

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
February 3, 2015

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on February 3, 2015 in the Central Office Board Room. Board of Education Chair, Sue Twachtman, called the meeting to order at 7:34 PM.

Members Present: Dan Chase, Becky Valenti, Kathy Brown, Jeannie Young, Susan Dean, Amy Jacques-Purdy, Karen Perry (arrived at 8:04), and Sue Twachtman

Members Absent: Michele Amendola, Joel D'Angelo, and Brian Gamache

Also Present: Superintendent of Schools, Howard Thiery, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Holly Hageman, Director of Finance Martha Vaughn, Student Representatives Luke Ford and Lily Carmichael, and Board Clerk Larissa Johnson

Visitors: 6

Call to Order/Opening of Meeting

Board of Education Chair, Sue Twachtman called the meeting to order at 7:34 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Audience of Citizens

None

Approval of Minutes

- A. Approval of Minutes for the January 6, 2015 Board of Education Meeting
- B. Approval of Minutes for the January 8, 2015 Board of Education Special Meeting 010815A
- C. Approval of Minutes for the January 8, 2015 Board of Education Special Meeting 010815B
- D. Approval of Minutes for the January 20, 2015 Board of Education – Education Session 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	Absent	Amy Jacques-Purdy	YES <u>✓</u> NO <u> </u> A <u> </u>
Kathy Brown	YES <u>✓</u> NO <u> </u> A <u> </u>	Karen Perry	Absent
Dan Chase	YES <u>✓</u> NO <u> </u> A <u> </u>	Becky Valenti	YES <u>✓</u> NO <u> </u> A <u> </u>
Joel D'Angelo	Absent	Jeannie Young	YES <u>✓</u> NO <u> </u> A <u> </u>
Susan Dean	YES <u>✓</u> NO <u> </u> A <u> </u>	Sue Twachtman	YES <u>✓</u> NO <u> </u> A <u> </u>
Brian Gamache	Absent		

Report from Student Representatives

Lily Carmichael presented her report to the Board. She reported that this Saturday, February 7, 2015 is the Winter Wonderland Dance hosted by the Student Council and the French Honor Society will be offering food for everyone. She also reported that students in grades 9 through 11 are scheduling their classes for the 2015-2016 school year and that the registration can now be done online, which is new this year. She also reported that Girls' Basketball has four wins out of their last six games, Boys' Basketball has six wins and Wrestling has a record of 3-1 and will be hosting the Class S state Championship at HK February 20th-21st. She is reported

that the Swim team is in their first year in the SCC conference as an adjunct member and it is anticipated that they will have several all-state swimmers.

Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Susan Dean **SECONDED** a motion to move New Business Items 9.A and 9.B to follow the Report from Student Representatives. Motion passed 7-0-0 by the following votes:

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

New Business

A. Fiscal Year 2014 Audit Presentation by Michele Loso of Seward & Monde

Michele Loso of Seward & Monde presented the finance audit results summary. She said that it was an unmodified, clean opinion. No deficiencies were found and the district is in compliance with State and Federal audit requirements. She also commended the finance staff on their hard work and their responsiveness to requests made by auditors. She invited the Board to contact her with any further questions they might have once they have had the opportunity to review the full audit report.

B. HKHS Field Trip to Spain 2016

Juan Vazquez-Caballero and Corey Borzain presented the field trip to Spain proposed for AP Spanish students for the April 2016 break. Mr. Vazquez talked a little about Spain and the safety ratings of the country. The Board discussed this trip at some length regarding financial help for students with need, the nature of the tour and tour company and chaperones and the appropriate number of students for the trip.

Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Jeannie Young **SECONDED** a motion to approve the EF Tours Adventure Field Trip to Spain during the April 2016 vacation. Motion passed 7-0-0 by the following votes:

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

Board Committee Reports and Future Meetings

A. Facilities Subcommittee

Sue Twachtman updated the Board. The Facilities Subcommittee discussed the modular classrooms. They were offered to both towns and there was no interest. An advertisement will be placed in the paper to see if there is any interest in them. Removal of the buildings will be scheduled in early March if there is not outside interest in the modulares. She also reported that there have been issues with the boilers at HKHS. Three tubes have failed this heating system. They have been repaired and are working, however a more permanent solution needs to be found. It costs approximately \$23,000-\$27,000 to re-tube the boilers. The subcommittee also discussed converting the boilers from #4 heating oil to #2 heating oil which may also save the District money long-term. The subcommittee has been discussing an energy project with CREC, which would address both the boilers as well as the roof replacement at the HKHS.

B. Finance Subcommittee

Karen Perry updated the Board. The subcommittee listened to the audit presentation from Michele Loso of Seward and Monde. They also reviewed the monthly checks written over \$5,000, budget transfers and the General Fund Year-to-Date. The Bus Transportation RFP was posted on February 3 and a pre-bid meeting will be held on February 11, 2015. The subcommittee is also putting together an RFP for auditing services. The subcommittee also discussed the Jumbo CD in which the Board placed \$500,000 from the Capital Fund last year. It is expiring and the Board should consider whether they want the funds to roll-over or if they would like to withdraw them from the CD.

