

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
December 16, 2014**

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on December 16, 2014 in the Haddam-Killingworth Middle School Lower Media Center. Board of Education Chair, Sue Twachtman, called the meeting to order at 7:37 PM.

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

Members Absent: Amy Jacques-Purdy and Brian Gamache

Also Present: Superintendent of Schools, Howard Thiery, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, Dr. Holly Hageman, Director of Finance Martha Vaughn, 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 7:37 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

A moment of silence was observed in recognition of the tragedy in Newtown, Connecticut in 2012.

Audience of Citizens

None

Approval of Minutes

- A.** Approval of Minutes for the November 4, 2014 Board of Education Meeting
- B.** Approval of Minutes for the November 18, 2014 Board of Education – Education Session Meeting
- C.** Approval of Minutes for the November 24, 2014 Board of Education Special Meeting

*Becky Valenti **MOVED** and Susan Dean **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	Absent
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	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		

Report from Student Representatives

Luke Ford and Lily Carmichael presented their report to the Board. Lily reported that the HKTV Holiday Show will be broadcasted live on Tuesday from 8:00 AM to 11:30 AM. This year's benefactor is Amanda Lisitano, a Haddam-Killingworth High School graduate from the class of 1997. She still resides in Higganum with her three children. This summer, she was diagnosed with Stage 4 colon cancer. The mission of the

Holiday Show is to help her family with medical expenses not covered by insurance and to ease the burden of living expenses. She also said that in homeroom, they will be selling wristbands and having a car drive to support Amanda. She encouraged everyone to watch the broadcast.

Luke reported that the National Honors Society Induction will be held on Wednesday at 3:00 PM in the HKHS Library. He said that it is a nice ceremony and they decorate the Library and added that current members write speeches for new inductees.

Karen Perry **MOVED** and Susan Dean **SECONDED** a motion to move New Business Item 9-A and Item 9-B 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	Absent
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	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		

New Business

A. Dedication of Middle School Auditorium

Superintendent Thiery presented the proposal to dedicate the Middle School Auditorium to Miriam Furey-Wagner. He said that full credit should be given to the Middle School faculty who planned Mim's retirement party. He is grateful for them bringing the idea forward and is bringing it to the Board for their consideration.

Susan Dean made the following **MOTION**:

In recognition of Mim Wagner's 20 years of dedicated service to Regional School District 17, the last 16 years as Principal of Haddam-Killingworth Middle School during which she played a critical role in the design and construction of the new Middle School while setting the highest standard of integrity and leadership and leading Haddam-Killingworth Middle School to the highest student achievement levels in the state, I move to name the Haddam-Killingworth Middle School Auditorium the Miriam Furey-Wagner Auditorium.

Becky Valenti **SECONDED**. 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	Absent
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	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 Chair Sue Twachtman addressed Principal Wagner and said, the Board of Education couldn't be happier to name the auditorium in your honor and thanked her for her dedication and leadership over the years.

B. HKMS Construction Fund Close-Out

Superintendent Thiery presented the Haddam-Killingworth Middle School Construction Fund Close-Out and explained that the fund must be used to address needs as the building is constructed and can also be used to spend down the bond used for the construction of the building at the project's end. The current balance of the HKMS Construction Fund is \$82,768.49. HKMS Principal Mim Wagner and Director of Facilities Mike Distefano presented a list of items requested to be

purchased from the Middle School Construction Fund, including chairs, conference tables, outdoor lunch tables, benches, bleachers, a wrestling mat lift and repairs to cracked floors for a total sum of \$73,641.94. The anticipated remaining balance after these expenditures would be \$9,126.55. The items proposed were incorporated into the original design of the building and were included on the original FFE list.

*Karen Perry **MOVED** and Jeannie Young **SECONDED** a motion to expend funds of \$73,641.94 as proposed from the Middle School Construction Fund and allocate the remaining balance of the fund to pay-down the bond on the Middle School building. 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	Absent
Kathy Brown	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	Karen Perry	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dan Chase	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	Becky Valenti	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Joel D'Angelo	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	Jeannie Young	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Susan Dean	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	Sue Twachtman	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Brian Gamache	Absent				

Board Committee Reports and Future Meetings

A. Facilities Subcommittee

Dan Chase updated the Board. He reported that the subcommittee had an extensive conversation about modular buildings at Haddam Elementary and Killingworth Elementary. He explained that currently, there are two modular units at HES and five units at KES. Each unit costs approximately \$2,500 per year for maintenance and upkeep. There are also some modular units at Burr Elementary, however they are occupied. It is also anticipated that the modular units at HES and KES will be needing new roofs at a cost of approximately \$10,000 and \$16,000 respectively. He said that the Facilities Subcommittee would like to have modular units removed and offer them to the towns first, sell them if the towns have no interest, or have them removed for the school campuses. The cost of removal and demolition is estimated at approximately \$5,000 per unit. The Subcommittee proposed that the matter be brought before the Board officially in January. He said that the subcommittee reviewed space utilization charts which he would share with the full Board as well.

Dan Chase also reported that the subcommittee discussed the various proposals from CREC regarding the replacement of the roof at HKHS, as well as the possibility of upgrading to more energy-efficient equipment and fixtures, such as the installation of solar panels, exterior lighting upgrades, power transformer upgrades and boiler upgrades. There was also discussion around what CREC's level of involvement would be, as they offer project management services and consultations.

