

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
December 3, 2013**

*A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on December 3, 2013 in the Central Office Board Room. Board of Education Chair, Karen Perry, called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM.*

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

**Members Absent:** *Jamie Lehane and Brian Gamache*

**Also Present:** *Superintendent of Schools, Howard Thiery and Director of Fiscal Operations, Martha Vaughn, Board Clerk Larissa Johnson and Student Representative Gwendolyn Plum*

**Visitors:** *4*

**Call to Order/Opening of Meeting**

*Board of Education Chair, Karen Perry called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.*

**Nomination and Election of Board of Education Officers**

*Board Chair Karen Perry welcomed the new members of the Board and said that she looked forward to working with everyone over the next few years. She then stepped down as Board Chair.*

**A. BOE Chair**

*Amy Jacques-Purdy **NOMINATED Sue Twachtman** as Board Chair. Becky Valenti **SECONDED** the nomination. Sue Twachtman was elected Board Chair 9-0-0 by the following votes:*

Michele Amendola	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	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"/>	Sue Twachtman	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Dan Chase	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Jamie Lehane	Absent
Joel D'Angelo	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"/>
Susan Dean	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Karen Perry	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Brian Gamache	Absent		

*Sue Twachtman thanked everyone for their votes and support. She said that is looking forward to working for the District. She thanked Karen Perry for her leadership and thanked each Board member for their work. She also congratulated Susan Dean and Jamie Lehane on their re-elections and congratulated the new Board members.*

**B. BOE Vice Chair**

*Karen Perry **NOMINATED Susan Dean** as Board Vice Chair. Joel D'Angelo **SECONDED** the nomination. Susan Dean was elected Board Vice Chair 9-0-0 by the following votes:*

Michele Amendola	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	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"/>	Sue Twachtman	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Dan Chase	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Jamie Lehane	Absent
Joel D'Angelo	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"/>
Susan Dean	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Karen Perry	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Brian Gamache	Absent		

**C. BOE Treasurer**

*Susan Dean **NOMINATED Joel D'Angelo** as Board Treasurer. Amy Jacques-Purdy **SECONDED** the nomination. Joel D'Angelo was elected Board Treasurer 9-0-0 by the following votes:*

Michele Amendola	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	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"/>	Sue Twachtman	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Dan Chase	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Jamie Lehane	Absent
Joel D'Angelo	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"/>
Susan Dean	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Karen Perry	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Brian Gamache	Absent		

**D. BOE Secretary**

*Susan Dean **NOMINATED Becky Valenti** as Board Secretary. Karen Perry **SECONDED** the nomination. Becky Valenti was elected Board Secretary 9-0-0 by the following votes:*

Michele Amendola	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	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"/>	Sue Twachtman	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Dan Chase	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Jamie Lehane	Absent
Joel D'Angelo	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"/>
Susan Dean	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Karen Perry	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Brian Gamache	Absent		

**Audience of Citizens**

*Mark Lundgren of Haddam addressed the Board. He read the following letter:*

Dear RSD 17 Board of Education Member,

I want to thank all of you for the commitment you have made to the District. Like most, I do believe that a child's education must be priority number one. I also believe that most people want efficient, effectiveness and accountability from their government.

With this in mind, it appears to me that the Board has already made up its mind to extend the bus contract with Student Transportation of America. Superintendent Thiery apparently has spent much time in contract extension negotiations. The only contract extension I can support at this timed is to the end of the school year of the last year of the contract. It now ends in April and should be extended to June 30<sup>th</sup>. If for no other reason than to have more than one bid.

It is no secret that I support the return to the District the entire transportation operation. I believe only one of you voted on the sale and hopefully all of you are open-minded to hearing additional alternatives to going forward with this early proposed contract extension. It is commendable that our Superintendent has a close working relationship with

Guilford's Superintendent. It would be nice if our District could recoup the fuel costs that District 17's taxpayers absorbed transporting Guilford students.

Sadly, District 17's contract is so weak the aid potential of negotiating in tandem with Guilford is more likely meaningless. Last year of District ownership \$1.75 million spent, current budget \$3.65 million.

You all have either experienced going through or at least heard about our buses being torched many years ago. It wasn't easy getting through that terribly experience, but it was done. It can be done again. I for one, and there are others, am willing to prepare a complete business plan outlining exactly how the District could return transportation with the least amount of turmoil and a bright long-term outlook.

