

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
March 10, 2014

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on March 10, 2014 in the Central Office Board Room. Board of Education Chair, Sue Twachtman, called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

Members Present: Michele Amendola, Susan Dean, Kathy Brown, Becky Valenti, Karen Perry, Dan Chase, Brian Gamache, Joel D'Angelo (arrived at 7:24 PM), Jeannie Young, and Sue Twachtman

Members Absent: Amy Jacques-Purdy

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

Visitors: 9

Call to Order/Opening of Meeting

Board of Education Chair, Sue Twachtman called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

Discussion of the Superintendent's Proposed 2014-2015 Budget

The Board discussed the Superintendent's Proposed 2014-2015 budget at length. Board Chair Sue Twachtman thanked the administrators for attending the budget workshop. Superintendent Thiery began by briefly discussing the Early Retirement Plan with a count of 15 retirees. The Board then discussed the declining student population and asked whether any efficiencies in staffing would be possible in response to the decline in student population. Thiery responded that a reduction of 4.5 FTE's (full time equivalent) is the result of a decrease in student population which results in a reduction of certified salaries. Thiery will provide the Board the savings in the salary line due to the early retirement plan. The Board briefly discussed added fees for the Health Care Reform. The Board decided to reserve its health and benefit questions for when the health insurance benefit broker Willis attends a future Budget Workshop.

The Board talked at length about the proposed addition of a HKMS Social Worker and how the change would be implemented and the benefit of the change. Superintendent Thiery explained that the new position would be the first step in meeting the mental health need.

The Board discussed at length concerns of the two place holder students in the Special Education tuition line. Superintendent Thiery responded that in the past we haven't put in contingencies in the budget and that past events tell us there will be an increase.

The Board discussed the proposed addition in Math Support at the Elementary Schools. Superintendent Thiery said that the increase would support the goal of having a 1.0 FTE at each of the Elementary Schools. There is currently 2.5 FTE's shared between the three Elementary Schools.

The Board talked about possible cost savings pertaining to prorated benefits for part time teachers as well as discussions on the upcoming negotiations with the teachers union. Superintendent Thiery will provide documentation on part time teachers for further review. The Board also talked about Teacher's Professional Development and the teacher's salary scale.

The Board discussed concerns of the instructional supplies and general supplies lines. Director of Fiscal Operations, Martha Vaughn explained how the funds cover the needs of the schools. Martha Vaughn will provide a report to the Board for further discussion.

The Board talked at length of the proposed addition of a HKMS Track Program which will be funded through existing Club funds. Field equipment was also discussed.

The Board spoke about the increase in the HKHS Library afterschool coverage. Superintendent Thiery will provide a follow up for the Board to discuss the increase.

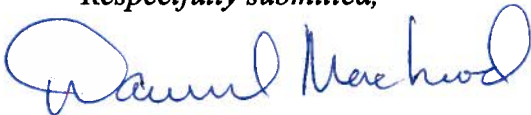
The Board discussed at length the Burr District Elementary School's Pre Kindergarten Program. Superintendent Thiery will provide the Board with a model for preschool tuition for non-identified students for further discussion.

The Board also expressed a general concern about the 2.75% gross budget increase and talked about finding additional areas of the budget where reductions might be possible.

Adjournment

Board Chair, Sue Twachtman called for the meeting to adjourn at 8:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Dawn MacLeod
Interim Board Clerk

Approval: Becky Malenti Date: 4-1-14
Becky Malenti, Secretary