

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
January 6, 2015**

*A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on January 6, 2015 in the Central Office Board Room. Board of Education Chair, Sue Twachtman, called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM.*

**Members Present:** Dan Chase, Becky Valenti, Joel D'Angelo, Karen Perry, Kathy Brown, Michele Amendola, Susan Dean, Amy Jacques-Purdy, and Sue Twachtman

**Members Absent:** Jeannie Young and Brian Gamache

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

**Visitors:** 5

**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**

*None*

**Approval of Minutes**

**A.** Approval of Minutes for the December 16, 2014 Board of Education Meeting

*Becky Valenti **MOVED** and Amy Jacques-Purdy **SECONDED** a motion to approve the minutes 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	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	Jeannie Young	Absent		
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 and Lily Carmichael presented their report to the Board. Lily Carmichael reported that tomorrow is Alumni Day at the high school, where recent graduates of HKHS return to the high school to talk to seniors about the college application process and the college experience. They also talk with juniors about starting the college application process early. Luke Ford reported that the Boys' Basketball Team is 2-3, the Girls' Basketball Team is 2-6, Ice Hockey is 0-3, and Swimming, Track and Wrestling are working towards their big meets later in the season. Lily Carmichael also reported that midterms begin on January 20<sup>th</sup>. Each midterm is two-hours long and there is early dismissal that week for all high school students.*

Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Susan Dean **SECONDED** a motion to move New Business Item 9.A to follow the Report from Student Representatives. 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	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	Jeannie Young	Absent		
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. High School Graduation Period

Superintendent Thiery presented the proposed revised High School Graduation Requirements and Grading and Assessment Systems policies, 6146(a)-6146.2(a). The policy was changed to align with new state requirements and will effect incoming students, not current seniors and juniors. The Board discussed the changes at some length. Some of the key changes were that the total credits for Physical Education required for graduation are 1.5, however .5 may be waived for participation in a team sport. They also added the requirement of 30 hours of community service, which has been in practice but was not specified in the policy. Additionally, they added an allowance for credit for courses taken at the middle school level which are curricularly aligned to the equivalent high school course, such as Algebra 1. The Board also discussed the Weighted Quality Points of grades, and the Board requested that this be further explained in the policy in preparation for the second reading.

## Board Committee Reports and Future Meetings

### A. Facilities Subcommittee

Dan Chase updated the Board. The subcommittee discussed the modular buildings at length and considered space assessments and reviewed estimates on the cost of maintenance versus the demolition and disposal and also discussed their removal plan for the modular units.

### B. Finance Subcommittee

Joel D'Angelo updated the Board. The subcommittee reviewed the General Fund year-to-date and also vendor checks to be issued over \$5000. The subcommittee also had a long discussion regarding the Request for Proposal for Transportation.

### C. Policy Subcommittee

Amy Jacques-Purdy reported that the subcommittee did not meet.

### D. Communications Subcommittee

Susan Dean updated the Board. The subcommittee did not meet, however a Board Update went out for December and the subcommittee has been working continuously on the Board Handbook.

### E. Personnel and Evaluation Subcommittee

Karen Perry reported that the subcommittee has not met.

## Board Liaison Reports

### A. Healthy Communities – Healthy Kids Council

Susan Dean updated the Board. She reported that they haven't had a meeting since her last report, however HKYFS and Healthy Communities-Healthy Kids Council were active in the HKTV

*Holiday Show and will be handling the funds on behalf of the family. She said that the HKTV Holiday Show surpassed its fundraising goal of \$20,000.*

