

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION – EDUCATION SESSION
August 18, 2015**

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on August 18, 2015 in the Haddam-Killingworth Middle School Student Commons. Board of Education Chair, Sue Twachtman, called the meeting to order at 7:34 PM.

Members Present: Susan Dean, Dan Chase, Amy Jacques-Purdy, Jeannie Young, Karen Perry, Michele Amendola, and Sue Twachtman

Members Absent: Kathy Brown, Becky Valenti, Joel D’Angelo, 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 7:34 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Audience of Citizens

None

Approval of Minutes

- A. Approval of Minutes for the June 1, 2015 Board of Education Special Meeting – Annual Meeting
- B. Approval of Minutes for the August 4, 2015 Board of Education Meeting

*Susan Dean **MOVED** and Karen Perry **SECONDED** a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed 6-0-1 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 type="checkbox"/> A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Kathy Brown	Absent	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	Absent	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"/>
Brian Gamache	Absent		

Board Liaison Reports

A. Curriculum Council Update

Susan Dean had no report.

B. Curriculum Subcommittee

Dan Chase had no report.

Old Business

A. High School Energy and Facilities Upgrade (CREC Project)

Board Chair Sue Twachtman summarized the proposed High School Energy and Facilities Upgrade, which includes a core project consisting of upgrades to the boilers, roof, lighting and solar panels, in addition to some other possible projects which the Board discussed in more detail at the prior meeting: an artificial turf field, upgrades to the auditorium, and renovations the HKHS entry way and possibly to the driveway and the creation of additional parking at the high school. At the last meeting, the Board asked that Paul Drummey from CREC get some more detailed pricing and costs for these proposed projects. The Board then discussed that they would also like to know more about maintenance costs and what the annual budgetary impact would be once the projects are completed. Superintendent Thiery also suggested that the Board aim to include the referendum with the annual election in November, rather than holding a separate referendum, which would be more costly to the towns in the district. The Board also briefly discussed what the athletic field improvements would involve, such as a resealing of the existing track, artificial turf field and grand stands and the long-term maintenance costs related. The Board is waiting additional information from CREC to further discuss the projects at the next Board meeting.

Consent Agenda

- A. Acceptance of a donation of \$1,162.63 from the Stop & Shop A+ Rewards Program. Submitted by Dr. Jennifer Olsen, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth Middle School.
- B. Acceptance of a donation of \$25.00 received from Target's "Thanks a Billion" program to be deposited into the student activity account. Submitted by Dr. Jennifer Olsen, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth Middle School.
- C. Acceptance of a donation of two LG Air Conditioners by the HK Touchdown Club for use in the HKHS weigh room. The value of each air conditioner is \$179.00 each. Submitted by Donna Hayward, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth High School.

*Susan Dean **MOVED** and Karen Perry **SECONDED** a motion to accept the consent agenda as presented. Motion passed 7-0-0 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	Absent	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	Absent	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"/>
Brian Gamache	Absent		

New Business

A. Summer and Opening of School Updates

1. General Update and Review

Superintendent Thiery introduced the presentations. The presentations are meant to review the scope and focus of work that takes place in each department over the summer.

2. Enrollment

Superintendent Thiery presented an updated enrollment report.

3. Hiring

Superintendent Thiery presented an updated hiring report.

4. Curriculum and Professional Development

Dr. Holly Hageman presented an update on Curriculum and Professional Development. Dr. Hageman reported that over 60 teachers participated in professional development or curriculum development experiences this summer, including Teachers College, Project Lead the Way, and math curriculum writing and development. She also reported that the elementary report card was revised to align with elementary curriculum updates along with the Parent Guide to the Elementary Report Card and the District Professional Learning Committee reviewed teacher feedback surveys to inform professional development planning for the upcoming school year.

5. Pupil Services

Tracy Whaples presented an update on Pupil Services. She reported that 102 students ages 3-21 participated in the Extended School Year Program (ESY) at BES, HKMS, and HES. Pupil Services also continued work on the design of the 18-21 Program at HKHS, as well as individualized student programming, the Preschool Program at BES, and hiring of support services personnel.

