

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
September 1, 2015**

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on September 1, 2015 in the Central Office Board Room. Board of Education Chair, Sue Twachtman, called the meeting to order at 7:45 PM.

Members Present: *Kathy Brown, Susan Dean, Michele Amendola, 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, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Holly Hageman, and Board Clerk, Larissa Johnson*

Visitors: 10

Call to Order/Opening of Meeting

Board of Education Chair, Sue Twachtman called the meeting to order at 7:45 PM.

Audience of Citizens

Ed Schwing of Haddam addressed the Board. Mr. Schwing asked about the Board of Education minutes from August 4, 2015 and asked whether Brian Gamache had been located.

Approval of Minutes

- A. Approval of Minutes for the August 18, 2015 Board of Education Meeting – Education Session

*Susan Dean **MOVED** and Amy Jacques-Purdy **SECONDED** a motion to approve the minutes 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"/>	Amy Jacques-Purdy	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	Absent
Joel D'Angelo	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	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"/>
Brian Gamache	Absent		

*Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Susan Dean **SECONDED** a motion to move New Business Items 8.A. in the agenda to follow the Approval of Minutes. Motion passed 8-0-0 by the following votes:*

Michele Amendola	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Amy Jacques-Purdy	YES <input 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	Absent
Joel D'Angelo	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	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"/>
Brian Gamache	Absent		

New Business

A. 2015-2016 Technology Financing/Leasing Package

Superintendent Thiery introduced the Technology Leasing Package to the Board for 2015-2016. He explained that the District's attorney has reviewed the package and that although it is called a leasing package, it is actually more of financing package where the district will own the equipment being purchased. Approximately 60% of the equipment being purchased is for replacement of computers and approximately 40% is for innovation.

Amy Jaques-Purdy **MOVED** and Joel D'Angelo **SECONDED** a motion to approve Municipal Leasing Consultants receive the technology leasing bid for the next four years. Motion passed 8-0-0 by the following votes:

Michele Amendola	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Amy Jaques-Purdy	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	Absent
Joel D'Angelo	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	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"/>
Brian Gamache	Absent		

Board Committee Reports and Future Meetings

A. Facilities Subcommittee

The subcommittee did not meet.

B. Finance Subcommittee

The subcommittee did not meet.

C. Policy Subcommittee

No report.

D. Communications Subcommittee

Susan Dean updated the Board. She reported that the handbook will be sent to CABA and that some copies will be needed for the Town of Haddam and the Town of Killingworth. She also reported that the committee will be putting together a September Board Update.

E. Personnel and Evaluation Subcommittee

No report.

Board Liaison Reports

A. Healthy Communities – Healthy Kids Council

Susan Dean reported that the council has not met.

B. LEARN

Kathy Brown had 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 (CREC Project)

Director of Facilities, Mike Distefano and representatives from CREC, Paul Drummey, and Brian Greenleaf presented a Construction Program Financial Analysis for all proposed improvements and upgrades to the high school, including each of the three possible ancillary projects suggested in addition to the high school facilities upgrade project, improving the high school entrance, installing an artificial turf field at the high school with related upgrades, and improving and renovating the high school auditorium. The Board discussed each of the projects and the related cost and long-term expense.

The Board discussed the proposed changes to the high school entrance and the proposed changes to the high school driveway and parking. The Board discussed some concerns regarding parking and parent drop-off at the high school and Principal Donna Hayward stated that there have not been any accidents resulting from parents utilizing the bus line for dropping of their children and that many parents use the rear parking area rather than the bus line.

*Karen Perry **MOVED** and Amy Jacques-Purdy **SECONDED** a motion to put out projects ECM1-ECM13d as presented in the Construction Program Financial Analysis provided by CREC to bond.*

The Board discussed the motion on the table at some length. The Board discussed the proposed athletic field improvements, including the artificial turf field being installed in the football field. The proposal includes the installation of end zone and sideline netting. The Board discussed that the sideline netting may not be compatible with the track and may interfere with the use of the track when it is up. The Board also discussed the field's current usage and the maintenance costs. The condition of the field restricts its usage to a small number of times per year, exclusively for the high school football program. Other sports and community organizations are unable to use the field due to safety hazards and the need for the field to be repaired and recover after each usage. The Board also discussed some concerns regarding long-term health risks relating to the use of crumb rubber fields.

Motion failed 4-4-0 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 ___ NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A ___
Brian Gamache	Absent		

*Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Karen Perry **SECONDED** a motion to put out projects ECM1-ECM13d, removing Item ECM12b, as presented in the Construction Program Financial Analysis provided by CREC to bond.*

The Board discussed the motion on the table at some length. The Board continued its discussion on the artificial turf field. The Board discussed that the artificial turf field would allow for the high school and the community to use the field for additional sports and purposes beyond the high school football program. Currently, the field can only be used twelve times per year for football, and the maintenance expenses are

approximately \$15,000 per year and use has to be restricted due to safety concerns and allowance for the field to recover after usage. With the installation of an artificial turf field, all sports could utilize the field and it could also be used more frequently by the community for Parks & Rec or other youth organizations. The cost of the artificial field per year is approximately \$50,000. The Board also discussed concerns about the increase cost of maintenance and financing on the

Motion failed 4-4-0 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 ___ NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A ___	Sue Twachtman	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO ___ A ___
Brian Gamache	Absent		

The Board then agreed to meet on September 8, 2015 at 7:00 PM in the Central Office Board Room to further discuss and review the proposed projects.

Consent Agenda

None

From the Superintendent

A. Legislative Update

Superintendent Thiery updated the Board. He said that the legislature is not currently in session, but he is expecting updates to be released soon from the government agencies to which recently passed legislation pertains.

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

Dan Chase asked if anyone was interested in working together to find alternative revenue streams in a new subcommittee. Sue Twachtman and Superintendent Thiery also discussed that a multi-stakeholder group would be coming together to look more closely at health insurance options.

Adjournment

Board Chair Sue Twachtman called for the meeting to adjourn at 9:21 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Larissa B. Johnson
Board Clerk

Approval: Becky Valenti Date: Oct 6 2014
Becky Valenti, Secretary