

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**March 4, 2014**

*A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on March 4, 2014 in the High School Lower Media Center. Board of Education Chair, Sue Twachtman, called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.*

**Members Present:** *Amy Jacques-Purdy, Susan Dean, Kathy Brown, Becky Valenti, Joel D'Angelo, Brian Gamache, Dan Chase, Jeannie Young, and Sue Twachtman*

**Members Absent:** *Michele Amendola and Karen Perry*

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

**Visitors:** *4*

**Call to Order/Opening of Meeting**

*Board of Education Chair, Sue Twachtman called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.*

**Audience of Citizens**

*Joanne Nesti of Haddam addressed the Board regarding guidelines for Executive Session. Superintendent Thiery mentioned that the standards are set forth by our attorney. Personnel issues and contract negotiations are topics held in Executive Session.*

**Approval of Minutes**

**A. Approval of Minutes for the February 4, 2014 Board of Education Meeting**

*Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Becky Valenti **SECONDED** a motion to approve the minutes with the following amendment to the section "From the Board Chair" for the February 4, 2014 Board of Education meeting.*

*"The Board decided that if we had one more snow day, in between February 4<sup>th</sup> and February break, they would not be comfortable taking away just one day from the February break because it doesn't serve the best interest of the students to open schools for just one day. However, if the storm were to create two days of missed school between February 4<sup>th</sup> and February break, students would return for two days during February break."*

*Motion passed 9-0-0 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	Absent
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"/>		

## **Report from Student Representatives**

*Student Representative Luke Ford reported that twenty four students will be attending a National Film Competition in Orlando Florida on March 19 through March 23. He also stated that HKHS is hosting a breakfast for Killingworth Business owners on March 11. He also reported that most students at the high school will be involved in special activities March 12 rather than their usual Advisory Period. On March 8 the HKHS will serve as an SAT testing site. He announced a sophomore parent night on March 10 and that the 8th graders will visit the high school for an overview of the school on March 26. He also reported that the Winter Sports have come to an end. The Boys Basketball team is in the tournament held next week and the Girls Basketball team made it to the States.*

## **Board Committee Reports and Future Meetings**

### **A. Facilities and Transportation Subcommittee**

*Brian Gamache reported that the subcommittee did not meet. The next meeting will be April 1, 2014.*

### **B. Finance Subcommittee**

*Joel D'Angelo reported that the subcommittee did not meet on March 4, 2014. Joel updated the Board on the Special Finance meeting held on February 25, 2014. He reported that the subcommittee discussed the 2013 budget and the unanticipated Special Education tuition. The next meeting will be April 1, 2014.*

### **C. Policy Subcommittee**

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

### **D. Communications Subcommittee**

*Susan Dean updated the Board that the Community Conversation will be held on April 26. She also reported that the preparation of the BOE Hand Book will be put on hold during the Budget season.*

### **E. Personnel and Evaluation Subcommittee**

*Sue Twachtman updated the Board. She reported that the High School principal open position in the upcoming fiscal year will be posted and an interview search committee will be formed. The next meeting will be March 26, 2014.*

## **Board Liaison Reports**

### **A. Healthy Communities – Healthy Kids Council**

*Susan Dean reported that the council did not meet due to inclement weather. Susan reminded the Board of the Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, March 30, 2014 at the Fire House from 7 A.M. to 11 A.M. She invited all to attend and show their support.*

### **B. LEARN**

*Kathy Brown reported that the council did not meet.*

### **C. Parks & Recreation**

*Brian Gamache reported that the council did not meet.*

### **D. Haddam Board of Selectmen**

*Becky Valenti had no report.*

**E. Killingworth Board of Selectmen**

*Jeannie Young updated the Board. She reported that at the last meeting the Killingworth Board of Selectmen had some questions for the Board pertaining to the solar panels at the high school and wanted a continuous improvement plan of the Capital fund. Superintendent Thiery stated that Michael Distefano could invite the Killingworth Board of Selectmen to attend a Facilities meeting as the topic is ongoing.*

**Old Business**

*None*

**Consent Agenda**

- A. Acceptance of a donation from the HKMS PTO in the amount of \$250.00 to be used as scholarships for 10 student yearbooks. Submitted by Miriam Wagner, Principal of the Haddam-Killingworth Middle School.
- B. Acceptance of a donation from the HKMS PTO in the amount of \$1,250.00 to be used to offset the cost of the Grade 6 Trash Museum/Science Center Field Trip. Submitted by Miriam Wagner, Principal of the Haddam-Killingworth Middle School.
- C. Acceptance of a donation from the HKMS PTO in the amount of \$1,250.00 to offset the costs of the Grade 7 field trips. Submitted by Miriam Wagner, Principal of the Haddam-Killingworth Middle School.
- D. Acceptance of a donation from the HKMS PTO in the amount of \$1,250.00 for the purchase of 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Class T-shirts. Submitted by Miriam Wagner, Principal of the Haddam-Killingworth Middle School.
- E. Acceptance of a donation from an anonymous donor, totaling \$30.00 to be applied to HKHS Athletic programs.
- F. Acceptance of a donation of A Meade ETX-80 telescope that has never been used. It is portable, comes with a case and tripod and is valued at \$270.00. Donated by Theresa Geraghty. Submitted by Charles Macunas, Principal of the Haddam-Killingworth High School.

*Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Susan Dean **SECONDED** a motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion passed 9-0-0 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	Absent
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"/>		

**New Business**

*None*

**From the Superintendent**

**A. Legislative Update**

*Superintendent Thiery presented a Legislative Update. He reported that he was attending the morning legislative session to get the update and will give a summary report to the Board. He stated that Senator Linares is proposing a bill related to the education cost share (ECS) to*

*reimburse the community for a loss of revenue created by the closing of the CT Yankee Nuclear Power Plant.*

**B. Enrollment Report**

*Superintendent Thiery presented the February enrollment report.*

**C. Personnel Report**

*Superintendent Thiery presented the Personnel Report.*

**From the Director of Fiscal Operations**

*None*

**From the Board Chair**

*Board Chair Sue Twachtman brought up the possibility of a new Curriculum Committee to the Board which would be separate from the Curriculum Council. The new committee would have a deeper understanding of the curriculum and governance piece. Several Board members have been interested in being on the Curriculum Council but are not able to attend the meetings due to afternoon schedule conflicts. These Board members are interested in the new Curriculum Committee as the schedule would have some night meetings. It was suggested that both the Curriculum Council and Curriculum Committee agendas should overlap between the two committees. Sue Twachtman stated that the new committee is in the preliminary stage and will be discussed more in the near future.*

**Board Discussion – Areas of Opportunities for District Improvement**

*None*

**Adjournment**

*Board Chair Sue Twachtman called for the meeting to adjourn at 8:22 PM. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.*

*Respectfully submitted,*



Dawn MacLeod  
Interim Board Clerk

Approval: *Becky Valenti* Date: *4-1-14*  
Becky Valenti, Secretary