

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
June 2, 2015

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on June 2, 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, Amy Jacques-Purdy, Dan Chase, Jeannie Young, Karen Perry, Susan Dean, Michele Amendola, Joel D'Angelo and Sue Twachtman*

Members Absent: *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: *2*

Call to Order/Opening of Meeting

Board of Education Chair, Sue Twachtman called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM.

Audience of Citizens

None

Approval of Minutes

- A. Approval of Minutes for the May 4, 2015 Board of Education Special Meeting – Annual Meeting
- B. Approval of Minutes for the May 5, 2015 Board of Education Meeting
- C. Approval of Minutes for the May 5, 2015 Board of Education Special Meeting
- D. Approval of Minutes for the May 13, 2015 Board of Education Special Meeting
- E. Approval of Minutes for the May 18, 2015 Board of Education Special Meeting – Annual Hearing
- F. Approval of Minutes for the May 18, 2015 Board of Education Special Meeting
- G. Approval of Minutes for the May 19, 2015 Board of Education – Education Session Meeting

*Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Becky Valenti **SECONDED** a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed 10-0-0 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	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	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		

Report from Student Representatives

Luke Ford gave his report to the Board. He reported that the Jazz Cabaret went very well as well as the Shoreline Math Challenge. He said that Street Fest is taking place tomorrow, June 3 and that there is one more week of classes before exams.

Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Susan Dean **SECONDED** a motion to move New Business Items 9.A-9.C to follow the Report from Student Representatives. Motion passed 10-0-0 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	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	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

A. Healthy Foods Certification Statement

Superintendent Thiery introduced the Healthy Food Certification Statement. He explained that the state mandates are now reflected on the federal level and that in previous years, the state offered a reimbursement of ten cents per meal, which Director of Food Services Sharon Shettleworth has recommended the district opt-out of because the certification also restricts food purchasing and sourcing, which can cost more than the reimbursement. Additionally, this year, the state will no longer be providing a reimbursement, thus Superintendent Thiery and Sharon Shettleworth suggested that the Board not sign off on the Healthy Foods Certification.

Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Becky Valenti **SECONDED** a motion not to sign the Healthy Foods Certification Statement. Motion passed 10-0-0 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	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	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. Policy Review (1st Read)

a) P5141.28 – Sudden Cardiac Arrest and Prevention

Superintendent Thiery presented the policy, followed by Board discussion. High School Athletic Director Lynn Flint went through the policy and made some edits based on the state regulations and requirements. All student athletes who participates in sports and their parents have to sign off on this policy, but it is not required for Physical Education.

b) P5141.7 – Concussion

Superintendent Thiery presented the policy, followed by a brief Board discussion.

c) P6142.63 – Aquatic Activity Safety

Superintendent Thiery presented the policy, followed by a brief Board discussion.

d) P5132 – Dress Code

Superintendent Thiery presented the policy, followed by Board discussion. At the beginning of the 2014/2015 school year, students had a misunderstanding of the school dress code. Members of the Student Advisory Committee wondered if the Board would consider making small changes to the policy and began considering changes and Principal Hayward said that this would be an opportunity for the students to learn more about the process of

having a policy changed and understanding the risk of opening up an existing policy and the possibility of it being changed in a what that they had not intended. The Board discussed the policy at some length with Principal Hayward to have a better understanding of the concerns surrounding tank tops and stretch and spandex pants and leggings while worn with longer shirts or tunics.

e) Athletic Eligibility

Superintendent Thiery presented the policy, followed by Board discussion. The Board discussed that the existing Athletic Eligibility requirements have been on the less restrictive side, although in compliance with the CIAC requirements. Under CIAC standards, a student with an “F” in 3 classes and a “D” in 4 classes would still be eligible to play under CIAC standards. Athletic Director Lynn Flint and Principal Hayward recommended a “C-Rule,” which was also endorsed by the Student Advisory Committee. They also suggested that a stricter policy may provide a safety net for students at risk of failing, and a support plan for ineligible students to help them get their grades back on track. The Board discussed this policy at some length.

C. High School Athletics – CIAC Small Teams/Teams of One

Superintendent Thiery presented the policy, followed by Board discussion. Superintendent Thiery explained that the CIAC Small Teams/Teams of One policy allows schools have athletes in a particular sport in small numbers to send their athletes to another school who have a more robust program and to allow them to compete under their own banner. This is different from a cooperative league. Region 17 currently has swimmers who come from Region 4, The Morgan School, and Old Saybrook, and a wrestler from Old Lyme who participate in HK practices but compete under their own school’s banner. This informal and neighborly invitation however, creates a problem as HK cannot verify the attendance of the visiting students and their athletic eligibility and may jeopardize HK’s own eligibility in competition as well as create liability. The Board discussed this at some length.

The Board went into recess at 8:32 PM.

The Board returned from recess at 8:43 PM.

Board Committee Reports and Future Meetings

A. Facilities Subcommittee

Dan Chase updated the Board. He reported that the subcommittee met prior to the Board meeting. The subcommittee discussed on-going projects at the CREC project.