**B. LEARN**

*Kathy Brown had no report.*

**C. Parks & Recreation**

*No report.*

**D. Haddam Board of Selectmen**

*Becky Valenti had no report.*

**E. Killingworth Board of Selectmen**

*No report.*

**Old Business**

*None*

**Consent Agenda**

*None*

**New Business – Continued**

**B. Modular Buildings at HES and KES**

*Dan Chase presented a proposal for the disposal of the modular buildings at Haddam Elementary School and Killingworth Elementary School. The Board discussed a plan for offering the buildings to each town and its affiliated in the district, and then offering them for sale should the towns not be interested. Should the buildings not be sold or removed at the expense of an interested buyer, the Board would then have the buildings demolished and the site remediated. The Board also discussed how the buildings were currently being used and how it would impact the Killingworth Library who is currently storing books in one of the modular buildings. The subcommittee would like to have the modular units removed over the summer at the latest.*

*Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Becky Valenti **SECONDED** a motion to approve the removal of the five portable classrooms at Killingworth Elementary School and two portable classrooms at Haddam Elementary School and the remediation of the sites. 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	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Jeannie Young	Absent
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		

**C. Transportation RFP**

Joel D'Angelo and Superintendent Thiery presented the Transportation Request for Proposal. Superintendent Thiery explained how they arrived at the format and outlined some of the content of the RFP. Superintendent Thiery explained that the District declined to use a transportation consultant due to cost and the availability of transportation RFP examples available on the Connecticut Association of School Business Officials website, and the Superintendent was able to create an RFP off of those examples with support of the Finance Subcommittee. Superintendent Thiery explained some of the points of the RFP and its structure, including wage scale and contracts for drivers, the hiring of current drivers for the District under the new contract, the use of the District fuel, and notification to the Superintendent of transportation-related incidents and accidents. The Board will be able to further negotiate the contract beyond the specifications of the RFP once a vendor is selected. The Board discussed the RFP at some length.

**D. HKEA Contract**

Superintendent Thiery stated that the District and HKEA reached a tentative agreement in December for the new teachers' union contract. He explained that a final version is still being drafted by HKEA with the assistance of the District attorney. He said he would further explain the contract to the Board during Executive Session have the contract prepared for the Education Session meeting in January for consideration of the Board.

**E. Board Handbook**

Susan Dean presented the Board Handbook. Susan explained that the Communications Subcommittee wanted to create this handbook so that prospective Board members, new Board members and even current Board members would have a reference for Board responsibilities and expectations. She noted some minor corrections that need to be made before publication. She thanked Kathy Brown, Sue Twachtman, and Michele Amendola for their help in putting the handbook together and its editing.

Becky Valenti **MOVED** and Joel D'Angelo **SECONDED** a motion to accept the Board Handbook with any minor edits as required. 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	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	Jeannie Young	Absent		
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						

**From the Superintendent**

**A. Legislative Update**

Superintendent Thiery updated the Board. He mentioned there is a Legislative Breakfast taking place later this month.

**B. Personnel Report**

Superintendent Thiery presented the Personnel Report.

**C. Enrollment Report**

Superintendent Thiery presented the Enrollment Report.

**From the Director of Fiscal Operations**

*No discussion.*

**From the Board Chair**

*None*

**Board Discussion – Areas of Opportunities for District Improvement**

*Karen Perry mentioned that former First Selectman Paul DeStefano passed away on December 26, 2014. She said that he was always very supportive of the school district and Howard Thiery said that the District lost a terrific partner. Sue Twachtman added that he was a good man and that he will be missed by the District.*

**Adjournment**

*Karen Perry **MOVED** and Susan Dean **SECONDED** a motion to adjourn to Executive Session for the purposes of negotiations and student matters. Motion passed 9-0-0 by the following votes:*

Michele Amendola	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u>   </u>	A <u>   </u>	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	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u>   </u>	A <u>   </u>
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	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u>   </u>	A <u>   </u>	Jeannie Young	Absent		
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						

*The Board went into Executive Session at 8:39 PM.*

*The Board returned from Executive Session at 8:58 PM and Board Chair Sue Twachtman called for the meeting to adjourn.*

*Respectfully submitted,*



Larissa B. Johnson  
Board Clerk

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