

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
August 4, 2015

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on August 4, 2015 in the Central Office Board Room. Board of Education Chair, Sue Twachtman, called the meeting to order at 7:38 PM.

Members Present: *Kathy Brown, Joel D'Angelo, Becky Valenti, Jeannie Young (arrived at 7:46), Susan Dean, Michele Amendola, and Sue Twachtman*

Members Absent: *Amy Jacques-Purdy, Dan Chase, Karen Perry, 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 7:33 PM.

Audience of Citizens

Izzy Brown and Joey Bosco addressed the Board. They shared some of their thoughts on topics discussed at the prior meeting of the Board, including suggestions such as painting the high school entry, the "H" posts on the football field, the stage and carpeting in the auditorium, including an "Audience of Citizens" portion following each agenda item and projecting the agenda during the meeting, and subsidizing the late bus by charging fare.

Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of Minutes for the July 21, 2015 Board of Education Meeting

*Becky Valenti **MOVED** and Susan Dean **SECONDED** a motion to approve the minutes 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	Absent
Kathy Brown	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Karen Perry	Absent
Dan Chase	Absent	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"/>
Brian Gamache	Absent		

*Susan Dean **MOVED** and Becky Valenti **SECONDED** a motion to move New Business Items 7.C-E. up in the agenda to follow the Approval of Minutes. 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	Absent
Kathy Brown	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Karen Perry	Absent
Dan Chase	Absent	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"/>
Brian Gamache	Absent		

New Business

C. Cafeteria Meal Pricing

Director of Food Services, Sharon Shettleworth explained that she is requesting that the pricing of breakfast at the elementary school be increased by twenty-five cents per meal from \$1.75 to \$2.00 and as well as by twenty-five cents for lunches and the middle school and high school from \$3.00 to \$3.25 for the 2015-2016 school year. She explained that this price increase is being requested to offset the rising cost of produce which has caused the district food service program to run at a deficit for the past two years.

*Joel D'Angelo **MOVED** and Susan Dean **SECONDED** a motion to approve an increase in prices for the elementary school breakfast and middle school and high school lunches by twenty-five cents for the 2015-2016 school year. 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	Absent
Kathy Brown	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Karen Perry	Absent
Dan Chase	Absent	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"/>
Brian Gamache	Absent		

D. Cafeteria Asset Disposal

Director of Food Services, Sharon Shettleworth explained that she is requesting broken and inoperable Victory 4-door refrigerator from KES be disposed of as well as a fryolator at the high school which can no longer be used.

*Joel D'Angelo **MOVED** and Susan Dean **SECONDED** a motion to approve the disposal of the Victory four-door refrigerator at Burr District Elementary School and the Fryolator at the Haddam-Killingworth High School. 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	Absent
Kathy Brown	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Karen Perry	Absent
Dan Chase	Absent	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"/>
Brian Gamache	Absent		

E. Attestation of Compliance with Meal Pattern Requirements

Director of Food Services, Sharon Shettleworth stated that annually the Board of Education needs to agree to comply with the rules and regulations set forth by the National School Lunch and Breakfast program in order to receive subsidies for the cafeteria program.

*Susan Dean **MOVED** and Becky Valenti **SECONDED** a motion to comply with the meal pattern requirements as set forth by the National School Lunch and Breakfast program. 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	Absent
Kathy Brown	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Karen Perry	Absent
Dan Chase	Absent	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"/>
Brian Gamache	Absent		

Board Committee Reports and Future Meetings

A. Facilities Subcommittee

Sue Twachtman updated the Board. The subcommittee met prior to the Board meeting and went over the summer projects in progress, such as the removal of the modular classrooms at HES and KES, and the renovation of the Transition Room for the 18-21 program. The radiator covers at HES had to be removed and need to be replaced and the routine maintenance is in progress and the playground inspections are scheduled.

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 Board handbook is at the printers and should be available by the next Board meeting.

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 reported that LEARN has not met.

C. Parks & Recreation

No report.

D. Haddam Board of Selectmen

Becky Valenti had no report.

E. Killingworth Board of Selectmen

Jeannie Young updated the Board.

Old Business

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

Director of Facilities, Mike Distefano, representatives from CREC, Paul Drummey, and Michael Sorano from Friar Associates, presented a Rough Order of Magnitude (ROM) for 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 suggested that CREC look at the third option for the high school entrance, where a limited amount of space around the existing entrance pillar be boxed in and that they would also like to consider improving the traffic flow as presented by Michael Sorano. They also discussed moving forward in obtaining pricing on the artificial turf field and some upgrades to the auditorium, such as new seating, painting, carpeting, and installing a Marley floor over the existing stage.

