

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17  
BOARD OF EDUCATION – EDUCATION SESSION  
February 24, 2015**

*A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on February 24, 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:** *Susan Dean, Jeannie Young, Dan Chase, Kathy Brown, Amy Jacques-Purdy, Karen Perry and Sue Twachtman*

**Members Absent:** *Becky Valenti, Michele Amendola, 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:** 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.*

**Audience of Citizens**

*None*

*Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Susan Dean **SECONDED** a motion to add Old Business Item B: Budget Timeline Discussion. Motion passed 7-0-0 by the following votes:*

Michele Amendola	Absent	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	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**

*Sue Twachtman updated the Board. At the February 10, 2015 meeting of the Curriculum Council, Catherine Wendt and Beth Gagliardi, both of HKMS made a presentation about argument-based writing and debate. They attended a three-day institute at Teachers College on Argumentation. Argumentation is a life-long skill with applicability K-12 in any area of study. The goal of Argumentation is to learn and achieve different perspectives. Their presentation was followed by a School Round-Up where Principals and representatives from each school as well as Pupil Services and the Assistant Superintendent gave brief reports on the activities going on at each of their schools or in their departments.*

## **B. Curriculum Subcommittee**

*Dan Chase had no report.*

## **Old Business**

### **A. Renewal of Jumbo CD for Capital Account**

*Superintendent Thiery reintroduced several options for renewal of the \$500,000 of Capital Reserves being held in a Jumbo CD. The funds earned \$1,327.08 in interest over the past nine months at .35% interest. He suggested that the Board may want to consider what amount should be renewed and what term and whether or not it should include the interest earned over the previous nine months. The options include renewing for as few as three months at .08% interest to renewing for up to one year at .35% interest, yielding between approximately \$100.00 and \$1,750.00 in interest. Board member Dan Chase suggested that the Board consider some of the upcoming Capital Projects before determining whether or not to renew the Jumbo CD. The Board determined that the Jumbo CD renewal should be discussed at a future date.*

### **B. Budget Timeline Discussion**

*Board Chair Sue Twachtman introduced the Budget Timeline discussion. She said that in December, the Board reconsidered the Budget Timeline based on a request from the Haddam Selectwoman, Melissa Schlag to move the Joint Meeting of the Board of Education, Boards of Selectmen and Boards of Finance of Haddam and Killingworth to Haddam because it is held in Killingworth every year. The Board decided in December not to move the meeting because they felt that there are many budget-related meetings held in Haddam, including a Community Input session. Sue Twachtman said that Melissa Schlag has asked that the Board of Education consider her request again. The Board then talked about how having the Joint Meeting in Killingworth is balanced with having the Community Input Session in Haddam, along with several other budget meetings is balanced. The Board also expressed concerns regarding causing confusion to the public and discouraging people from attending by changing the location.*

## **New Business**

### **A. SBAC Presentation**

*Assistant Superintendent Dr. Holly Hageman presented a report "Smarter Balanced Assessments & Science CMT & CAPT Spring 2015 Update." The report included information on the Science CMT and Science CAPT tests as well as the Smarter Balanced Assessments and the testing timeframes for each test. Grades 5 and 8 will be taking the Science CMT on March 19<sup>th</sup> and Grade 10 will be taking the Science CAPT on March 11<sup>th</sup>. She also shared her plan for communication with families and provided additional information regarding the format of the SBAC Summative Assessments and the testing times and test sequencing. Smarter Balanced Online Testing in the areas of English-Language Arts (ELA) and Math will be done in Grades 3-8 and 11. For Grades 3 and 4, testing will take place incrementally between April 27 through mid-May, testing for Grades 5-8 will take place between April 21 and mid-May, and testing for Grade 11 will take place between April 27<sup>th</sup> and early-May. The SBAC Summative Assessments consists of Computer Adapted Tests (CAT) which*

*assess a full range of Common Core in ELA and Math and include a variety of question types and also contains Performance Tasks which include working on the tasks as a class during a class period and may include online research and reading of multiple texts. The SBAC Summative Assessment is untimed and do not need to be taken in one sitting, depending on the needs of the individual student. Both the ELA and Math portions of the SBAC Summative Assessment should each take approximately four hours, broken up into smaller increments for the CAT, Performance Task and classroom activities. The Board discussed the format of testing, testing windows and score reporting at length.*

## **From the Assistant Superintendent**

### **A. Curriculum Update**

*Assistant Superintendent Dr. Holly Hageman gave a brief update on curriculum including the areas of math, science, social studies and technology. Dr. Hageman reported that she has been working with elementary school principals and math coaches regarding the status of elementary math curriculum and they are looking to create a resource binders by units and sharing embedded resources aligned to learning outcomes. She is also working with the middle school on developing math curriculum for grades 5-8 and aligning grades 8 and 9 Algebra 1 curriculum. In the area of Science, she is also looking at ways to explore Project Lead the Way and STEM areas and infusing them at the elementary school level and what that would look like without a dedicated science teacher. In the area of Social Studies, she is looking with teachers at the newly adopted Social Studies Standards and two Social Studies teachers will be presenting on the new standards at the Curriculum Council meeting on March 10, 2015. For technology, Dr. Hageman reported that she will be reviewing technology grants submitted by other school districts to get a better idea of what other districts are asking for and receiving. Also, she has been exploring a web-based curriculum housing program called Atlas Curriculum Mapping by Rubicon International. She brought together a group of Principals, grade-level teachers and specials teachers for a presentation on the curriculum mapping program.*

### **Adjournment**

*Board Chair Twachtman called for the meeting to adjourn at 8:29 PM.*

*Respectfully submitted,*



*Larissa Johnson*

*Board Clerk*

Approval:  Date: 4-7-15  
Becky Valenti, Secretary