

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION – EDUCATION SESSION**  
**September 15, 2015**

*A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on September 15, 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:** *Susan Dean, Kathy Brown, Becky Valenti, Jeannie Young, Dan Chase (arrived at 7:37), Karen Perry (arrived at 8:00 PM) and Sue Twachtman*

**Members Absent:** *Joel D'Angelo, Amy Jaques-Purdy, Michele Amendola and Brian Gamache*

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

**Visitors:** *11*

**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**

*Joey Bosco of Haddam addressed the Board regarding the discussion at the prior meeting regarding splitting the referendum for High School facilities upgrades into “wants” and “needs,” and suggested a consideration that if the referendum for needs was voted down, there would have to be cuts made on the needs where if the wants and needs were voted on together, the Board would be able to cut back on wants.*

**Board Liaison Reports**

**A. Curriculum Council Update**

*Susan Dean updated the Board. She reported that she was very impressed by all of the activities going on over the summer and the success of the openings at each of our schools and she suggested that members of the Board review the minutes when they are circulated.*

**B. Curriculum Subcommittee**

*Dan Chase had no report.*

**Old Business**

*None*

## New Business

### A. Annual Student Achievement Presentation

*Superintendent Thiery presented the Regional School District No. 17 Student Achievement 2014-2015 report, followed by HKHS Principal Donna Hayward who gave the Haddam-Killingworth High School Class of 2015 Graduate Report, and Dr. Holly Hageman who gave the Regional School District 17 2015 State Testing Report.*

*Mr. Thiery presented a chart displaying the "Percentage of Students Meeting Grade Level Reading Standards (DRA/DRP+TC)," in grades K-4, highlighting third grade, where 84% in third grade read at grade level in 2013 and 85% read at grade level in 2014, and 90% read at grade level in 2015. The overall range in students reading at grade level was between 82% and 90% across grades K-4 in 2015. He also reported on Fact Fluency rates in Mathematics. In 2015, 75% of students in Grade 1 and 67% of students in Grade 2 met grade-level standards for Fact Fluency in Addition, and 38% of students in Grade 1 and 37% of students in Grade 2 met grade-level standards for Fact Fluency in Subtraction. For Fact Fluency in Multiplication, 58% of students in Grade 3 and 77% of students in Grade 4 met grade-level standards, and 49% of students in Grade 3 and 68% of students in Grade 4 met grade-level standards for Fact Fluency in Division.*

*For Elementary Writing, 78% of students in Grades 2-4 met grade-level standards in Narrative Writing, 71% of students met grade-level standards in Informational Writing, and 76% of students met grade-level standards in Opinion Writing.*

*Superintendent Thiery also reported on survey results from Elementary school parents, where parents gave the elementary schools high marks for communication and performance.*

*At the middle school level, Superintendent Thiery presented a chart displaying the "Percentage of Students Meeting Grade Level Reading Standards (DRP)," in grades 5-8, highlighting eighth grade, where 89% in third grade read at grade level in 2013 and 90% read at grade level in 2014, and 86% read at grade level in 2015. The overall range in students reading at grade level was between 77% and 86% across grades 5-8 in 2015. Superintendent Thiery also presented a chart representing students meeting report card standards for writing in grades 5-8, and a chart representing students meeting report card standards for Pre-Algebra and Algebra in grade 8 and mathematics for grades 5-7. He also reported on survey results from middle school students where students gave high marks for feeling safe at school and understanding of school expectations.*

*At the high school level, Superintendent Thiery reported on SAT scores for the graduating classes 2012-2015. For the class of 2015, the average SAT score in Critical Reading was 528, the average score for Math was 516, and the average score for Writing was 534. Superintendent Thiery also reported data on students taking Advanced Placement (AP) courses and tests. The number of AP exams being taken by high school student has nearly doubled since 2012 and 2013, and the number of students receiving scores of 3 or higher on AP exams has increased from 74% in 2012 to 86% in 2015. The percentage of students with Postgraduate Experience 2014-2015 also has increased over prior years from 58% in 2012 to 99% in 2015. Superintendent Thiery presented a breakdown of what percentages of students participated in several categories of post-secondary experiences. He also represented data on scores from Career and Technical Education testing from 2013 through 2015. He then presented feedback from a Student/Parent Survey from the high school.*

*Superintendent Thiery then presented Celebrations in Student Achievement, Numeracy and Literacy, and Internal and External Community.*

*Principal Donna Hayward presented the "Haddam-Killingworth High School Class of 2015 Graduate Report." She reported that in 2015, there were 168 graduates, and of which 74.4% were headed to a four-year college, 17.9% were headed to a two-year college, 1.7% went to trade school, 0.6% joined the military, and 5.4% entered the workforce. She reported that altogether, the class of 2015 completed more than 19,105 hours of community service. The total scholarships awarded were \$11,645,930. She also reported on the application and acceptance rates differentiating by*

competitiveness of the college admission process. For the Class of 2015, 28% of students who applied were accepted at the most competitive colleges, 81% were accepted at highly competitive colleges, and 79% of students who applied were accepted to very competitive colleges. She also presented information on which schools the students applied to and chose to attend, as well as some information on their selection of majors.

Assistant Superintendent Hageman presented the "Regional School District 17 2015 State Testing Report." She gave an introduction to Annual State Testing and explained that annual state assessments are meant to give a snapshot of student achievement and provide data regarding student achievement and growth but should not be used as the sole measure of student achievement, program evaluation or district continuous improvement. For the Connecticut Mastery Test in Science, 84.8% of students in Grade 5 scored "At or Above Goal," and 85.1% of students in Grade 8 scored "At or Above Goal." 69.9% of students in Grade 10 in 2015 scored "At or Above Goal" on the Connecticut Academic Performance Test in Science.

Assistant Superintendent Hageman then presented on the Smarter Balanced Assessment results for Grades 3-11 in English Language Arts and Mathematics, and explained how these tests differed from the CMT and CAPT exams. In English Language Arts, 72.9% of students in Grade 3 score at Level 3 or above, 65.2% of students in Grade 4 scored at Level 3 or above, 77.4% of students in Grade 5 scored at Level 3 or above, 72.2% of students in Grade 6 scored at Level 3 or above, 74.9% of students in Grade 7 scored at Level 3 or above, 70.5% of students in Grade 8 scored at Level 3 or above, and 76.8% of students in Grade 11 scored at Level 3 or above. In Mathematics, 68.1% of students in Grade 3 score at Level 3 or above, 51.4% of students in Grade 4 scored at Level 3 or above, 54.9% of students in Grade 5 scored at Level 3 or above, 42.1% of students in Grade 6 scored at Level 3 or above, 50.3% of students in Grade 7 scored at Level 3 or above, 46.6% of students in Grade 8 scored at Level 3 or above, and 51.8% of students in Grade 11 scored at Level 3 or above. She then presented on Interpretations for Curriculum and Instruction.

The Board

Superintendent Thiery concluded the presentations and Board Chair Sue Twachtman thanked everyone for their presentations.

## Adjournment

Board Chair Sue Twachtman called for the meeting to adjourn at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Larissa B. Johnson

Board Clerk

Approval: Becky Valenti Date: OCT 6 2015  
Becky Valenti, Secretary