B. Finance Subcommittee

Joel D’Angelo updated the Board. He reported that the subcommittee met prior to the Board meeting. The subcommittee discussed the General Fund, the Financial Report year-to-date, and discussed the projected fund balance of approximately \$498,000. They also discussed the Food Services financial report which reflects \$115,000 in losses. Food Services is self-funded and revenues set aside from prior years in a reserve account can be used to offset the loss. HK Cubs, the District’s self-funded daycare program, showed \$11,000 in revenue.

C. Policy Subcommittee

No report.

D. Communications Subcommittee

Susan Dean updated the Board. She reported that the handbook and has passed it on to Howard for his review. She said that the May issue of the Board Update was published in Killingworth Today and Haddam Now. The June Update will be coming out soon.

E. Personnel and Evaluation Subcommittee

Karen Perry updated the Board. She said that the subcommittee needs to meet to work on the Superintendent's evaluation next week.

Board Liaison Reports

A. Healthy Communities – Healthy Kids Council

Susan Dean updated the Board. She said that May Asset is Self-Esteem. At the meeting, Riley Fitzgibbons gave a report on "Let's Make Some Noise" and kids' communication with one another. There was also a presentation on Killingworth Cares and matching up volunteers with community members who need help.

B. LEARN

Kathy Brown updated the Board. She went to a meeting at the Marine Science Academy and the school board budget process was discussed.

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. She attended the May 11, 2015 meeting. The Board of Selectmen asked about the budget timeline and she gave a quick update on the CREC project.

Old Business

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

Dan Chase updated the Board and briefly reviewed some of the options available to the Board for upgrades to the High School facility and the process. He said that the Board needs to think seriously about what projects they want done and consider the 4-5 different options presented and then bring them as an action item for the June 16, 2015 meeting. The Board discussed additional possible projects such as upgrading the entrance to the high school, the high school auditorium, possibly adding a fitness facility to the high school, and replacing the football field with artificial turf and placing new bleachers.

Consent Agenda

- A.** Acceptance of a donation of \$1,350.00 from the Cieslukowski family to be deposited into the KES Student Activity – Bill C Scholarship Account. Submitted by Dennis Reed, Principal of Killingworth Elementary School.

- B.** Acceptance of a donation of \$50.00 from the Haddam Junior Women’s Club for the Student Activity Fund. Submitted by Donna Hayward, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth High School.
- C.** Acceptance of a donation of \$510.00 from General Mills Box Tops for Education to Haddam Elementary School. Submitted by Bryan Kerachsky, Principal of Haddam Elementary School.
- D.** Acceptance of a donation of recess games from the HES PTO to support student activities. Submitted by Bryan Kerachsky, Principal of Haddam Elementary School.
- E.** Acceptance of a donation of \$111.00 from Youth & Family Services of Haddam-Killingworth, Inc. to be deposited into the Student Activity Account for costs associated with Community Week. Submitted by Dr. Jennifer Olsen, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth Middle School.

*Susan Dean **MOVED** and Amy Jacques-Purdy **SECONDED** a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented with gratitude for all who donated. Motion passed 10-0-0 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	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	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

D. July BOE Schedule

The Board agreed to meet on June 23, 2015 at 6:30 PM in the Central Office Board Room to review end-of-year balance and finances. The Board also agreed to cancel the July 7, 2015 Board meeting and hold a business meeting in place of the Education Session on July 21, 2015.

E. Superintendent’s Contract

Superintendent Thiery introduced the renewal of the Superintendent’s contract. The Board agreed to discuss the contract renewal further in executive session.

From the Superintendent

A. Legislative Update

Superintendent Thiery updated the Board. He reported that there is legislation coming to a decision and would have a more thorough update for the Board at the June 16, 2015 meeting.

B. Personnel Report

Superintendent Thiery presented the Personnel Report.

C. Enrollment Report

Superintendent Thiery presented the Enrollment Report. Superintendent Thiery noted that enrollment has increased by 22 students this year and that they are watching class enrollment levels at HES.

From the Director of Fiscal Operations

A. Budget Transfers

None

Board Discussion/News/Suggestions

The Board discussed that the Junior Firefighters, High School State Champions and Eagle Scouts will be honored directly preceding the next Board meeting.

Adjournment

Karen Perry **MOVED** and Susan Dean **SECONDED** a motion go into Executive Session for the purposes of contract negotiation. Motion passed 9-0-0 by the following votes:

Michele Amendola	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>	Amy Jacques-Purdy	Absent
Kathy Brown	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>	Karen Perry	YES <u>√</u>
Dan Chase	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>	Becky Valenti	YES <u>√</u>
Joel D'Angelo	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>	Jeannie Young	YES <u>√</u>
Susan Dean	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>	Sue Twachtman	YES <u>√</u>
Brian Gamache	Absent				NO <u> </u>
					A <u> </u>

The Board went into the Executive Session at 9:23 PM.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 9:40 PM.

Board Chair Sue Twachtman called for the meeting adjourn at that time.

Respectfully submitted,



Larissa B. Johnson
Board Clerk

Approval: Becky Valenti Date: July 21 2015
Becky Valenti, Secretary