lily reported that the first Student Advisory Council meeting was held on October 6, 2015 and they discussed topics such as school spirit and school maintenance. She also said that the fall drama production is “Harvey” being put on by the HK Players and Mrs. Rowe. Performances will be held on November 6th and 7th at 7:00 PM in the HKHS Auditorium. Luke Bauer gave an update on sports and provided the Board with a record of wins and losses or dates for upcoming games for each of the sports teams. He also reported that a Senior Citizen Expo was held today, the first annual. The Expo provided senior citizens with information about local services and programs. The high school food classes provided appetizers for the event.

Board Committee Reports and Future Meetings

A. Facilities Subcommittee

The subcommittee did not meet.

B. Finance Subcommittee

Joel D’Angelo updated the Board. He reported that the subcommittee reviewed the monthly vendor detail for checks issued over \$5000. They also discussed working with Dennis Dix of Dixworks, LLC, a bond consultant to help get ready for bonding. Services include preparation for bonds, including rating, shopping, and structures. Costs for preparatory work are billed at an hourly rate, and then once

bonding is approved the full contract amount relates to the amount of the bonding. Those costs are often folded into the bonding structure. There is also a \$6,500 expense for building appraisal, which helps with estimating liability and property insurance.

*Karen Perry **MOVED** and Becky Valenti **SECONDED** a motion to approve the Dixworks, LLC Municipal Advisory Agreement as presented. Motion passed 10-0-0 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	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
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"/>		

C. Policy Subcommittee

Amy Jacques-Purdy updated the Board. She reported that the subcommittee met on September 23, 2015 and continued its work on the 6000 series. They will be scheduling another meeting date to continue the work on the 6000 series. She also reported that there is a vacant seat for another Board member on the subcommittee.

D. Communications Subcommittee

Susan Dean updated the Board. She reported that the Board Handbook is on the website and has been distributed to the town libraries and town halls, and that all candidates received a copy as well. She also reported that the September issue of the Board Update was posted on the website and shared with "Haddam Now" and "Killingworth Today."

E. Personnel and Evaluation Subcommittee

Karen Perry updated the Board. She reported that the subcommittee will meet on October 8, 2015 to discuss the Superintendent's evaluation and a personnel update.

*Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Susan Dean **SECONDED** a motion to move New Business Items A, B and D up to follow the Board Committee Reports. Motion passed 10-0-0 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	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
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. Eagle Scout Project Middle School Fitness Trail

Mitchell Bragoni, an HKHS student presented his proposal for a Fitness Trail at the Haddam-Killingworth Middle School. There will be three stations with different work-outs located in the area leading to the soccer field. Each station will have different colors and there will be a trail through the woods leading to the soccer field. He has been working with Melissa Ouellette, the middle school administration, and Director of Facilities, Mike Distefano. He is hoping to complete the project later this fall or in the spring. There will be some construction of benches and they are accepting donations for metal pull-up bars and other items.

Karen Perry **MOVED** and Amy Jacques-Purdy **SECONDED** a motion to approve Mitchell Bragoni's Haddam-Killingworth Middle School Fitness Trail Project as presented. Motion passed 10-0-0 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	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
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. HKTU STN Field Trip to Atlanta, GA, March 9-13, 2016

Chuck Lewis, HKHS Teacher presented the proposed field trip for HKTU students to the STN Conference in Atlanta, Georgia from March 9-13, 2016. He presented a video that showcased students' projects and the Holiday Show, as well as alumni who participated in HKTU who have gone on to have successful careers in television. Matt MacDonald, a student who attended the trip last year, explained how much he loves the program and the STN conference and said that he is excited to go again this year. Thirty-six students will be attending, of which twenty-nine are women, Mr. Lewis pointed out. The cost would be approximately \$974 per student, however this may be offset by students volunteering at the Lyman Orchards' corn maze. Students who volunteer at the corn maze will earn donations at the minimum wage rate towards the trip. Mr. Lewis also gave an update on the Holiday Show for 2015.

Becky Valenti **MOVED** and Susan Dean **SECONDED** a motion to approve the HKTU STN Field Trip to Atlanta, Georgia from March 9-13, 2016. Motion passed 10-0-0 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	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
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. HKMS 8th Grade Trip to Washington, DC, April 26-28, 2017

Ryan Mackenzie, HKMS Assistant Principal presented the proposed field trip for the 8th grade field trip to Washington, DC from April 26-28, 2017. He said that he went on her first trip with the 8th graders last year and said that kids change and grow on the trip, by seeing something bigger than themselves and that it really brings the 8th grade curriculum together. The estimated cost is approximately \$515 per student and that the PTO helps with fundraising to help offset costs.

Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Kathy Brown **SECONDED** a motion to approve the 8th grade field trip to Washington, DC from April 26-28, 2017. Motion passed 10-0-0 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	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
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. Healthy Communities – Healthy Kids Council

Susan Dean updated the Board. She reported that Family Dinner Night was well attended on September 28, 2015. She said she also attended the Senior Expo at the high school today and that it was very well organized. She also announced that the Pumpkin Run will be held on October 25, 2015 and that Shred-It Day will be October 10, 2015.

B. LEARN

No report.

C. Parks & Recreation

No report.

D. Haddam Board of Selectmen

No report.

E. Killingworth Board of Selectmen

Jeannie Young updated the Board. She attended the meeting held on September 28, 2015. She gave an overview of the high school energy and facilities upgrade project, including cost and budget impact. The First Selectwoman also mentioned that she had been approached by Southern Connecticut Gas about bringing natural gas to the middle school and Killingworth Elementary School, and was wondering if that would be something the District might consider at some point in the future.

Old Business

A. High School Energy and Facilities Upgrade

The Board discussed the High School Energy and Facilities Upgrade project, including the possible timeline and communications plan for referendum, as well as putting together a Building Committee. The Board discussed possibly hiring Ira Yellen to put together a communication plan for presentation of the project to the community. The Board discussed the possibility of a referendum in early December, and providing a public information session and sending a communication to the public around what substance of the project will be. Board members expressed concern about being able to have the referendum and any relevant meetings during their terms as members before new members elected on November 3 are seated and the Board discussed some possible referendum and meeting dates. They also discussed the importance of communicating the back-story behind upgrading the athletic field to artificial turf, including the petitions from the field hockey team, HK Youth Football being unable to play home games, and that the field can be used by the community, not just high school sports teams. The Board also talked about communicating future retirement of existing capital bonds. They also discussed forming a public building committee.

Consent Agenda

- A. Acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$100.00 from Haddam Junior Women's Club. Submitted by Principal Eric Larson, Burr District Elementary School.
- B. Acceptance of a donation of 53 – 22” monitors from Hartford Healthcare to the District, including monitors, stands, power cables and VGA adapters. Submitted by Principal Eric Larson, Burr District Elementary School.
- C. Acceptance of a \$945.71 from the Stop and Shop A+ Rewards Program. Submitted by Principal Eric Larson, Burr District Elementary School.

- D. Acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$708.00 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 \$1250.00 from the HKMS PTO to Haddam-Killingworth Middle School. Submitted by Principal Dr. Jennifer Olsen, Haddam-Killingworth Middle School.
- F. Acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$100.00 from Haddam Junior Women’s Club to Haddam-Killingworth Middle School. Submitted by Principal Dr. Jennifer Olsen, Haddam-Killingworth Middle School.

*Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Susan Dean **SECONDED** a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented with gratitude. Motion passed 10-0-0 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	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
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

C. HKMS Overnight Cultural Visit to New York City, March 23-24, 2016

The proposed HKMS field trip to New York City will be discussed at a future date.

E. LEARN Proposed Regional Calendar

The Board reviewed the proposed regional calendar as prepared by LEARN for the 2016-2017 school year. Several members of the Board expressed that they were disappointed that the state is taking away control from local school boards to create their own calendars and that district calendars should reflect community values.

F. Board of Education 2016 Calendar

*Joel D’Angelo **MOVED** and Amy Jacques-Purdy **SECONDED** a motion approve the Board of Education 2016 Calendar as presented.*

The Board then discussed changing the dates of the July meetings.

*Joel D’Angelo **AMENDED** the motion to remove the July 5 and July 19 meeting dates from the calendar, and add July 12 as a meeting date. Dan Chase **SECONDED** the amendment.*

Motion passed 10-0-0 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	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
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"/>		

From the Superintendent

A. Legislative Update

Superintendent Thiery updated the Board and presented an "Educational Legislation Summary, 2015" prepared by Shipman and Goodwin, LLC to the Board.

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

Joel D'Angelo presented proposed Budget Transfers to the Board. The budget transfers reflected covering funds for personnel expenses due to personnel transferring between buildings.

Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Karen Perry **SECONDED** a motion to approve the budget transfers as presented. Motion passed 10-0-0 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	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
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 Discussion/News/Suggestions

Board Chair Sue Twachtman let members of the Board know about a CABA conference occurring on November 20 and 21, and encouraged Board members to attend.

Adjournment

Board Chair Sue Twachtman called for the meeting to adjourn at 9:31 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Larissa B. Johnson
Board Clerk

Approval: Becky Valenti Date: Nov 3 2015
Becky Valenti, Secretary