The need to rush is not efficient, effective nor does it lead to accountability. An honest look at alternatives is what I ask. If you would allow citizens of District 17 this opportunity, it will become my new year's resolution and passion to present you with a well-thought out alternative in less time than is given.

Sincerely,

Mark P. Lundgren

## Approval of Minutes

- A. Approval of Minutes for the November 5, 2013 Board of Education Meeting
- B. Approval of Minutes for the November 19, 2013 Board of Education – Education Session

*Susan Dean **MOVED** and Amy Jacques-Purdy **SECONDED** a motion to approve the minutes for the November 5, 2013 Board of Education meeting and the minutes for the November 19, 2013 Board of Education – Education Session meeting. Motion passed 9-0-0 by the following votes:*

Michele Amendola	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	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"/>	Sue Twachtman	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Dan Chase	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Jamie Lehane	Absent
Joel D'Angelo	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"/>
Susan Dean	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Karen Perry	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Brian Gamache	Absent		

## Report from Student Representatives

*Student Representative Gwendolyn Plum presented her report to the Board. She reported that two tenth graders, Kyle Sullivan and Natalie Blodgett were invited to attend the HOBY seminar. She also said that two students, Christiana Field and Garrett Mazziotti received the Superintendent Award and attended a luncheon in Old Saybrook. HKHS hosted a local business breakfast for business owners in Haddam, which she said went very well. Student Ambassadors spoke about the school and gave tours, to give community members an opportunity to become more familiar with the school and consider offering internships in the future. Another local business breakfast will be held in the spring with Killingworth business owners. She also announced the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Show which will be aired on December 20, 2013 to raise money for Camp Rising Sun, a two-week camp for kids who have or have had cancer. The program will be broadcast all over the state, not just on the local community channel.*

Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Susan Dean **SECONDED** a motion to move New Business Items B & C to follow the Report from Student Representatives. Motion passed 9-0-0 by the following votes:

Michele Amendola	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	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"/>	Sue Twachtman	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Dan Chase	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Jamie Lehane	Absent
Joel D'Angelo	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"/>
Susan Dean	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Karen Perry	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Brian Gamache	Absent		

**New Business**

- B. HKMS Quebec, Canada Trip May 16 – May 18, 2014 *A Step Back in Time***
- C. HKMS Quebec, Canada Trip February 6 – February 8, 2015 *Winter Carnaval***

Lisa Gardner, teacher at HKMS presented two field trips to Quebec for 7<sup>th</sup> graders. The first from May 16-18, 2014 and the second from February 6-8, 2015. The first trip would cost approximately \$540-690 per student, and she expects a group of 30-35 to attend. Mr. English would attend as a chaperone as well as possibly 5 parents. She added that there were a total of 7 adults last year. For the February 2015 trip, the cost would be \$580-700 per student, depending on the number of students. The Board asked that Ms. Gardner ensure that there is an appropriate student to chaperone ratio.

Joel D'Angelo **MOVED** and Amy Jacques-Purdy **SECONDED** a motion to approve HKMS trip to Quebec, Canada, May 16 – May 18, 2014 and HKMS trip to Quebec, Canada, February 6 – February 8, 2015. Motion passed 9-0-0 by the following votes:

Michele Amendola	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	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"/>	Sue Twachtman	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Dan Chase	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Jamie Lehane	Absent
Joel D'Angelo	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"/>
Susan Dean	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Karen Perry	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Brian Gamache	Absent		

**Board Committee Reports and Future Meetings**

**A. Facilities and Transportation Subcommittee**

Becky Valenti updated the Board. The next meeting will be January 8, 2014 at 6:30 PM. The committee talked about the definition of the Building Committee since the committee is now gone. At the meeting, Mike Distefano reviewed all of the on-going projects. They discussed the carpet and painting projects. Additional quotes were requested for the work to be completed during the winter break. They also discussed possibly changing the seating in the seminar room. The committee talked about basin and water concerns. Mike Distefano reported that the Phase 1 is completed, but there is a concern regarding the water table. He also reported to the committee that the district was randomly selected for an ADA compliance audit by the State Dept. of Education for January 10, 2014. He also reported that additional work would be required for the Middle School irrigation project. It was discovered that there is rock ledge about eight feet underground, which will require blasting for the tank to be installed and the irrigation project to be completed. The cost of blasting will be \$7,000.00. The Board briefly discussed the remaining Middle School Building Project Fund and the irrigation project.

Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Becky Valenti **SECONDED** a motion to approve an expenditure of \$7,000 from Middle School building funds to complete the excavation project. Motion passed 9-0-0 by the following votes:

Michele Amendola	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	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"/>	Sue Twachtman	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Dan Chase	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Jamie Lehane	Absent
Joel D'Angelo	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"/>
Susan Dean	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Karen Perry	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Brian Gamache	Absent		

**B. Finance Subcommittee**

Martha Vaughn updated the Board. The next meeting will be January 8, 2013 at 6:30 PM. She reported that the committee reviewed the financial report, checks cut in November and discussed the two finalists for the health insurance benefit broker. Joel D'Angelo added that members of the subcommittee met with two of the four candidates. Of the two finalists, he said that Willis might have a slight edge over Lockton because they offer extra services and technological infrastructure that would be an aid to the administration. Sue Twachtman added that she felt very comfortable with both candidates. The Board briefly discussed the selection of a health insurance benefit broker.

Karen Perry **MOVED** and Joel D'Angelo **SECONDED** a motion to select Willis as the district health insurance broker as presented. Motion passed 9-0-0 by the following votes:

Michele Amendola	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	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"/>	Sue Twachtman	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Dan Chase	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Jamie Lehane	Absent
Joel D'Angelo	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"/>
Susan Dean	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Karen Perry	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Brian Gamache	Absent		

**C. Policy Subcommittee**

Amy Jacques-Purdy reported that the subcommittee met November 13, 2013. The next meeting will be December 9, 2013 at 6:00 PM. The committee continued its work on the 6000 series.

**D. Communications Subcommittee**

Karen Perry reported that the subcommittee met on November 19, 2013. The next meeting will be December 17, 2013. The committee discussed how information could be better funneled out through Facebook and would should be included on the BOE Update in November.

**E. Personnel and Evaluation Subcommittee**

Karen Perry updated the Board. The committee had some non-meetings to work on negotiations with the Administrators Bargaining Unit.

## **Board Liaison Reports**

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

*Susan Dean updated the Board. Healthy Communities-Healthy Kids met on November 21, 2013. They discussed the developmental asset of the month, which was caring. They also discussed e-cigarettes and paraphernalia. There will also be a pancake breakfast at the Fire House in Haddam.*

### **B. LEARN**

*Sue Twachtman had no report.*

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

*Amy Jacques-Purdy had no report.*

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

*No report.*

### **E. Killingworth Board of Selectmen**

*Susan Dean had no report.*

## **Old Business**

### **A. Bus Contract Proposal**

*Superintendent Thiery briefly explained the background of Bus Contract extension proposal. STA contacted Superintendent Thiery about a possible extension of the existing transportation contract. The District is currently in year 4 of its 5 year contract with STA. STA would like to extend the contract so that they can make improvements to the bus yard. To be discussed in Executive Session.*

## **Consent Agenda**

- A. Acceptance of a donation from HKMS PTO, totaling \$1250.00 to offset the cost of the Grade 5 Pequot Museum Trip, submitted by Miriam Wagner, Principal of the Haddam-Killingworth Middle School.
- B. Acceptance of a donation from HKMS PTO, totaling \$566.30 to cover the cost of bus transportation for the HKMS band's trip to Bushnell Field, submitted by Miriam Wagner, Principal of the Haddam-Killingworth Middle School.
- C. Acceptance of a donation from an anonymous donor, totaling \$15.00 to be applied to HKHS Athletic programs.

Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Susan Dean **SECONDED** a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion passed 9-0-0 by the following votes:

Michele Amendola	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	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"/>	Sue Twachtman	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Dan Chase	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Jamie Lehane	Absent
Joel D'Angelo	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"/>
Susan Dean	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Karen Perry	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Brian Gamache	Absent		

## New Business

### A. Review and Discussion of Board of Education Committees for new BOE members

#### 1. Facilities and Transportation Subcommittee

*Sue Twachtman stated that the subcommittee meets once per month and works directly with Michael Distefano, Director of Facilities. Members of the committee have the opportunity to walk around the facilities and check things out with Mike to have a deeper understanding of the work and maintenance required. The transportation aspect of the subcommittee is a hold-over from when the District managed its own transportation.*

