

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
July 21, 2015**

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on July 21, 2015 in the Central Office Board Room. Board of Education Chair, Sue Twachtman, called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM.

Members Present: *Kathy Brown, Becky Valenti, Jeannie Young, Susan Dean, Michele Amendola, and Sue Twachtman*

Members Absent: *Joel D'Angelo, 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 Director of Fiscal Operations, Martha Vaughn, and Board Clerk Larissa Johnson*

Visitors: 14

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 and spoke in support of returning late bus service to the middle school and high school. They presented a petition with 40 signatures to Board Chair Sue Twachtman in support of the late bus.

*Susan Dean **MOVED** and Becky Valenti **SECONDED** a motion to move Old Business Item 5.A – High School Energy and Facilities Upgrade (CREC Project) up in the agenda to follow the Audience of Citizens. Motion passed 6-0-0 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	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		

Old Business

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

Director of Facilities, Mike Distefano, representatives from CREC, Douglas Rogers, Paul Drummey, and Michael Sorano from Friar Associates, presented a Rough Order of Magnitude (ROM) for each of the three possible projects suggested in addition to the high school facilities upgrade project. They first presented an ROM on upgrading the high school football field to an artificial turf field, followed by an ROM on upgrading the high school auditorium and then an ROM on renovating the high school main entrance. The Board discussed these projects with the representatives from CREC and Friar Associates at some length about what options could be selected in each project scenario.

Susan Dean **MOVED** and Becky Valenti **SECONDED** a motion to move the Consent Agenda up in the agenda to follow Old Business. Motion passed 6-0-0 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	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		

Consent Agenda

- A. Acceptance of a donation of \$250.00 from the Middletown Rotary Charitable Fund on behalf of Cailey Anderson, HKHS student for use by HKMS athletics. Submitted by Dr. Jennifer Olsen, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth Middle School.
- B. Acceptance of a donation of \$1,546.95 from the A+ School Rewards Bonus Bucks Program at Stop & Shop. Submitted by Donna Hayward, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth High School.
- C. Acceptance of a donation of \$945.71 from the A+ School Rewards Bonus Bucks Program at Stop & Shop. Submitted by Eric Larson Principal of Burr District Elementary School.

Board Chair Sue Twachtman, Superintendent Thiery and members of the Board recognized Cailey Anderson for her donation of her award from the Middletown Rotary Charitable Fund for providing over 800 hours of community service to the District.

Becky Valenti **MOVED** and Susan Dean **SECONDED** a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion passed 6-0-0 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	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		

Approval of Minutes

- A. Approval of Minutes for the June 2, 2015 Board of Education Meeting
- B. Approval of Minutes for the June 16, 2015 Board of Education – Education Session Meeting
- C. Approval of Minutes for the June 16, 2015 Board of Education Special Meeting
- D. Approval of Minutes for the June 23, 2015 Board of Education Special Meeting

Becky Valenti **MOVED** and Susan Dean **SECONDED** a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed 6-0-0 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	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 Committee Reports and Future Meetings

A. Facilities Subcommittee

Sue Twachtman updated the Board. She reported that the subcommittee had an update from the Director of Facilities, Mike Distefano regarding the conversion of the high school boilers and the removal of the modular classrooms at KES and HES, as well as regarding the trash bid and the conversion of a classroom for the 18-21 program in the old middle school building.

B. Finance Subcommittee

Jeannie Young updated the Board. She reported that she met with Martha Vaughn, Director of Fiscal Operations and went over the General Fund 2014-2015. \$333,000 went into the Self-Insurance Reserve account and the remaining \$153,434 of the fund balance went into the Capital Reserve account. They then reviewed the 2015-2016 General Fund, monthly checks over \$5,000 and discussed the technology lease.

C. Policy Subcommittee

No report.

D. Communications Subcommittee

Susan Dean updated the Board. She reported that she is hoping to get the Board Handbook printed as soon as possible and that she hopes to have a Board Update published in September.

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 had no report.

New Business

A. HKHS Asset Disposal

Superintendent Thiery presented the HKHS Asset Disposal requests, which include a variety of materials, including outdated machinery and textbooks.

*Susan Dean **MOVED** and Becky Valenti **SECONDED** a motion to approve the HKHS Asset Disposal items as presented. Motion passed 6-0-0 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	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		

B. BES Storage Container Disposal

Director of Facilities Mike Distefano presented request for the storage container located in the BES parking lot to be disposed of. He said that it is no longer used and is deteriorating and that Eagle Leasing Company will be willing to come and remove the container at no charge.

*Susan Dean **MOVED** and Jeannie Young **SECONDED** a motion to approve of the disposal of the storage container at Burr District Elementary School. Motion passed 6-0-0 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	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		

C. Middle School/High School Late Bus

Board Chair Sue Twachtman said that the Board experienced a difficult budget season, and through the budget process, the Board eliminated middle school and high school late bus service due to the cost, which was roughly \$100,000. However, unlike many of the other cuts made, which had other programmatic considerations, the late bus service cut was based mostly on expense and the Board received a lot of emails and feedback from the community that the community, parents, and students rely upon the late bus and would like to see late bus service remain in place. 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 these options at some length and would like to continue considering the matter at the next Board meeting.

D. Medically Fragile Student Program

Board Member Kathy Brown shared her experience in visiting Gordon Creek Elementary School in Balston Spa, New York to learn about their M.O.V.E. Program which is offered to medically fragile students. The program is offered for students K-12 and it is offered to students from outside their district for

a tuition which helps to offset the cost of the program and keeps medically fragile students within their district in their own local school. The Board discussed this program and Region 17's similarly structured 18-21 Year Old program in development.

E. Trash Removal Bid

Director of Facilities Mike Distefano presented the trash removal bid. All-Waste, the district's current trash removal provider was the only bidder. The projected cost for a three-year contract beginning in 2015 would be \$58,123 for Haddam and \$44,918 for Killingworth, which represents an increase over the previous contract. Mr. Distefano said that part of the increase was due to the fact that Haddam previously paid the tipping fees on behalf of the district for Haddam but will no longer be covering those fees. He also explained that the district's current contract with All-Waste has already expired and the district is operating under a one-month extension. The Board discussed this matter at some length.

Susan Dean **MOVED** and Jeannie Young **SECONDED** a motion to renew the trash removal contract with All-Waste for a three-year term. Motion passed 4-1-1 by the following votes:

Michele Amendola	YES ___ NO ___ A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Amy Jacques-Purdy	Absent
Kathy Brown	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO ___ A ___	Karen Perry	Absent
Dan Chase	Absent	Becky Valenti	YES ___ NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A ___
Joel D'Angelo	Absent	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		

From the Superintendent

A. Legislative Update

Superintendent Thiery updated the Board. He said that he is waiting for an updated report from CABE and that the act concerning the qualifications for the commissioner was vetoed.

B. Personnel Report

Superintendent Thiery presented the Personnel Report.

C. Enrollment Report

Superintendent Thiery presented the Enrollment Report. He reported that several sections are approaching or at the enrollment levels where an additional paraeducator should be considered for kindergarten and that they are also watching the HES first grade enrollment numbers closely.

From the Director of Fiscal Operations

A. Budget Transfers

None

Board Discussion/News/Suggestions

None

Adjournment

Susan Dean **MOVED** and Kathy Brown **SECONDED** a motion for the meeting to adjourn. Motion passed 6-0-0 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	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		

The meeting adjourned at 9:36 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Larissa B. Johnson
Board Clerk

Approval: Becky Valenti Date: Aug 4 2015
Becky Valenti, Secretary