C. Policy Subcommittee

Amy Jacques-Purdy updated the Board. The subcommittee met on January 22, 2015. They are continuing their work on the 6000 series. They are currently working on a field trip chaperone policy.

D. Communications Subcommittee

Susan Dean updated the Board. The February Update was sent to the subcommittee to review before posting. The Board Handbook will be available in April. Susan Dean said that the subcommittee might like to have the Board Handbook posted on the District website as well as distribute copies to the Town Halls for reference by people who are considering running for the Board of Education.

E. Personnel and Evaluation Subcommittee

Karen Perry updated the Board. The subcommittee has not met and needs to set up future meetings.

Board Liaison Reports**A. Healthy Communities – Healthy Kids Council**

Susan Dean updated the Board. She reported that the Council had an interesting discussion on mental health and depression in students, as well as the importance of community and parents and recognizing the signs of depression and mental health concerns.

B. LEARN

Kathy Brown updated the Board. LEARN met on January 8th and the topics included outreach for Professional Development and an adaptive course for STEM for grades 3-6. She also said that Guilford is studying changing the start times for its school for its students to be more consistent with sleep patterns associated with the respective ages of the students.

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.

Old Business

A. HKEA Contract

Superintendent Thiery introduced the proposed HKEA Contract. He explained that it has been ratified by HKEA and that it has been going back and forth between the District's legal counsel and HKEA for contract language clarification and polishing. Karen Perry thanked all of the Board of Education members who served on the Personnel & Evaluation Subcommittee for their work.

*Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Becky Valenti **SECONDED** a motion to approve the HKEA Contract as presented. Motion passed 8-0-0 by the following votes:*

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

Consent Agenda

- A. Donation of \$293.00 from the HKMS PTO for the purchase of a bulletin board for the PhysEd Department. Submitted by Miriam Wagner, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth Middle School.
- B. Donation of \$285.00 from the National Science Teachers Association for use by the STEM Program at HKMS. Submitted by Miriam Wagner, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth Middle School.
- C. Donation of \$960.00 from General Mills for Box Tops collected by the HES PTO. Submitted by Bryan Kerachsky, Principal of Haddam Elementary School
- D. Donation of \$425.10 from General Mills for Box Tops collected by the Burr Library Assistant to be used by the library to purchase books. Submitted by Eric Larson, Principal of Burr District Elementary School.

*Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Karen Perry **SECONDED** a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion passed 8-0-0 by the following votes:*

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

New Business – Continued

C. Technology Grant

Superintendent Thiery explained that the District must seek Board approval to pursue a Technology Grant from the State of Connecticut to help fund costs incurred by the District for the implementation of SBAC testing. The District was a recipient of funds from this grant program last year for costs such as a wifi upgrade for the District as well as the purchase of laptops for elementary schools for use in testing. This year the grant will have a fund-matching component and the District will need some additional wifi upgrades as well as some additional adaptive technology for SBAC testing for students with special needs.

Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Becky Valenti **SECONDED** a motion to support the District's participation in the Connecticut Technology Grant program. Motion passed 8-0-0 by the following votes:

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

D. SSA Contract

Superintendent Thiery presented the SSA Contract. He explained that the Personnel and Evaluation Subcommittee negotiated the contract with the Support Services Association, which includes cafeteria workers, secretaries, and library media specialists. He said that the SSA met and ratified the contract this afternoon.

Becky Valenti **MOVED** and Amy Jacques-Purdy **SECONDED** a motion to approve the SSA Contract as presented. Motion passed 8-0-0 by the following votes:

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

E. Discussion & Possible Approval of Renewal of Jumbo CD for Capital Account

Director of Fiscal Operations Martha Vaughn presented 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. 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 \$100.00 and \$1,750.00 in interest. The Board briefly discussed this matter and determined that some additional time might be required to make a decision.

From the Superintendent

A. Legislative Update

Superintendent Thiery updated the Board. On January 16, Dr. Hageman, Sue Twachtman and Susan Dean attended the CAFE Legislative Breakfast. There is an upcoming meeting with Senator Kennedy and the Chairs of the Senate Education Committee. Superintendent Thiery said that he will be writing an update to the Board regarding some Senate bills that are currently being proposed and will be seeking input from the Board regarding a possible response.

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

Director of Fiscal Operations Martha Vaughn presented the Budget Transfers.

*Karen Perry **MOVED** and Amy Jacques-Purdy **SECONDED** a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion passed 8-0-0 by the following votes:*

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

From the Board Chair

Board Chair Sue Twachtman announced that there will be an election in November for new Board of Education members and wants to encourage members of the community to run for the position. She said that it requires a lot of time but is very rewarding and urges people who are interested to speak with their town committees.

Board Discussion – Areas of Opportunities for District Improvement

Karen Perry suggested that the Board consider looking at replacing the sod on the HKHS football field with turf, given that the price of turf has been falling and doing an analysis to see whether installing a turf field would be beneficial to the District.

Sue Twachtman also suggested that the Board look into having a demographic study performed as the current demographic study is aging out.

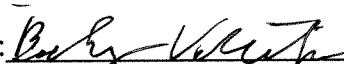
Adjournment

Board Chair Sue Twachtman called for the meeting to adjourn at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Larissa B. Johnson
Board Clerk

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