

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
March 24, 2014

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on March 24, 2014 in the Central Office Board Room. Board of Education Chair, Sue Twachtman, called the meeting to order at 7:20 PM.

Members Present: *Michele Amendola, Susan Dean, Kathy Brown, Becky Valenti, Karen Perry, Dan Chase, Brian Gamache, Joel D'Angelo, Amy Jacques-Purdy, 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: *12*

Call to Order/Opening of Meeting

Board of Education Chair, Sue Twachtman called the meeting to order at 7:20 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Discussion of the Superintendent's Proposed 2014-2015 Budget

The Board discussed the Superintendent's Proposed 2014-2015 budget at length. Joe Regan of Willis of Connecticut also made a presentation to the Board regarding the Health Insurance Reserve Fund.

Joe Regan explained the rate renewal process to the Board. He explained that the Anthem renewals for Administrative costs are 10-11% and the projected claim cost is 89-90%. He talked about past Anthem renewals from 2012 and 2013. He explained the claim history of actual claims compared to expected claims. He discussed the 2014-2015 Anthem renewal comparing expected claims and administrative fees from the prior July 2013 figures to the preliminary July 2014 estimates. Overall he projects an 8.7% increase. Mr. Regan explained that the total cost per contract per month (PCPM) is estimated to be 9.3%. He explained the status of marketing reviewing the stop loss RFP, network carrier RFP, update census from Haddam, and the decision matrix categories. He further discussed the decision matrix categories including administrative costs, projected claim discounts, provider disruption, run-out administration, and implementation timeline. Mr. Regan discussed the health reserve calculation comparing the current methodology to the industry standard to Willis' recommendation. He concludes his presentation by discussing the Health Care Reform. He states the Health Care Reform has a 90-day waiting period limitation, the CER fee is one dollar per covered member, a reinsurance fee, and an upcoming Cadillac tax which will begin in 2018. Mr. Regan stated that he should be getting the renewal from Anthem soon and will give the Board firm renewal numbers. The Board discussed the renewal rates and fund balance at length. Board Chair Sue Twachtman thanked Mr. Regan for his time.

The Board discussed at length the Burr District Elementary School's Preschool Program. Superintendent Thiery provided information of a model for preschool tuition for non-identified students.

The Board talked at length concerns of the projected enrollment and staffing of the fifth grade in the 2014-2015 school year. The Board further discussed the projected enrollment and staffing of the elementary schools in the 2014-2015 school year.

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

The Board discussed funding Items 731 – Replacement Equipment and 730 – New Equipment from the Capital Reserve Fund.

The Board discussed eliminating the two student Special Education place holder as a reduction to the proposed budget.

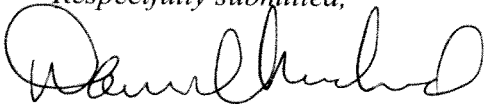
The Board also discussed applying a maximum 2% allocation increase to the Unaffiliated salary line.

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

Board Chair, Sue Twachtman called for the meeting to adjourn at 10:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Dawn MacLeod
Interim Board Clerk

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