B. Finance Subcommittee

Joel D'Angelo updated the Board. The subcommittee reviewed the general fund year-to-date and the year-end projections, as well as vendor checks cut over \$5000 and accounts payable checks. The subcommittee also discussed the results of the liability insurance broker RFP that was published on November 21, 2014. The only respondent was Willis, the District's current liability insurance broker. They proposed a four-year contract renewal at an annual rate of \$40,000 which the subcommittee recommended the Board accept, as Willis has done a good job representing the District, finding competitive insurance carriers and advocating for the District on claims.

Karen Perry **MOVED** and Jeannie Young **SECONDED** a motion to select Willis as insurance broker as proposed in response to the RFP through 2018-2019. 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	Absent
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	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		

C. Policy Subcommittee

Superintendent Thiery updated the Board. The subcommittee worked on graduation requirements for high school graduation. He said that there weren't a lot of changes but that it had to be adjusted to new state requirements, however it would need to be presented to the Board for approval because the policy will affect course selection for students in the spring.

D. Communications Subcommittee

Susan Dean updated the Board. The subcommittee meeting which would normally take place this evening was cancelled. Susan distributed a copy of a draft of the "Board Handbook" for the Board to review. She thanked Michele and Kathy for their input and revisions. She is waiting for additional suggestions or changes from the Board and would like the handbook to be presented for approval in January.

E. Personnel and Evaluation Subcommittee

Karen Perry updated the Board. She reported that the subcommittee met has met a couple of times for the purposes of negotiations with the Support Services union and the Teachers union.

F. Curriculum Subcommittee

Dan Chase updated the Board. He reported that the subcommittee has not met, but they are planning to meet in January.

Board Liaison Reports

A. Healthy Communities – Healthy Kids Council

Susan Dean updated the Board. Susan was unable to attend the November meeting but did attend the Pancake Breakfast and had an opportunity to chat with the Haddam First Selectwoman. She said that the next meeting will be at the High School Lower Media Center on Thursday at 8:00 AM.

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

Jeannie Young had no report.

F. Curriculum Council

Sue Twachtman updated the Board. She reported that it was a great meeting and summarized the minutes from the meeting for the Board. Dr. Holly Hageman introduced herself at meeting and discussed her entry plan. Also there were two presentations of proposed textbooks for the high school. The first was a new textbook for the Astronomy course titled, "ASTRO: Introductory Astronomy" by Seeds and Backman and a new textbook for the UCONN Environment Science course titled, "Environmental Science for AP" by Friedland and Reylea. The presentations were followed by the Round-Up, where the Principal of each school and Pupil Services gave an update..

Old Business

None

Consent Agenda

- A.** Donation of Native American Artifacts to BES from Mrs. Rose Lovely in memory of Bob Pollack.
- B.** Donation of \$1250.00 from the HKMS PTO to HKMS to offset the cost of Grade 5 Field Trips.

*Susan Dean **MOVED** and Joel D'Angelo **SECONDED** a motion to approve Consent Agenda Item A: donation of Native American artifacts to BES from Mrs. Rose Lovely in memory of Bob Pollack and Item B: donation of \$1250.00 from the HKMS PTO to HKMS to offset the cost of Grade 5 Field Trips. Motion passed 10-0-0 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	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		

New Business – Continued

- C.** 2015-2016 Budget Time Line Revision

Superintendent Thiery presented the revision to the 2015-2016 Budget Timeline, proposing the date of the Community Input Session and Budget Workshop be changed from Wednesday, March 18, 2015 to Tuesday, March 17, 2015.

*Karen Perry **MOVED** and Jeannie Young **SECONDED** a motion to approve the 2015-2016 Budget Timeline revision 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	Absent
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	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		

From the Superintendent

A. Legislative Update

Superintendent Thiery updated the Board. He reported that the regional Superintendent's Association is working on putting together a Legislative Breakfast. He also attended a LEARN meeting last week regarding the planning of a state-required common calendar which would go into effect for the 2016-2017 school year. He also said that the naming of an Interim State Board of Education Commissioner is anticipated. Also, at this time, no new legislation is being considered however, State Senator Linares is encouraging the District to bring forward ideas for new legislation.

B. Personnel Report

Superintendent Thiery presented the Personnel Report. He noted that it has been a busy hiring season and there have been some recent movements. The Board briefly discussed the 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

Michele Amendola presented a Junior Firefighter Recognition Proposal. Michele gave an overview and explained the training and the commitment many of our students make to becoming Junior Firefighters and emergency responders. She proposed that the Board establish an annual Board of Education celebration of these students' accomplishments and suggested that the celebration be held in April or May at an Education Session meeting. The Board briefly discussed the proposal and discussed having a celebration this school year in April or May and then possibly moving the celebration to the fall to correspond with the national fire prevention awareness month.

*Joel D'Angelo **MOVED** and Becky Valenti **SECONDED** a motion to set up a time in April or May to recognize Junior Firefighters in the District. 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	Absent
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	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

*Karen Perry **MOVED** and Jeannie Young **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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	Amy Jacques-Purdy	Absent
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	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				

The Board went into Executive Session at 8:49 PM.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 9:20 PM and Board Chair Sue Twachtman called for the meeting to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,



Larissa B. Johnson
Board Clerk

Approval: Becky Valenti Date: Jan 6 19
Becky Valenti, Secretary