

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
April 1, 2014

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on April 1, 2014 in the Central Office Board Room. Board of Education Chair, Sue Twachtman, called the meeting to order at 7:36 PM.

Members Present: Amy Jacques-Purdy, Susan Dean, Kathy Brown, Becky Valenti, Karen Perry, Dan Chase, Jeannie Young, and Sue Twachtman

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

Also Present: Superintendent of Schools, Howard Thiery, Director of Finance Martha Vaughn, Luke Ford, Gwendolyn Plum and Interim Board Clerk Dawn MacLeod

Visitors: 6

Call to Order/Opening of Meeting

Board of Education Chair, Sue Twachtman called the meeting to order at 7:36 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Audience of Citizens

None

Approval of Minutes

- A. Approval of Minutes for the February 25, 2014 Board of Education – Education Subcommittee Meeting**
- B. Approval of Minutes for the March 4, 2014 Board of Education Special Meeting**
- C. Approval of Minutes for the March 4, 2014 Board of Education Meeting**
- D. Approval of Minutes for the March 10, 2014 Board of Education Special Meeting**
- E. Approval of Minutes for the March 12, 2014 Board of Education Special Meeting Joint Meeting with the Selectmen and Boards of Finance of the Towns of Haddam and Killingworth**
- F. Approval of Minutes for the March 12, 2014 Board of Education Special Meeting**

*Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Becky Valenti **SECONDED** a motion to approve the minutes from the meetings held February 25, 2014 through March 12, 2014 as presented with the following amendment to the thirteenth paragraph on the March 12, 2014 Boards of Finance and Selectmen of the Towns of Haddam and Killingworth meeting minutes.*

“Haddam Board of Finance member Joanne Nesti asked if staffing will return on the retired positions. Superintendent Thiery stated that all but 4.5 FTE’s will return next year.”

Motion passed 8-0-0 by the following votes:

Michele Amendola	Absent	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		

Report from Student Representatives

Student Representatives Luke Ford and Gwendolyn Plum gave their reports to the Board. Luke Ford stated that the Swing 14 Jazz Choir and G7 groups performed at the Haddam Senior Center singing songs from the 1930's to today's hits. Gwen Plum talked about the Moody's Mega Math Challenge Senior Team that advanced in competition. The Team has advanced to the second round. Only 200 of the 1,152 teams were chosen to advance to the second round. Gwen discussed the senior advisory group is starting their "Spring into Service" project which includes growing organic plant seedlings in the greenhouse and selling them and use the proceeds to buy Socks for Soldiers. Gwen also stated that Mrs. Siciliano's food service classes have been guests on Channel 8 CT Styles demonstrating their culinary skills preparing dishes such as exploding chicken taquitos. Gwen reminded everyone of the College Fair that will be held at the high school on Wednesday, April 9, 2014 from 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM hosting approximately 120 colleges.

Board Committee Reports and Future Meetings

A. Facilities and Transportation Subcommittee

Amy Jacques-Purdy updated the Board. She said that the committee discussed the modular classrooms at Haddam Elementary School and their uses. She talked about the additional parking lot at HES that will include 20 additional spaces. She stated that the carpet project will be done at the high school during April vacation and the tile project at Haddam Elementary School will be done during the summer. She stated that the committee discussed the list of needs for summer that will be composed during the April break. The next meeting will be May 6, 2014.

B. Finance Subcommittee

Martha Vaughn updated the Board. She stated that the committee reviewed the General Fund finance report and March checks that were processed. She stated that the year end process has begun looking into open purchase orders. The next meeting will be May 6, 2014.

C. Policy Subcommittee

Amy Jacques-Purdy reported that the subcommittee did not meet. The next meeting is to be determined.

D. Communications Subcommittee

Susan Dean updated the Board. She said that the committee sent out the March update. She stated that the next Community Conversation would be on Saturday, April 26, 2014 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. She talked about the districts Facebook site and read the "likes" and was impressed with Joanne Siciliano's cooking service class that prepared the exploding chicken taquitos. The next meeting will be April 22, 2014.

E. Personnel and Evaluation Subcommittee

Karen Perry updated the Board. She said that the committee was discussing the high school principal hiring process. The next meeting will be April 10, 2014.

Board Liaison Reports

A. Healthy Communities – Healthy Kids Council

Susan Dean updated the Board. She stated that "Drug Back Day" will be on Saturday, April 26, 2014 at the Killingworth Pharmacy. Prescription medications can be disposed of at that time. She stated that the Pancake Breakfast had a good turnout. The next meeting will be April 10, 2014 in the lower media room of the high school.

B. LEARN

Kathy Brown updated the Board. She stated that Learn just approved their budget. She talked about the Ever Increasing Burden on America's Public Schools by Jamie Robert Vollmer. It is a guideline of how the Public Schools evolved from the early 1900's to the twenty-first century.

C. Parks & Recreation

No report.

D. Haddam Board of Selectmen

Becky Valenti had no report.

E. Killingworth Board of Selectmen

Jeannie Young updated the Board. She said that the community has a concern about the security of students during polling hours at the Killingworth Elementary School. She said that Killingworth's town selectwoman Catherine Iino has set funds aside to cover the cost of a Trooper during polling hours.

Old Business

A. Bus Contract Proposal

Board Chair, Sue Twachtman updated the community on the bus contract proposal. Superintendent Thiery explained that the current bus contract expires in April of 2015. He stated that most school districts bus contracts expire at the end of June. He asked the Board for permission to go into negotiations to extend the bus contract and close the gap between April 2015 and the end of June 2015. The Board will discuss the bus proposal beyond June 2015 in the future.

