

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

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on March 4, 2014 in the Haddam-Killingworth High School Lower Media Center. Board of Education Chair, Sue Twachtman, called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

Members Present: Amy Jacques-Purdy, Susan Dean, Kathy Brown, Becky Valenti, Joel D'Angelo, Brian Gamache (arrived at 6:34 PM.), 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, and Interim Board Clerk Dawn MacLeod

Visitors: Approximately 14

Call to Order/Opening of Meeting

Board of Education Chair, Sue Twachtman called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Presentation of the Superintendent's Proposed Budget 2014-2015

Superintendent Howard Thiery presented the Regional School District 17 2014-2015 Superintendent's Proposed Budget.

Superintendent Thiery welcomed the audience, administrative staff members, and Board members. He stated that putting together the Proposed Budget was a collaborative process of the administrative staff and continues to be a collaborative process with the Board.

The Superintendent recited the Mission Statement for RSD17: The Mission of Regional School District 17 is to engage students in an educational community that challenges them with high standards and builds their capacity for success and their aspiration to improve themselves and their society.

Superintendent Thiery reviewed the Budget Process with a timeline of collaborative contributions and input made by the district's administrators. He explained that the Superintendents Proposed Budget was printed at Central Office and the Board of Education's Proposed Budget will be sent out to be bound and printed in April. He also defined budget language to give clarity to the proposed budget. The Superintendent's Proposed Gross Operating Budget is \$40,215,700.68 reflecting a 2.75% increase over the 2013-2014 budget and his Proposed Net Budget Request is \$39,289,802.56 reflecting a 3.70% increase over the 2013-2014 budget. He provided a Summary of Total Request which outlined the sources of revenue to the district, such as Anticipated Excess Cost Grant, Adult Education, E-Rate Reimbursement, Medicaid Reimbursement, Learn Classroom Rental, and Earned Interest on the District's bank accounts. The total anticipated revenue is \$925,898.12.

The Superintendent's presentation explained the areas of the budget which contributed to the increase in the overall budget, such as an increase in Salary, Benefit, Tuition Change, Buildings and Grounds, Learning Programs, Support Programs, Administration, and Transportation as well as some budget items which were decreases in the budget including Debt, and Technology. He presented a pie chart of the break down by object in the budget and also by location. He broke down the budget by discretionary and non-discretionary spending.

Superintendent Thiery also presented the Total Gross Proposed Budget for Salaries 2014-2015 Increase per Affiliation, which broke down Total Certified Teacher Salaries, Total Support Salaries, Total Administrator Salaries, Total Unaffiliated Salaries, Total Custodial Salaries, Total Overtime Salaries, and Total Substitute Salaries. He also presented a Net Budget Assessment History from the 2010/2011 budget year through the 2013/2014 budget year and the proposed amounts for the 2014/2015 budget year based on estimated enrollment.

The following topic presented was the Early Retirement Plan which offers 15 retirement slots. March 7, 2014 is the last date to submit intent to retire under the plan. Superintendent Thiery proposed an enrollment based reduction of 4.5 FTE's (full time equivalent), 3.0 FTE's at the elementary level and 1.5 FTE's at the high school. Superintendent Thiery stated a 0% increase in instructional supplies, general supplies and professional development as well as a 0% increase to the overall revolving Technology Lease/Financing as well as a 0% increase to purchased and professional services. Thiery stated that there will be a strategic use of the Capital Improvement account for building and grounds improvement. Also, staffing will be limited too high need areas. Reallocation of resources will be used to add a Middle School Track and Field Team and a High School Photography Club.

Superintendent Thiery outlined the New Staffing Request, which includes a .05 FTE Elementary Math Support, .02 FTE Middle School Social Worker, and a 1.0 FTE HKHS Assistant Cross Country Coach.

Superintendent Thiery discussed the expansion of the Readers Workshop program to grades K-12 under the Innovation section of his presentation along with a new Writers Workshop which includes a professional institute for the summer of 2014 for grades K-8. Another Innovation is the continuation of professional development support through Columbia University Teacher's College. Another area of Innovation Superintendent Thiery discussed was Technology. The first proposed change to technology for the upcoming year is an upgrade of the infrastructure to the HKHS Wi-Fi system to support the BYOD Policy. A second proposed technology innovation is to replace teacher laptops.

The Superintendent summarized his presentation by a statement of goals, including support of implementation of Common Core Standards and the continued development of curriculum, support student centered learning initiatives K-12 through classroom libraries, support implementation of Readers and Writers Workshop, support high quality professional development aligned to student needs and District and school goals, improve wireless network reliability and carrying capacity, improve technology infrastructure to support technology component of SBAC assessment in 2015

Board Chair Sue Twachtman thanked Howard and the Administrators for their time and effort in putting together the proposed budget.

Adjournment

Board Chair Sue Twachtman called for the meeting to adjourn at 7:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Dawn MacLeod
Interim Board Clerk

Approval: Becky Valenti Date: 4-1-17
Becky Valenti, Secretary