6. Facilities

Mike Distefano presented an update on Facilities work over the summer. The Facilities team has been working diligently to see that the modular classrooms were removed from KES and HES and that the appropriate site work was done, and various summer projects including paving at the HKHS and BES, performing routine maintenance including painting by the in-house custodial staff, playground inspections, work on the 18-21 Program at HKHS, close-out items from the middle school building project, and other site beautification projects. The Board further discussed the 18-21 Program and the work being done on the Old Middle School Art Room (A120) at some length.

7. Technology Review

Scott Butson presented an update on Technology work and upgrades. He reported that the IT department has been creating student accounts in all systems, converting teacher websites to the Weebly hosted solution, preparing to implement Office 365, Google Drive, and Classroom for teachers and students, and purchasing a lot of equipment for each of the schools, including large iPad and laptop carts, desktop upgrades, and desktop cameras.

8. Business Review

Martha Vaughn presented an update on the Business Office. She reported that her team worked for the first part of the summer closing out the fiscal year, and has been busy updating all pay rates, changing union dues, establishing encumbrances for salary, processing new hires, working on open enrollment for benefits and flex-spending enrollment, processing requisitions for school opening, and completing the Technology Lease, working on the state reporting and preparing for this year's audit. Additionally the Business Office hired a new payroll person, so they have been working on training that person in her new role.

9. HKHS

Donna Hayward presented an update on work being done at the high school over the summer and preparations for the new school year. She reported that the high school has been doing a lot of hiring and watching demonstration lessons which required asking some students to come back for the demonstrations, as well as working on their continuous improvement plan, program innovation, and building improvements. They have also been preparing for the new school year by offering a new teacher orientation and Freshman Orientation.

10. HKMS

Dr. Jennifer Olsen presented an update on work being done at the middle school over the summer and preparations for the new school year. She reported that on June 22nd and June 23rd, teachers participated in curriculum and instruction work, the administration has also been working on their continuous improvement plan and hiring as well as the development of MakerSpaces at their school. They also have been communicating with parents and students around the Summer Reading Challenge. Dr. Olsen is compiling a list of the books each student has read this summer, which is so far over 900 books. They also hosted a new teacher orientation in preparation for the new school year and 5th Grade Step Up Camps for students transitioning into the 5th grade.

11. BES

Eric Larson presented an update on Burr District Elementary School and what has been going on over the summer and preparations for the new school year. He reported that for professional development on June 22nd and June 23rd, his school focused on "Iteration, Innovation and Play" and how to look at incorporating these themes into the coming school year. They have also been working on their continuous improvement plan, doing some hiring, and will be hosting a "Back to School" Open House followed by a community picnic. He also reported that the Facilities department was able to help relocate the granite Burr District Elementary School sign from the driveway opening to a spot adjacent to the front entrance, which he thanked Mike Distefano and the custodians for their help in that project.

12. HES

Bryan Kerachsky presented an update on Haddam Elementary School and what has been going on over the summer and preparations for the new school year. He reported that the space where the modular classrooms were was once a basketball court but looks really nice now that the site has been restored. He also reported that the math coaches and teachers worked together on developing math curriculum this summer, which he felt was better than a lot of the publishing out there. He said that they also hired two people, and he is really excited about their energy, passion and enthusiasm, but they still need to hire a Library Media Coordinator. They also have been working on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), and further developing the "HES Way" and have changed their mascot to be the HES Cougar Cubs.

13. KES

Dennis Reed presented an update on Killingworth Elementary School and what has been going on over the summer and preparations for the new school year. He reported that they have also been hiring, including two new classroom teachers and have also been working on their school climate and culture. He also reported that they had a beach party at the Clinton Town Beach for KES teachers and staff and their families and that the PTO has been working on creating innovative ways to welcome parents and also are looking at providing some stencils for new markings on the new blacktop for hopscotch, four-square, and the US Map.

Board Discussion/News/Suggestions

Dan Chase discussed developing a new committee that works on ideas for generating revenue to the district.

Adjournment

Board Chair Sue Twachtman called for the meeting adjourn at 9:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Larissa B. Johnson
Board Clerk

Approval: Becky Valenti Date: Oct 5th 2019
Becky Valenti, Secretary