

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION – EDUCATION SESSION**  
**April 21, 2015**

*A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on April 21, 2015 in the Haddam-Killingworth Middle School Media Center. Board of Education Chair, Sue Twachtman, called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.*

**Members Present:** *Becky Valenti, Michele Amendola, Joel D'Angelo, Susan Dean, Jeannie Young, Dan Chase, Kathy Brown, and Sue Twachtman*

**Members Absent:** *Amy Jacques-Purdy, 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:** *3*

**Call to Order/Opening of Meeting**

*Board of Education Chair, Sue Twachtman called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence was observed in memory of Haddam-Killingworth High School student Nathan Field.*

*Following the moment of silence, Board Chair Sue Twachtman remarked that our thoughts and hearts go out to the Field family as well as Haddam-Killingworth High School staff, students and community.*

**Audience of Citizens**

*Earle Decker of Higganum requested that the Board consider offering public comment at the close of their meetings in addition to the opening.*

**Board Liaison Reports**

**A. Curriculum Council Update**

*Susan Dean and Sue Twachtman updated the Board. Susan Dean reported that on April 7, 2015, Superintendent Thiery gave a presentation on the Makerspace Initiative for grades Kindergarten through 12. She said that it is a wonderful opportunity for children to be creative and develop themselves and their talents. She said that she thinks it is great that the community can become involved and that students can work with each other to find solutions rather than have to consult a teacher or adult when working on their projects. Superintendent Thiery added that to get the initiative started, he will bring together a group of people who are already doing this type of work in the District to help do an initial inventory of what resources we already have to help put Makerspaces into place and try to figure out how to make it accessible to students, however he would like to see the design of the program be as creative as the students' creations themselves. Sue Twachtman also mentioned that on March 10, 2015, there was a presentation on the new Connecticut Social Studies Frameworks.*

## **B. Curriculum Subcommittee**

*Dan Chase had no report.*

### **Old Business**

*None*

### **New Business**

#### **A. Presentation on the New SAT**

*Assistant Superintendent Dr. Holly Hageman presented a report "The Redesigned SAT." The new SAT will first be administered in March 2016, thus this year's sophomore class will be taking the redesigned SAT as juniors next year. The PSAT is also being redesigned and will be available October 2015, thus this year's freshman will take the redesigned PSAT in the fall. The College Board redesigned the SAT because they wanted to have the test be more focused on essential knowledge and skills which they felt matter most for students in college and their careers and they wanted the test material to be more familiar to students and represent rigorous coursework. The redesigned SAT consists of Evidence-Based Reading and Writing sections including a Reading Test and a Writing and Language Test, a Math section, including "Heart of Algebra", Problem Solving and Data Analysis, and "Passport to Advanced Math" which includes mathematic expressions and solving quadratic and higher order equations, and an optional essay. The total score will be reported on a scale from 400-1600, as the SAT was scored previously which is broken down into test scores, cross-test scores and subscores. The optional essay will be scored on a 2-8 scale. Whether or not a student should complete the essay portion will be determined by the schools to which they choose to apply. The College Board is partnering with Kahn Academy to provide free practice online, which will be launched in May 2015. For more information, visit the Curriculum & Instruction page on our District website, [www.rsd17.org/district10.shtml](http://www.rsd17.org/district10.shtml). The Board then asked questions about the timeline of the new test's implementation, how colleges may interpret the new test scores, the essay option, and college counseling at the high school.*

#### **From the Assistant Superintendent**

*Assistant Superintendent Dr. Holly Hageman gave a brief update on the commencement of SBAC testing in the District. SBAC testing began at the Middle School today with Sixth Grade students and they will continue with testing tomorrow. Seventh Grade students will begin testing on Monday. SBAC testing at the elementary schools and the high school will begin on April 27. The Board briefly discussed the pacing of the tests. Assistant Superintendent Hageman said that the school principals have done a wonderful job helping to coordinate testing and have really put in a cooperative, team effort. She also thanked Scott Butson, Brian Trost and Dennis Recchia for their support in making sure that the technology required for testing was in place.*

## Adjournment

Susan Dean also announced the Haddam-Killingworth Hall of Fame Awards Presentation will be on Thursday, May 7, 2015 at The Riverhouse in Haddam at 6:00 PM. The 2015 Hall of Fame Inductees are:

Richard Annino  
Ronald Annino  
Nancy Bradley  
Ray Dennis  
William Fitzpatrick  
Elaine Jackson  
Claudette Sirois

Board Chair Twachtman called for the meeting to adjourn at 8:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Larissa B. Johnson  
Board Clerk

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