

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION – EDUCATION SESSION
October 15, 2013

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on October 15, 2013 in the Haddam-Killingworth Middle School Media Center. Board of Education Chair, Karen Perry, called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM.

***Members Present:** Chet Harris, Steven Banaletti, Joel D'Angelo, Jeannie Young, Sue Twachtman, Susan Dean, Amy Jacques-Purdy, Becky Valenti and Karen Perry*

***Members Absent:** Jamie Lehane and Jonathan Wintsch*

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

***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.

Audience of Citizens

None

Board Liaison Reports

A. Curriculum Council Update

Susan Dean gave the Curriculum Council Update. She gave a special thanks to Pamela Hensel for making a special effort to get the minutes out in time for this meeting. She mentioned that the Curriculum Council discussed Project Lead the Way and Susan read a passage from the minutes into the record:

Sean [Gallagher] informed the council that Project Lead the Way (PLTW) is in 4000 school in all 50 states serving more than 350,000 students. Annual studies and surveys have found it to be a launching pad for college and professional careers and a boost for academic performance.

Susan added that Project Lead the Way has been in the District schools for 9 years. She also stated that Carolyn Jepson reported on the Gateway to Technology and how it ties into the Common Core.

Old Business

A. Bus Contract Proposal

Superintendent Thiery re-introduced the STA Bus Contract Extension Proposal. He stated that he had spoken with a representative from STA and was able to further negotiate a possible extension and stated that he could present further information and figures to the Board in Executive Session.

New Business

A. State Standardized Testing

Superintendent Thiery stated that he received a memorandum from the State offering school districts the opportunity to indicate whether or not they are interested in offering the Smarter Balance assessment this spring as an alternative to or combined with the legacy assessments: CMT and CAPT. The Board discussed the possibility of offering the Smarter Balance assessment at length with Superintendent Thiery and the Curriculum Coordinators Sheila Ward and Bryan Kerachsky. The Smarter Balance assessments are in line with the Common Core standards and are offered online as an untimed, adaptive test which can be offered over a course of 3-months in segments, should the District choose. Bryan Kerachsky stated that the tests are comprised from a collection of 15,000 different items or questions which are collected and managed by McGraw-Hill. The Board discussed some concerns regarding the implementation of the test, including the district's network capabilities, the untimed nature of the test, possible complications from offering the test over an extended period of time, and concerns regarding the format of the questions. The Board discussed the Smarter Balance assessment testing at length.

B. Update on HKHS Computer Network

Superintendent Thiery stated that since coming back to school this fall, the administration has been aware the wireless network at the high school is glitchy, and not operating at the level of performance which should be allowed by the infrastructure of the network. Advanced Computer Networks, the service provider to the District, came in to reconfigure aspects of the network. One issue that was addressed was that mobile-devices which came onto the premises were being logged into the network as "guests" automatically. Under this configuration, the network was at times carrying 300 devices that were not necessarily actively being used. This issue has been addressed and the administration is considering whether a pass-code should be implemented. Overall, the administration is looking at what the current system can do and what it should be able to handle in terms of traffic and volume. The Board briefly discussed the idea of adding a pass-code for mobile-device log-in and standing district technology prioritization.

*Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Susan Dean **SECONDED** a motion to go into Executive Session for the purposes of negotiations and personnel matters. Motion passed 9-0-0 by the following votes:*

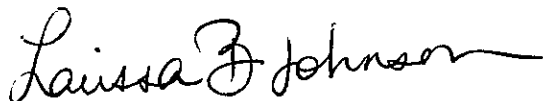
Amy Jacques-Purdy	YES <u>√</u> NO <u> </u> A <u> </u>	Jonathan Wintsch	Absent
Becky Valenti	YES <u>√</u> NO <u> </u> A <u> </u>	Sue Twachtman	YES <u>√</u> NO <u> </u> A <u> </u>
Chet Harris	YES <u>√</u> NO <u> </u> A <u> </u>	Steven Banaletti	YES <u>√</u> NO <u> </u> A <u> </u>
Jamie Lehane	Absent	Susan Dean	YES <u>√</u> NO <u> </u> A <u> </u>
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 8:22 PM.

Adjournment

The Board returned from Executive Session at 9:12 PM and Board Chair Karen Perry adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Larissa B. Johnson
Board Clerk

Approval: Susan Dean Date: 11/6/2013
Susan Dean, Secretary