#### 2. Finance Subcommittee

*Joel D'Angelo stated that the committee meets once per month before the monthly business meeting of the Board. The subcommittee works with Martha Vaughn, Director of Finance. The subcommittee reviews the general fund report, vendor checks cut, conducted the health insurance broker interviews, reviews budget transfers and the annual audit. Karen Perry added that the subcommittee meets at the same time as the Facilities Subcommittee and that the chair of the committee is the Treasurer for the Board.*

#### 3. Policy Subcommittee

*Amy Jacques-Purdy stated that the subcommittee keeps the District policies up-to-date and current. The committee is currently working on the 6000 series, and recently completed the 5000 series. The subcommittee meets anywhere from once per month to three-to-four times per month, as needed on a separate night of the week or during the day, depending upon member availability.*

#### 4. Communications Subcommittee

*Karen Perry stated that the communications subcommittee meets once per month prior to the Board's Education Session. The committee works on improving communications within the District such as through social media, and also by creating minimum standards of communication for teachers with parents. The committee also put together Board Updates to share with the community.*

#### 5. Personnel and Evaluation Subcommittee

*Karen Perry explained that the Personnel and Evaluation Subcommittee meets as needed, though mostly through Special Meetings for the purposes of negotiations with unions and personnel issues.*

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

*Susan Dean reviewed the liaison position. Susan Dean stated that the Healthy Communities-Healthy Kids Council is part of the HK Youth and Family Services which looks at ways the community can protect and direct children away from drugs and alcohol. The group operates under the Federal Drug-Free Communities Grant.*

#### **7. LEARN**

*Sue Twachtman reviewed the liaison position. LEARN is a Regional Education Service Center (RESC) for the southeastern region of Connecticut. It's an opportunity to learn about what is going on educationally in the region. It meets Thursday morning once per month in Old Lyme.*

#### **8. Park & Recreation**

*Amy Jacques-Purdy reviewed the liaison position. The liaison attends monthly meetings on the last Wednesday of the month and shares information with the Parks & Rec Board and keeps communication open with them. The HK Parks & Rec uses the White House in the HKHS campus for their operations.*

#### **9. Haddam Board of Selectmen & Killingworth Board of Selectmen**

*Amy Jacques-Purdy and Susan Dean reviewed the liaison position. The liaison attends the meeting of the Board of Selectmen in their town once or twice per month and provides a report to share with the Board of Selectmen.*

### **D. Contract – Administrators Bargaining Unit**

*Superintendent Thiery briefly explained the background of progress of negotiations with the Administrators Bargaining Unit. To be discussed in Executive Session.*

### **From the Superintendent**

*Superintendent Thiery presented at Certificate to Karen Perry for her service as Board Chair. He thanked her for her support and her work in moving towards improvement in the District.*

#### **A. Legislative Update**

*Superintendent Thiery presented a Legislative Update. He attended a Policy Symposium with the State Dept. of Education. Legislators are looking at the high school graduation requirements and expanding the definition of credits, with guidelines centering around demonstrations of competencies or mastery. He also mentioned the PISA exam, an international exam from Switzerland. Some states opted into participating in the PISA exam. Connecticut, Massachusetts and Florida participated with cross-representative populations in the state. Connecticut came in 5<sup>th</sup> in reading, 8<sup>th</sup> in science and 12<sup>th</sup> in math.*



**B. Personnel Report**

*Superintendent Thiery presented the Personnel Report.*

**C. Enrollment Report**

*Superintendent Thiery presented the November enrollment report.*

**From the Director of Fiscal Operations**

*Director of Fiscal Operations, Martha Vaughn had no items for discussion by the Board.*

**From the Board Chair**

*Board Chair Sue Twachtman had no items for discussion.*

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

*Board Chair Sue Twachtman suggested that the Board consider putting together a Board Handbook for new members of the Board.*

**Adjournment**

*Karen Perry **MOVED** and Becky Valenti **SECONDED** a motion to adjourn to Executive Session for the purposes of negotiations and personnel issues. Motion passed 9-0-0 by the following votes:*

Michele Amendola	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	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"/>	Sue Twachtman	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Dan Chase	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Jamie Lehane	Absent
Joel D'Angelo	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"/>
Susan Dean	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Karen Perry	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Brian Gamache	Absent		

*The Board went into Executive Session at 8:54 PM.*

*The Board returned from Executive Session at 9:44 PM and the meeting was adjourned.*

*Respectfully submitted,*



Larissa B. Johnson  
Board Clerk

Approval: Becky Valenti Date: 1-7-14  
Becky Valenti, Secretary