*Karen Perry **MOVED** and Amy Jacques-Purdy **SECONDED** a motion to authorize Superintendent Thiery to enter into negotiations with the bus company to extend the contract year to the end of the school year, which will close the gap of April 2015 to June 2015. Motion passed 8-0-0 by the following votes:*

Michele Amendola	Absent	Amy Jacques-Purdy	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Kathy Brown	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Karen Perry	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Dan Chase	YES <input checked="" 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"/>	Sue Twachtman	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Brian Gamache	Absent				

Consent Agenda

- A. Acceptance of a donation from an anonymous donor, totaling \$15.00 to be applied to HKHS Athletic programs.
- B. Acceptance of a donation of mini-grant from the University of New Haven of \$250.00. The grant is for students participating in the Project Lead the Way College Credit Program. Funds from the grant can only be used to enhance the PLTW Program. Submitted by Charles Macunas, Principal of the Haddam-Killingworth High School.
- C. Acceptance of a donation from the HKMS PTO in the amount of \$1,200.00. These funds are to be used to pay the Community Week speaker, Scott Driscoll of Internet Safety Concepts, for two scheduled presentations on 4.28.14. Submitted by Miriam Wagner, Principal of the Haddam-Killingworth Middle School.

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

Michele Amendola	Absent	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		

New Business

A. HK Cubs Day Care

Board Chair, Sue Twachtman introduced the Director of the HK Cubs Daycare, Kelly Pedersen. Ms. Pedersen made a presentation of the daycare. She discussed the tuition scale and the registration procedure. She stated that the daycare should be self-funded but hasn't been able to meet the independent obligation due to lack of enrollment based on the customer scope. She concluded that the daycare could be self-funded when the enrollment is full. The Board briefly discussed options to increase revenue for the daycare.

Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Susan Dean **SECONDED** a motion to extend the Day Care enrollment to a final "tier" to include the community as a whole after the lower tiers are exhausted. Motion passed 8-0-0 by the following votes:

Michele Amendola	Absent	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. Middle School Field Irrigation

Amy Jacques-Purdy updated the Board of the Middle School field engineering fees for the irrigation bid. The original bid came in at \$17,000.00 then was negotiated down to \$9,850.00.

Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Sue Twachtman **SECONDED** a motion to approve \$9,850.00 for the reduced engineering fees for the irrigation project at the Middle School to be paid for out of the HKMS Building Project Funds. Motion passed 7-1-0 by the following votes:

Michele Amendola	Absent	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 type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" 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		

C. Middle School disposal of old uniforms

Middle School Assistant Principal Neil English and teacher Michelle Ouellette presented an opportunity for the Middle School to promote school spirit during Community Week as well as dispose of old uniforms stored in closets. They would like to sell the old uniform shirts for \$1.00 and

old uniform shorts for \$.50 each. Students can wear the old uniforms as spirit gear during the pep rally during Community Week. The proceeds will defray cost of activities during Community Week.

Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Susan Dean **SECONDED** a motion to allow the Middle School to sell the old uniforms for \$1.00 to students during Community Week. Motion passed 8-0-0 by the following votes:

Michele Amendola	Absent	Amy Jacques-Purdy	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Kathy Brown	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Karen Perry	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Dan Chase	YES <input checked="" 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"/>	Sue Twachtman	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Brian Gamache	Absent				

D. State Flexibility for Teacher Evaluation System

Superintendent Thiery updated the Board of State Flexibility for teacher evaluations.

Karen Perry **MOVED** and Becky Valenti **SECONDED** a motion to approve the guidelines for Flexibility for the Teacher Evaluation System to include the guidelines of one student objective goal instead of three, tenured teachers will be doing one formal observation and multiple informal observations, and non-tenured teachers will be doing three formal observations and multiple informal observations. Motion passed 8-0-0 by the following votes:

Michele Amendola	Absent	Amy Jacques-Purdy	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Kathy Brown	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Karen Perry	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Dan Chase	YES <input checked="" 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"/>	Sue Twachtman	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Brian Gamache	Absent				

E. Set Graduation Date – June 2014

The Board briefly discussed the calendar and setting the graduation date for the HKHS Class of 2013 and the last day of school.

Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Becky Valenti **SECONDED** a motion to set the Haddam-Killingworth High School graduation date for June 20, 2014 and to declare the last day of school to be June 20, 2014. Motion passed 7-0-1 by the following votes:

Michele Amendola	Absent	Amy Jacques-Purdy	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Kathy Brown	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Karen Perry	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Dan Chase	YES <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"/>	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 said the Legislature are in short session and will be continuing discussions on the Common Calendar. He will send the Board an update.

B. Personnel Report

Superintendent Thiery presented the Personnel Report. He stated that there were several resignations and retirements that will be honored at the Recognition Ceremony in May.

C. Enrollment Report

Superintendent Thiery presented the Enrollment Report.

From the Director of Fiscal Operations

None

From the Board Chair

None

Board Discussion – Areas of Opportunities for District Improvement

None

*Karen Perry **MOVED** and Amy Jacques-Purdy **SECONDED** a motion to go into to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters. Motion passed 8-0-0 by the following votes:*

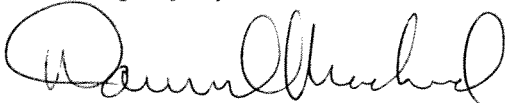
Michele Amendola	Absent	Amy Jacques-Purdy	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Kathy Brown	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Karen Perry	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input 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		

The Board went into Executive Session at 8:45 PM.

Adjournment

The Board returned from Executive Session at 8:50 PM and Board Chair Sue Twachtman adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



*Dawn MacLeod
Interim Board Clerk*

Approval: Becky Valenti Date: 5-6-14
Becky Valenti, Secretary