

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
March 26, 2014**

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on March 26, 2014 in the Central Office Board Room. Board of Education Chair, Sue Twachtman, called the meeting to order at 6:40 PM.

***Members Present:** Michele Amendola, Susan Dean, Kathy Brown, Becky Valenti, Karen Perry, Dan Chase, Brian Gamache, Joel D'Angelo, Amy Jacques-Purdy (arrived at 7:16), Jeannie Young, and Sue Twachtman*

***Members Absent:** None*

***Also Present:** Superintendent of Schools, Howard Thiery and Director of Fiscal Operations, Martha Vaughn, and Interim Board Clerk Dawn MacLeod*

***Visitors:** 8*

Call to Order/Opening of Meeting

Board of Education Chair, Sue Twachtman called the meeting to order at 6:40 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Old Business: Facilities Maintenance Cycle – HKHS Carpet Replacement

Facilities and Transportation chairman Brian Gamache presented a proposal to carpet five rooms at the High School and tile one room at the Haddam Elementary School.

*Karen Perry **MOVED** and Becky Valenti **SECONDED** a motion to expend up to \$10,000.00 out of the Capital Fund to carpet five rooms at the High School and tile one room at the Haddam Elementary School. 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	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	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>		

Discussion of the Superintendent's Proposed 2014-2015 Budget

The Board discussed the Superintendent's Proposed 2014-2015 budget at length.

The Board discussed at length the H.K Cubs Daycare Program. The Board decided to reserve its daycare questions for when the director of the H.K. Cubs Daycare attends a future BOE meeting.

The Board talked at length about revenue opportunities for the district. Classroom rentals from Learn, Old Middle School classrooms, and the woods next to Haddam Elementary School were some of the topics discussed.

The Board discussed at length the salary increase for the Head Nurse/Supervisor of the district. The Head Nurse works as an elementary school nurse and supervises four nurses throughout the district.

The Board talked at length about the restructure of class sizes and staffing for the elementary schools, middle school and high school.

The Board discussed the World Language restructure at the elementary schools and middle school. This will be discussed for future budgetary purposes.

The Board talked at length about the Substitute line. Superintendent Thiery stated that substitutes are needed for maternity leaves, teacher sick days, teacher personal days, teacher professional development days, and teacher PPT's. He stated long term substitutes are paid at the first level of the teacher's salary schedule once they have completed working forty days.

The Board discussed the Professional Services and Purchased Service lines. The Board talked about the Professional Service OTPT (occupational therapy and physical therapy) line. Superintendent Thiery stated that the PT teacher is a .5 FTE for physical therapy and a .5 FTE for physical education. The Board talked about the Purchased Service line which includes the technology leases.

The Board talked at length of the transportation bus fund and where the funds are being applied in the current school year. The Board will continue to discuss this in the future.

The Board discussed at length about district wide textbooks, library books, e-books licensing and comparing hard text books to electronic text books. Superintendent Thiery stated that although the curriculum continues to change the hard textbooks would always be used as a reference.

The Board talked about the Travel line and questioned if inter district travel was being budgeted. Superintendent Thiery stated that the budgeted Travel line was for travel expenses outside the district.

Board Chair Sue Twachtman presented a memorandum of suggested budget adjustments. The Board then discussed those items.

The Board discussed tuition for the Burr District Elementary School's Preschool Program for non-identified students as revenue in the 2014-2015 school year.

The Board discussed reducing the Professional Services Legal Fee line by \$25,000 as a reduction to the proposed budget.

The Board also discussed reducing the Professional Services Financial line by \$10,000 as a reduction to the proposed budget.

A majority of the Board decided to make modifications to the proposed 2014-2015 budget as presented in Superintendent Thiery's memorandum with three changes as stated by the Board.

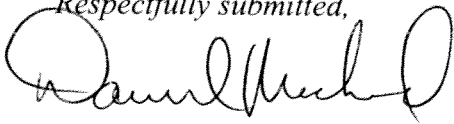
Adjournment

Susan Dean **MOVED** and Joel D'Angelo **SECONDED** a motion to go into Executive Session for the purposes of personnel matters. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board went into Executive Session at 9:50 PM.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 10:04 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