

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING**  
**September 8, 2015**

*A special meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on September 8, 2015 in the Central Office Board Room. Board of Education Chair, Sue Twachtman, called the meeting to order at 7:09 PM.*

**Members Present:** *Kathy Brown, Susan Dean, Michele Amendola (arrived at 7:11 PM), Amy Jacques-Purdy, Dan Chase, Joel D'Angelo, Karen Perry, and Sue Twachtman*

**Members Absent:** *Becky Valenti, Jeannie Young and Brian Gamache*

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

**Visitors:** *7*

**Call to Order/Opening of Meeting**

*Board of Education Chair, Sue Twachtman called the meeting to order at 7:09 PM.*

**High School Energy and Facilities Update**

*Board Chair Sue Twachtman introduced the High School Energy and Facilities Upgrade. She explained that the Board has been looking at replacing the roof and the boilers at the high school and installing photovoltaic panels on the roof, as well as some other improvements at the high school such as the installation of an artificial turf athletic field, upgrading the auditorium and updating the high school entrance.*

*Karen Perry **MOVED** and Amy Jacques-Purdy **SECONDED** a motion to approve projects ECM1-ECM13d, excluding item ECM12b for a maximum cost of \$7,167,087, so that CREC may further refine cost estimating.*

*The Board discussed this motion at length including whether some items outside of the energy upgrades were needs versus wants. Karen Perry stated that ideally, the Board would be able to wait to do some of these projects until the bond from the middle school building project expired so that there would be no impact on annual payments, but unfortunately many of these projects cannot wait and it makes sense to do some of the upgrades for the athletic field, auditorium and front entrance to help make the high school more of a center piece for the community. Joel D'Angelo also said that these upgrades would demonstrate that this is a district that is clearly invested in its education and high school. He recalled that there had been some discussion at a previous meeting where item ECM10, a Sideline Netting System for the track and athletic field were not necessary and may not work with our existing track.*

*Joel D'Angelo **AMENDED** the motion to exclude ECM10 as well. Karen Perry **ACCEPTED** the amendment.*

*Discussion continued and Michele Amendola suggested that the Board consider paying for some of the smaller items in in the project scope through the Capital Fund, rather than rolling them into the new bond*

and expressed concern about having the projects that are needed, such as the roof and boilers, voted down by having other less necessary projects included on the referendum.

Dan Chase discussed breaking the projects into wants and needs, including the roof, boiler and solar panels as needs, and the artificial turf field, auditorium and front entrance upgrade as wants, and suggested that the Board look at affordability. He suggested that the Board put two bonds together and present them in separate referendums. Amy Jacques-Purdy suggested that by packaging the artificial turf field, auditorium, and entrance upgrades together with the roof, boilers, and solar that the Board may result in a better voter turn-out in support of the project as a whole, rather than by only having a referendum for the necessary projects and expressed that those projects alone may not pass referendum. Kathy Brown suggested that the Board wait on "wants" until the middle school bond has expired and pay for wants through the Capital Fund.

The Board also discussed whether the passing of this motion would require the Board to use certain materials or methods as described in the Rough Order of Magnitude and discussed that typically, a building committee would be formed and that committee would be more involved in the refinement of the project. Superintendent Thiery added that should the project be closed out and there be funds remaining based on the committee selecting alternate or less expensive options, those funds would be used to pay down the bond.

The Board returned to discussing modifying the motion to be split into two referendums and determined that this was not necessary because the motion on the table pertains to the scope of the project and is not related to the referendum directly, and that the terms of the referendum can be determined at a later time. It was mentioned that CREC should be consulted. Dan Chase made further comments about splitting the bond into two and having two referendums. Board members suggested considering that in their next steps. Karen Perry suggested that the Board vote on pending motion.

Board Chair Sue Twachtman called the motion to question.

Motion passed 5-3-0 by the following votes:

Michele Amendola	YES ___ NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A ___	Amy Jacques-Purdy	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO ___ 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	Absent
Susan Dean	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO ___ A ___	Sue Twachtman	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO ___ A ___
Brian Gamache	Absent		

The Board then discussed the possibility of separating the projects into two separate referendums.

Dan Chase **MOVED** and Kathy Brown **SECONDED** a motion to break the scope of the projects into two separate bonds and two separate referendums based on wants and needs.

Board Chair Sue Twachtman called for a recess.

The Board went into recess at 7:48 PM.

The Board returned from recess at 7:54 PM.

The Board discussed the whether or not the project should be broken into categories and separate referendums based on wants versus needs, and discussed its role in making a recommendation to the

community for these projects. The Board discussed that the structure of the referendum could be further discussed and determined at a future date as more information could be obtained about the project from CREC.

Motion failed 3-5-0 by the following votes:

Michele Amendola	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Amy Jacques-Purdy	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Jeannie Young	Absent
Susan Dean	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Sue Twachtman	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>

Dan Chase asked for clarification on the vote and whether the Board still had an opportunity to divide the projects for referendum. Superintendent Thiery explained that due to the wording of the motion there should be. The structure of the referendum should be worked on with CREC who will advise on how to structure the questions. Superintendent Thiery stated that CREC should be responding soon with the critical next steps.

## Adjournment

Board Chair Sue Twachtman called for the meeting to adjourn at 8:06 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Larissa B. Johnson  
Board Clerk

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