REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
January 7, 2014

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on January 7, 2014 in the Central Office Board Room. 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, Karen Perry, Joel D'Angelo, Michele Amendola, Brian Gamache, Dan Chase and Sue Twachtman*

***Members Absent:** None*

***Also Present:** Superintendent of Schools, Howard Thiery and Board Clerk Larissa Johnson*

***Visitors:** 5*

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

None

Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of Minutes for the December 3, 2013 Board of Education Meeting

*Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Becky Valenti **SECONDED** a motion to approve the minutes for the December 3, 2013 Board of Education meeting. Motion passed 10-0-0 by the following votes:*

Michele Amendola	YES_√_ NO___ A___	Amy Jacques-Purdy	YES_√_ NO___ A___
Kathy Brown	YES_√_ NO___ A___	Karen Perry	YES_√_ NO___ A___
Dan Chase	YES_√_ NO___ A___	Becky Valenti	YES_√_ NO___ A___
Joel D'Angelo	YES_√_ NO___ A___	Sue Twachtman	YES_√_ NO___ A___
Susan Dean	YES_√_ NO___ A___		
Brian Gamache	YES_√_ NO___ A___		

*Susan Dean **MOVED** and Amy Jacques-Purdy **SECONDED** a motion to move New Business - Item A to current position. Motion passed 10-0-0 by the following votes:*

Michele Amendola	YES_√_ NO___ A___	Amy Jacques-Purdy	YES_√_ NO___ A___
Kathy Brown	YES_√_ NO___ A___	Karen Perry	YES_√_ NO___ A___
Dan Chase	YES_√_ NO___ A___	Becky Valenti	YES_√_ NO___ A___
Joel D'Angelo	YES_√_ NO___ A___	Sue Twachtman	YES_√_ NO___ A___
Susan Dean	YES_√_ NO___ A___		
Brian Gamache	YES_√_ NO___ A___		

New Business

A. HKHS Trip to France – April 11, 2015 – April 19, 2015

Ms. Christine Kehrley presented the proposed field trip to France from April 11-19, 2015. She stated that she has received emails of interest from approximately 26 parents. The trip is currently scheduled for April vacation in 2015 so that students would not miss any school. The trip will be booked through EF Tours. She said that there is a discount for early enrollment of $200 per student, bringing the total cost to $2870. Parents and students could then make monthly payments until the trip to make the expense more affordable. She expects 12 students to attend with 2 chaperones. She would like to keep the student to chaperone ratio at approximately 6 to 1. The group would tour Paris, museums, and northwestern France, including several castles and the D-Day landing beach.

Amy Jacques-Purdy ***MOVED*** *and Susan Dean* ***SECONDED*** *a motion to approve HKHS Trip to France from April 11, 2015 to April 19, 2015. Motion passed 10-0-0 by the following votes:*

Michele Amendola	YES_√_ NO___ A___	Amy Jacques-Purdy	YES_√_ NO___ A___
Kathy Brown	YES_√_ NO___ A___	Karen Perry	YES_√_ NO___ A___
Dan Chase	YES_√_ NO___ A___	Becky Valenti	YES_√_ NO___ A___
Joel D'Angelo	YES_√_ NO___ A___	Sue Twachtman	YES_√_ NO___ A___
Susan Dean	YES_√_ NO___ A___		
Brian Gamache	YES_√_ NO___ A___		

Report from Student Representatives

No report.

Board Committee Reports and Future Meetings

A. Facilities and Transportation Subcommittee

No report. Next meeting will be February 4, 2014.

B. Finance Subcommittee

No report. Next meeting will be February 4, 2014.

C. Policy Subcommittee

No report. Next meeting will be January 13, 2014 at 6:00PM.

D. Communications Subcommittee

No report. Next meeting will be January 21, 2014.

E. Personnel and Evaluation Subcommittee

No report.

Board Liaison Reports

A. Healthy Communities – Healthy Kids Council

No report. Sue Twachtman announced that there will be a presentation on Internet Safety at HKMS on February 6, 2014 from 6:30-8:00 PM.

B. LEARN

No report. The next meeting will be January 9, 2014.

C. Parks & Recreation

No report. The next meeting will be January 22, 2014.

D. Haddam Board of Selectmen

No report.

E. Killingworth Board of Selectmen

No report.

Old Business

A. Bus Contract Proposal

Superintendent Thiery briefly explained the background of Bus Contract extension proposal. STA approached Superintendent Thiery for the Board of Education to consider extending the contract by three years. There is currently one year remaining in the contract. To be discussed in Executive Session.

B. Contract – Administrators Bargaining Unit

Superintendent Thiery updated the Board on the status of the Contract with the Administrators Bargaining Unit. The proposed contract for consideration by the Board has been reviewed by legal counsel and is in the process of being reviewed by the Union and has not yet been ratified.

C. Appointment of Board Subcommittees & Board Liaisons

1) **Facilities and Transportation Subcommittee**
Board Chair Sue Twachtman appointed Brian Gamache as Committee Chair. Amy Jacques-Purdy, Dan Chase, Becky Valenti and Sue Twachtman are also committee members.

2) **Finance Subcommittee**
Board Chair Sue Twachtman appointed Joel D'Angelo as Committee Chair. Karen Perry and Michele Amendola are also committee members.