B. Middle School/High School Late Bus

The Board discussed four possible scenarios from maintaining the current level of late bus service to reducing service to regional stops and consolidating service to running the same bus to both schools at costs ranging from approximately \$89,000 to \$29,000 depending upon the level of service. The Board discussed the possibility of restoring the same level of late bus service and the possibility of offering limited service to several drop-off locations, including a drop-off location in Haddam Neck and having the service shared with high school and middle school. This option, which was referred to as Option 3, was estimated to have a cost of approximately \$36,000, whereas the full service option which is comparable to what was offered in the 2014-2015 school year, would cost approximately \$89,000. Option 2, to have limited service with separate buses for the middle school and high school would cost approximately \$59,000 per year. The Board discussed these options and the merits of returning the late bus service at some length.

Joel D'Angelo **MOVED** and Becky Valenti **SECONDED** a motion to reinstate late bus service at the high school and middle school as defined in Option 3, with centralized drop off locations. Motion passed 6-1-0 by the following votes:

Michele Amendola	YES ___ NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A ___	Amy Jacques-Purdy	Absent
Kathy Brown	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO ___ A ___	Karen Perry	Absent
Dan Chase	Absent	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 ___
Brian Gamache	Absent		

The Board also discussed whether extended hours should remain in place at the middle school and high school, since the late bus service would be reinstated.

Kathy Brown **MOVED** and Jeannie Young **SECONDED** a motion to rescind the extended hours at the high school library but leave the extended hours in place at the middle school. Motion passed 6-1-0 by the following votes:

Michele Amendola	YES ___ NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A ___	Amy Jacques-Purdy	Absent
Kathy Brown	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO ___ A ___	Karen Perry	Absent
Dan Chase	Absent	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 ___
Brian Gamache	Absent		

Consent Agenda

- A. Acceptance of a donation of \$250.00 from Youth & Family Services of Haddam-Killingworth, Inc. of Healthy-Communities—Healthy Kids Coalition to be deposited directly into the Student Activity Account to offset costs associated with Community Books Clubs. Submitted by Dr. Jennifer Olsen, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth Middle School.
- B. Acceptance of a donation of \$1,132.77 from the A+ School Rewards Program at Stop & Shop. Submitted by Dennis Reed, Principal of Killingworth Elementary School.

Susan Dean **MOVED** and Becky Valenti **SECONDED** a motion to approve 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	Absent
Kathy Brown	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Karen Perry	Absent
Dan Chase	Absent	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"/>
Brian Gamache	Absent		

New Business – Continued

A. Class Size Review

Superintendent Thiery presented an enrollment report. He stated that during the budget season, the Board discussed reducing the number of paraprofessionals in the district at the Kindergarten level from one classroom to one per school to be shared among each of the Kindergarten classroom, unless there are 16 or more students in a Kindergarten class. He reported that BES now has 19 students per Kindergarten class, HES has a class of 16 and a class of 17 and KES has two sections of 16 and a third section with 15. He asked whether the Board would like to have a paraprofessional in the KES class of 15 in interest of having there be enough coverage and out of fairness to the students and teachers. The class levels in each of the other sections at each of the schools already triggered the addition of a para to those classes, thus the consideration was whether there should be 6 paras for 7 sections (with three sections at KES sharing two paras) or whether each class should have its own para. The Board felt it would be best to have a third para at the Kindergarten level at KES.

Superintendent Thiery also said that the 1st Grade at HES now has two sections with a total of 43 students, with 21 students in one class and 22 in another. He said that the 1st Grade at KES has three sections and also has 43 students and he asked whether the Board would like to add a section to the 1st Grade at HES or if they would like to add a paraprofessional for each class, as they did the year prior. The Board discussed these options briefly.

Susan Dean **MOVED** and Jeannie Young **SECONDED** a motion to add a third 1st Grade section at Haddam Elementary School for the 2015-2016 school year. 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	Absent
Kathy Brown	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Karen Perry	Absent
Dan Chase	Absent	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"/>
Brian Gamache	Absent		

B. Substitute Teacher and Substitute Paraprofessional Pay Rates

Superintendent Thiery presented a chart of substitute teacher and substitute paraprofessional pay rates in the area. He discussed the current rates in our district and discussed adjusting them to better match surrounding districts. He said that he is not requesting additional funds for substitutes but would like to work within the existing budget.

From the Superintendent

A. Legislative Update

Superintendent Thiery updated the Board. He said that the special session did not override any vetoes made by the governor and the legislature is out of session.

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

Sue Twachtman requested that the Board Clerk, Larissa Johnson research whether a Board member may have moved out of town and confirm his residency.

Joel D'Angelo **MOVED** and Jeannie Young **SECONDED** a motion have the Board Clerk research the residency of a Board member who has been absent for an extended period. 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	Absent
Kathy Brown	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Karen Perry	Absent
Dan Chase	Absent	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"/>
Brian Gamache	Absent		

Adjournment

Board Chair Sue Twachtman called for the meeting to adjourn at 10:04 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Larissa B. Johnson
Board Clerk

Approval: Becky Valenti Date: Oct 5 2015
Becky Valenti, Secretary