

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION – EDUCATION SESSION
January 20, 2015

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on January 20, 2015 in the Haddam-Killingworth Middle School Media Center. Board of Education Chair, Sue Twachtman, called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM.

Members Present: *Susan Dean, Becky Valenti, Jeannie Young, Dan Chase, Kathy Brown, Amy Jacques-Purdy, Michele Amendola (arrived at 7:35), Karen Perry (arrived at 7:45) and Sue Twachtman*

Members Absent: *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: *4*

Call to Order/Opening of Meeting

Board of Education Chair, Sue Twachtman called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Audience of Citizens

Earle Decker of Higganum addressed the Board. Mr. Decker inquired whether the bus service request for proposal has gone out yet. Superintendent Thiery responded that it is being revised and will be available later this week.

Board Liaison Reports

A. Curriculum Council Update

Susan Dean updated the Board. She reported that Heather Rigatti made a presentation about the Smarter Balanced Digital Library. She said that teachers can register and get more information. She also reported that Jason Leavings and Heather Tooker presented a new edition of the Honors Chemistry textbook for consideration by the Council. Updates regarding curriculum were also given by each school as well as Pupil Services, the Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent.

B. Curriculum Subcommittee

Dan Chase updated the Board. He reported that the Subcommittee met last on January 15, 2015. A presentation on the new courses and textbooks discussed is listed on the Board agenda for this meeting.

Old Business

A. High School Graduation Policy

Amy Jacques-Purdy re-introduced the High School Graduation Requirements Policy and Weighted Grades and Statewide Proficiency/Mastery Examinations. She reviewed the changes made since the last meeting, such as the inclusion of a GPA scale chart. The Board discussed the GPA Scale chart at some length and determined that it may want to further review the GPA Scale and Weighted Grading policies before approval. The Board discussed this at length.

*Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Dan Chase **SECONDED** a motion to approve the High School Graduation Requirements Policy 6146. Motion passed 9-0-0 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	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. HKEA Contract

Superintendent Thiery updated the Board. The HKEA contract should be ready for the Board to review at the next Board meeting.

New Business

A. New Course and Textbook Proposals (HKHS)

Dan Chase presented the proposed Astronomy textbook, ASTRO, published in 2014. Astronomy is an elective science course open to Grades 10-12. The teacher has not been using a textbook, but primary resources for course materials. The new textbook will be used as a classroom resource to provide basic astronomic information. The textbook is estimated to cost approximately \$63.75 per book. The Board briefly discussed this class and textbook, as well as science textbook pricing in general.

*Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Susan Dean **SECONDED** a motion to approve the proposal to adopt the ASTRO 2014 edition textbook for the HKHS Astronomy class. Motion passed 9-0-0 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	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						

Dan Chase presented the proposed UCONN Environmental Science textbook, Environmental Science for AP. UCONN Environmental Science is an elective science course open to Grades 11-12 for which students can obtain college credit. This textbook would replace a textbook from 2007 that is currently in use. The new textbook is one of the textbooks recommended by UCONN for use with this course. A 2015 edition is currently in print and will be available for next year's course offering. The textbook is estimated to cost approximately \$170.00 per book. The Board briefly discussed this textbook.

Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Susan Dean **SECONDED** a motion to approve the proposal to adopt the Environmental Science for AP 2015 edition textbook for the HKHS UCONN Environmental Science class. Motion passed 9-0-0 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	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		

Dan Chase presented the proposed Project Lead the Way: Computer Science and Software Engineering course for HKHS. The course will be a year-long course available to students in Grades 10-12. Region 17 offers several Project Lead the Way courses and all course curriculum materials would be provided by Project Lead the Way. The teacher who will be teaching this course will need to attend training at a cost of approximately \$3,062.00 including travel expenses. The Board briefly discussed this course.

Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Susan Dean **SECONDED** a motion to approve the Computer Science and Engineering class under the Project Lead the Way umbrella as presented. Motion passed 9-0-0 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	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		

Dan Chase then presented the proposed Project Lead the Way: Biological Engineering (BioE) course for HKHS. The course will be available to students in Grades 10-12 who have taken Biology or an Environmental Science course. There will be some additional equipment required for the course, which may cost up to \$7,000.00, however the Science Department feels confident they will be able to use a lot of equipment they already have on hand. Annual costs for materials may be approximately \$1,000. The teacher who will be teaching this course will need to attend training at a cost of approximately \$3,000.00 including travel expenses. The Board briefly discussed this course.

Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Susan Dean **SECONDED** a motion to approve the Computer Science and Engineering class under the Project Lead the Way umbrella as presented. Motion passed 9-0-0 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	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		

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Larissa B. Johnson

Larissa B. Johnson
Board Clerk

Approval: *Becky Valenti* Date: 2 - 3 - 15
Becky Valenti, Secretary