

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION – EDUCATION SESSION
October 21, 2014

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on October 21, 2014 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, Joel D'Angelo, Jeannie Young, Michele Amendola, Brian Gamache, Kathy Brown, Amy Jacques-Purdy, and Sue Twachtman*

Members Absent: *Becky Valenti, Dan Chase, and Karen Perry*

Also Present: *Superintendent of Schools, Howard Thiery and Board Clerk, Larissa Johnson*

Visitors: *17*

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.

Board Chair Twachtman announced that the HKYFS Pumpkin Run will be held on October 26, 2014. Superintendent Thiery added that the goal is to have 150 registered runners participating in the event.

Board Liaison Reports

A. Curriculum Council Update

Susan Dean updated the Board.

B. Curriculum Subcommittee

No update.

Old Business

None

New Business

A. Continuous Improvement Plan - Presentation

Superintendent Thiery introduced the Continuous Improvement Plan. He explained that it is the second part of a two-part presentation. The first part is a presentation on Achievement presented in September. He explained that this strategic planning process is part of a long-term strategic plan and is more adaptive based on core Board values and goals. Both long-term and short-term goals are included in the strategic plan. This process allows for the administration to review their techniques and methods and drop techniques that aren't working. He then presented the RSD 17 Continuous Improvement Overview. He stated the RSD 17 mission and gave an overview of Continuous Improvement, elaborating on how he and district administrators drawn upon the mission in their goal setting for their continuous improvement plans. He also shared the district continuous improvement logo and previewed the areas for student achievement goals and community relations and partnerships.

For Student Achievement Goals, Superintendent Thiery outlined several goals in the areas of reading, writing, mathematics and career and college readiness. Many of the goals centered around having 100% of students reach grade-level proficiency for literacy and numeracy. Superintendent Thiery explained that these are long-term goals which will set an obligation administrators and teachers to help students who are not meeting grade-level standards and will not only encourage improvement at grade level, but also growth for every child. Goals also focused on post graduate experiences and college acceptances, including increasing the percentage of students receiving acceptances to Tier 1 and Tier 2 colleges, and 100% of HKHS students having a post-graduate experience prior to graduation. Superintendent Thiery then outlined the strategies for how to achieve these goals. Board members asked questions regarding the percentages of students meeting grade-level expectations and discussed the intentions of the goals as being long-term objectives briefly.

For Community Relations and Partnership Goals, Superintendent Thiery outlined several goals surrounding increasing opportunities for communication with the community, increasing district partnerships and increasing community access and awareness of school programming and instruction. He then outlined strategies for how to achieve these goals.

Killingworth Elementary School Principal Dennis Reed, Haddam Elementary School Principal Bryan Kerachsky, and Burr Elementary School Principal Eric Larson presented the Continuous Improvement Plan for the elementary school level. Goals were presented in the areas of Literacy, Writing, Numeracy and Building Community and supported with an action plan and progress monitoring for each goal area. Board members asked about how the expectations for students to build stamina in all areas of their education impact the students' quality of life as children and Principal Larson explained that many of these strategies help the students develop a love of reading and writing, and that often when he visits classrooms, students don't want to stop their current lesson in order to move on to the next lesson.

Principal Miriam Furey-Wagner and Assistant Principal Ryan Mackenzie presented Haddam-Killingworth Middle School 2014-2015 Continuous Improvement Plan with goals for Literacy, Writing, Numeracy and Community. For each goal, the background, goal, action plan and progress monitoring were presented.

Principal Donna Hayward presented the Haddam-Killingworth High School 2014-2015 Continuous Improvement Plan with goals for Student Achievement, Literacy, Numeracy and Community. For each goal, the background, goal, action plan and progress monitoring were presented.

Tracy Whaples, Director of Pupil Services presented the Pupil Services Continuous Improvement Plan. The goal for Pupil Services is to create, implement and maintain the highest quality student support services given our changing populations. She identified strategies and an

action plan on three target levels: students, teachers and community and progress monitoring points for each of those strategies.

Superintendent Thiery made closing remarks stating that there is a through line of continuity but also an individualization at each level with the goals set for continuous improvement. He said that he invites anyone who is interested to come to the schools to see what's going on, just let the administrators know that you are interested in coming.

Board Chair Twachtman thanked everyone for their presentation and made additional closing remarks on the presentations.

Adjournment

Board Chair Twachtman called for the meeting to adjourn at 9:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Larissa B. Johnson

Board Clerk

Approval: Becky Valenti Date: 11-4-14
Becky Valenti, Secretary