

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**November 5, 2013**

*A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on November 5, 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, Chet Harris, Jeannie Young, Becky Valenti, Sue Twachtman (departed at 9:50 PM), Joel D'Angelo, and Karen Perry*

**Members Absent:** *Jamie Lehane, Susan Dean, Steven Banaletti, and Jonathan Wintsch*

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

**Visitors:** *21*

**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.*

**Audience of Citizens**

*None*

**Approval of Minutes**

- A. Approval of Minutes for the October 1, 2013 Board of Education**
- B. Approval of Minutes for the October 15, 2013 Board of Education – Education Session Meeting**

*Jeannie Young **MOVED** and Becky Valenti **SECONDED** a motion to approve the minutes for the October 1, 2013 Board of Education meeting and the minutes for the October 15, 2013 Board of Education – Education Session meeting. Motion passed 7-0-0 by the following votes:*

|                   |  |                  |  |
|-------------------|--|------------------|--|
| Amy Jacques-Purdy | YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> | Jonathan Wintsch | Absent   |
| Becky Valenti     | 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"/> |
| Chet Harris       | YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> | Steven Banaletti | Absent   |
| Jamie Lehane      | Absent   | Susan Dean       | Absent   |
| Jeannie Young     | 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"/> |
| Joel D'Angelo     | YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> |                  |  |

## **Special Presentation – Continuous Improvement Plans**

*Superintendent Howard Thiery presented the 2013-2014 Continuous Improvement Plan with goals for Student Achievement and Community Relations and Partnerships. For each goal, the strategies were presented.*

*District Director of Pupil Services Tracy Whaples presented the Pupil Services Continuous Improvement Plan 2013-2014 School Year with progress and accomplishments and focuses for the future. The goal for 2013-2014 is to “create, implement and maintain the highest quality student support services given our changing populations.” For this goal, strategies and indicators of growth and development at the student, teacher and community level were presented.*

*Principal Eric Larson of Burr Elementary School, Principal Janice Harris of Haddam Elementary School, and Principal Dennis Reed of Killingworth Elementary School presented the RSD 17 Elementary Continuous Improvement Plan. Goals were presented in the areas of Literacy, Writing, Numeracy and Building Community and supported with an action plan and progress monitoring for each goal area.*

*Principal Miriam Furey-Wagner presented Haddam-Killingworth Middle School 2013-2014 Continuous Improvement Plan with goals for Literacy, Writing, Numeracy and Community. For each goal, the background, goal, action plan and progress monitoring were presented.*

*Principal Charles Macunas presented the Haddam-Killingworth High School 2013-2014 Continuous Improvement Plan with goals for Student Achievement, Literacy, Numeracy and Community. For each goal, the background, goal, action plan and progress monitoring were presented. Mr. Macunas also discussed his strategies for promoting morale amongst teachers in a year where many stressful changes are expected, due to modifications to teacher evaluation methods and standardized testing.*

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

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

*Sue Twachtman updated the Board. She reported that Peg Scofield presented a request on behalf of Parmalee Farms to install at their expense, lighting along the path between the HKMS softball field parking lot to Paramlee Farms to be used during special events. The committee also discussed the rising basin water table at the back of the bus yard. Michael Distefano is suggesting that environmental engineer should come out to review the situation before Phase II is started. The committee also discussed the lightning project and the irrigation project at the middle school. The committee also discussed the ADA compliance self-evaluation which will be on January 10, 2014 and some concerns regarding safety at the White House on Little City Road. The next meeting will be December 3, 2013 at 6:30 PM.*

### **B. Building Subcommittee (HKMS)**

*Amy Jacques-Purdy had no report.*

### **C. Finance Subcommittee**

*Martha Vaughn updated the Board. The committee reviewed checks cut, budget transfers, and the budget timeline. They also discussed the health insurance broker RFP, which received 8 responses. The committee will be reviewing the summary of proposals and then inviting 3 firms to interview. The next meeting will be December 3, 2013 at 6:30 PM.*

**D. Policy Subcommittee**

*Amy Jacques-Purdy reported that the subcommittee met two weeks ago and reviewed the 6000 series. The next meeting will be November 13, 2013 at 6:00 PM.*

**E. Communications Subcommittee**

*Karen Perry reported that the subcommittee did not meet. The next meeting will be November 19, 2013.*

**F. Personnel and Evaluation Subcommittee**

*Karen Perry updated the Board. The committee has met with the Administrator bargaining unit for the purposes of negotiation.*

**Board Liaison Reports**

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

*No Report.*

**B. LEARN**

*No Report.*

**C. Parks & Recreation**

*Amy Jacques-Purdy updated the Board. The HK Recreation Authority discussed turfing the fields in the district and asked about the cost of the irrigation project at the middle school.*

**D. Haddam Board of Selectmen**

*No report.*

**E. Killingworth Board of Selectmen**

*No Report.*

**Old Business**

**A. Bus Contract Proposal**

*To be discussed in Executive Session.*

**B. Middle School Building Committee – Structure and Membership**

*Board Chair Karen Perry asked if all members who have served on the Middle School Building Committee could please attend the November 19, 2013 meeting of the Board for a celebration of their hard work and service to the District.*

**Consent Agenda**

- A. Acceptance of a donation from an anonymous donor, totaling \$15.00 to be applied to HKHS Athletic programs.**
- B. Acceptance of a donation from Michael Castro, totaling \$500.00 to offset the cost of the Washington DC trip, submitted by Miriam Wagner, Principal of the Haddam-Killingworth Middle School.**
- C. Acceptance of a donation from Main Street Cookery, totaling \$25.00 for use by the FIRST Lego League, submitted by Miriam Wagner, Principal of the Haddam-Killingworth Middle School.**
- D. Acceptance of a donation from Tat Wong Kung Fu Academy, totaling \$25.00 for use by the FIRST Lego League, submitted by Miriam Wagner, Principal of the Haddam-Killingworth Middle School.**

*Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Joel D'Angelo **SECONDED** a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion passed 7-0-0 by the following votes:*

|                   |  |                  |  |
|-------------------|--|------------------|--|
| Amy Jacques-Purdy | YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> | Jonathan Wintsch | Absent   |
| Becky Valenti     | YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> | Sue Twachtman    | Absent   |
| Chet Harris       | YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> | Steven Banaletti | Absent   |
| Jamie Lehane      | Absent   | Susan Dean       | Absent   |
| Jeannie Young     | 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"/> |
| Joel D'Angelo     | YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> |                  |  |

**New Business**

**A. Review and possible approval of the 2014/2015 Budget Timeline**

*Joel D'Angelo **MOVED** and Chet Harris **SECONDED** a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion passed 7-0-0 by the following votes:*

|                   |  |                  |  |
|-------------------|--|------------------|--|
| Amy Jacques-Purdy | YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> | Jonathan Wintsch | Absent   |
| Becky Valenti     | YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> | Sue Twachtman    | Absent   |
| Chet Harris       | YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> | Steven Banaletti | Absent   |
| Jamie Lehane      | Absent   | Susan Dean       | Absent   |
| Jeannie Young     | 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"/> |
| Joel D'Angelo     | YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> |                  |  |

**B. Teacher Evaluation Revisions**

*Superintendent Thiery explained that the State asked districts to submit any revisions to the teacher evaluation plans. The Committee made some small, but significant revisions. For example, the district is updating to have five scored domains of observed practice.*

*Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Joel D'Angelo **SECONDED** a motion to approve the Teacher Evaluation Process revisions as presented. Motion passed 7-0-0 by the following votes:*

|                   |                                       |                  |                                       |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Amy Jacques-Purdy | YES <u>√</u> NO <u>  </u> A <u>  </u> | Jonathan Wintsch | Absent                                |
| Becky Valenti     | YES <u>√</u> NO <u>  </u> A <u>  </u> | Sue Twachtman    | Absent                                |
| Chet Harris       | YES <u>√</u> NO <u>  </u> A <u>  </u> | Steven Banaletti | Absent                                |
| Jamie Lehane      | Absent                                | Susan Dean       | Absent                                |
| Jeannie Young     | YES <u>√</u> NO <u>  </u> A <u>  </u> | Karen Perry      | YES <u>√</u> NO <u>  </u> A <u>  </u> |
| Joel D'Angelo     | YES <u>√</u> NO <u>  </u> A <u>  </u> |                  |                                       |

**From the Superintendent**

**A. Personnel Report**

*Superintendent Thiery presented the Personnel Report.*

**B. Enrollment Report**

*Superintendent Thiery presented the October enrollment report.*

**From the Director of Fiscal Operations**

**A. Budget Transfers**

*Director of Fiscal Operations Martha Vaughn presented budget transfers reflecting a movement of staff, such as from retiree to a new hire or movement to a new building.*

*Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Jeannie Young **SECONDED** a motion to approve the budget transfers as presented. Motion passed 7-0-0 by the following votes:*

|                   |                                       |                  |                                       |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Amy Jacques-Purdy | YES <u>√</u> NO <u>  </u> A <u>  </u> | Jonathan Wintsch | Absent                                |
| Becky Valenti     | YES <u>√</u> NO <u>  </u> A <u>  </u> | Sue Twachtman    | Absent                                |
| Chet Harris       | YES <u>√</u> NO <u>  </u> A <u>  </u> | Steven Banaletti | Absent                                |
| Jamie Lehane      | Absent                                | Susan Dean       | Absent                                |
| Jeannie Young     | YES <u>√</u> NO <u>  </u> A <u>  </u> | Karen Perry      | YES <u>√</u> NO <u>  </u> A <u>  </u> |
| Joel D'Angelo     | YES <u>√</u> NO <u>  </u> A <u>  </u> |                  |                                       |

**From the Board Chair**

*Board Chair Karen Perry thanked the Board for staying through this late meeting.*

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

*None*

**Adjournment**

*Becky Valenti **MOVED** and Chet Harris **SECONDED** a motion to go into Executive Session for the purposes of negotiations. Motion passed 7-0-0 by the following votes:*

|                   |                                       |                  |                                       |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Amy Jacques-Purdy | YES <u>√</u> NO <u>  </u> A <u>  </u> | Jonathan Wintsch | Absent                                |
| Becky Valenti     | YES <u>√</u> NO <u>  </u> A <u>  </u> | Sue Twachtman    | Absent                                |
| Chet Harris       | YES <u>√</u> NO <u>  </u> A <u>  </u> | Steven Banaletti | Absent                                |
| Jamie Lehane      | Absent                                | Susan Dean       | Absent                                |
| Jeannie Young     | YES <u>√</u> NO <u>  </u> A <u>  </u> | Karen Perry      | YES <u>√</u> NO <u>  </u> A <u>  </u> |
| Joel D'Angelo     | YES <u>√</u> NO <u>  </u> A <u>  </u> |                  |                                       |

*The Board went into Executive Session at 10:08 PM.*

*The Board returned from Executive Session at 10:18 PM and Board Chair Karen Perry adjourned the meeting.*

*Respectfully submitted,*



Larissa B. Johnson  
Board Clerk

Approval:  Date: 12/3/2013  
Susan Dean, Secretary