3) **Policy Subcommittee**
Board Chair Sue Twachtman appointed Amy Jacques-Purdy as Committee Chair. Becky Valenti, Susan Dean, Joel D'Angelo and Kathy Brown are also committee members.

4) **Communications Subcommittee**
Board Chair Sue Twachtman appointed Susan Dean as Committee Chair. Sue Twachtman and Kathy Brown are also committee members.

5) **Personnel and Evaluation Subcommittee**
Committee members and Committee Chair to be determined.

6) **Healthy Communities – Healthy Kids Council**
Susan Dean will act as liaison.

7) **LEARN**
Kathy Brown will act as liaison.

8) **Park & Recreation**
Brian Gamache will act as liaison.

9) **Haddam Board of Selectmen**
Becky Valenti will act as liaison.

10) **Killingworth Board of Selectmen**
Joel D'Angelo will act as liaison.

11) **Curriculum Council**
Susan Dean and Sue Twachtman will act as liaisons.

Consent Agenda

A. **Acceptance of a donation from Mrs. Lisa Anderson of items for use in the ABA program at Burr Elementary School, submitted by Eric Larson, Principal of Burr Elementary School.**
B. **Acceptance of a donation from the Killingworth PTO, totaling $1500.00 to be used to purchase materials for the KES library, submitted by Dennis Reed, Principal of Killingworth Elementary School.**

*Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Susan Dean **SECONDED** a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion passed 10-0-0 by the following votes:*

Michele Amendola	YES_√_ NO___ A___	Amy Jacques-Purdy	YES_√_ NO___ A___
Kathy Brown	YES_√_ NO___ A___	Karen Perry	YES_√_ NO___ A___
Dan Chase	YES_√_ NO___ A___	Becky Valenti	YES_√_ NO___ A___
Joel D'Angelo	YES_√_ NO___ A___	Sue Twachtman	YES_√_ NO___ A___
Susan Dean	YES_√_ NO___ A___		
Brian Gamache	YES_√_ NO___ A___		

New Business - *Continued*

A. 2014-2015 Calendar Revisions

Superintendent Thiery explained a correction to the 2014-2015 calendar. The approved calendar for 2014-2015 contained an error in the number of school days counted for the month of November. Thus, the end of the school year had to be shifted by 1 day to June 23, instead of June 22. The revised calendar will be posted on the website January 8, 2014.

From the Superintendent

A. Legislative Update

Superintendent Thiery presented a Legislative Update. He reviewed the two grants which the District applied for – one for security improvements and another for technology improvements. The security grant required the district to submit its expenses to the state for reimbursement at 40%. The technology grant provided by the state supports the implementation of the Common Core Standard. It has been rescheduled three times due to weather, thus the grant is waiting for funding. The District budgeted and funded the work on the improvements but would appreciate the reimbursement.

Superintendent Thiery also discussed the legislative proposal to have common regional calendars beginning in the 2015-2016 school year. The RESCs will work with the districts to develop a common calendar. Regional School District 17 belongs to LEARN which includes Old Lyme, Norwich and other districts and towns to our south, east and west. The calendars would likely have a common start date, common professional development days, common holidays and vacations but might allow for some variation in the end of school year date. Regions where many students are bussed out of district are proponents of this proposal to reduce additional days bussing is required for students attending out-of-district schools. Recently, there was a hearing held by the task force on state mandates where this issue was a popular topic of debate.

B. Personnel Report

Superintendent Thiery presented the Personnel Report.

C. Enrollment Report

Superintendent Thiery presented the December enrollment report.

From the Director of Fiscal Operations

No agenda items were presented.

From the Board Chair

Board Chair Sue Twachtman announced the resignation of Jamie Lehane from the Board of Education, effective January 1, 2014. She said that the Board is grateful for his service and dedication. She also stated that the Town of Killingworth will hold a special meeting to elect his successor.

She also mentioned that the Board of Education meeting to be held on January 21, 2014 would be a Special Meeting because the posted calendar listed the meeting date as January 24, 2014. Superintendent Thiery added that when a meeting is posted as a Special Meeting the agenda cannot be changed. The error in the date has been corrected on the District website.

Board Discussion – Areas of Opportunities for District Improvement

Susan Dean updated the Board on the possibility of putting together a handbook for new and future Board of Education members.

Adjournment

*Karen Perry **MOVED** and Becky Valenti **SECONDED** a motion to adjourn to Executive Session for the purposes of negotiations. Motion passed 10-0-0 by the following votes:*

Michele Amendola	YES √ NO ___ A ___	Amy Jacques-Purdy	YES √ NO ___ A ___
Kathy Brown	YES √ NO ___ A ___	Karen Perry	YES √ NO ___ A ___
Dan Chase	YES √ NO ___ A ___	Becky Valenti	YES √ NO ___ A ___
Joel D'Angelo	YES √ NO ___ A ___	Sue Twachtman	YES √ NO ___ A ___
Susan Dean	YES √ NO ___ A ___		
Brian Gamache	YES √ NO ___ A ___		

The Board went into Executive Session at 8:23 PM.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 9:37 PM and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Larissa B. Johnson

Larissa B. Johnson
Board Clerk

Approval: Becky Valenti *Date:* Feb 11th 2014
Becky Valenti, Secretary