

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION – EDUCATION MEETING
September 17, 2013**

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on September 17, 2013 in the Haddam-Killingworth Middle School Media Center. Board of Education Chair, Karen Perry, called the meeting to order at 7:34 PM.

Members Present: *Chet Harris, Jamie Lehane, Jeannie Young, Sue Twachtman, Susan Dean, Amy Jacques-Purdy, Becky Valenti and Karen Perry*

Members Absent: *Steven Banaletti, Jonathan Wintsch and Joel D'Angelo*

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

Visitors: *Approximately 18*

Call to Order/Opening of Meeting

Board of Education Chair, Karen Perry called the meeting to order at 7:34 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Board Liaison Reports

A. Curriculum Council Update

Susan Dean gave the Curriculum Council Update.

*Jamie Lehane **MOVED** and Amy Jacques-Purdy **SECONDED** a motion to move Old Business on the agenda to follow New Business. 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	YES <u>√</u> NO <u> </u> A <u> </u>
Chet Harris	YES <u>√</u> NO <u> </u> A <u> </u>	Steven Banaletti	Absent
Jamie Lehane	YES <u>√</u> NO <u> </u> A <u> </u>	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	Absent		

New Business

A. HKHS 2014 Trip to the Student National Film/Video Competitions in Orlando, FL March 19-24, 2014

HKHS teacher Charles Lewis presented the Student National Film field trip to Orlando, FL from March 19-24, 2014. He stated that in past years, students have traveled to Dallas and LA for this competition. Last year, 3000 students participated and HKHS students placed 4th in a music video competition. He stated that the cost per student is less than \$1000, and that they can take direct flights from Bradley International Airport to Orlando on Jet Blue, at a cost of about \$340 out of pocket per student for airfare. He stated that 24 students expressed interest in going and that he may ask his wife who is another educator to chaperone because of the high ratio of female students to male students interested in attending. Mr. Lewis also presented the Board with a list of his past students from HK and other districts who have participated in his program and are now working professional in the film, digital arts and television fields. He stated that he appreciated the Board's support of the program.

*Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Susan Dean **SECONDED** a motion to approve the HKHS Field Trip to the Student National Film/Video Competition in Orlando, FL March 19-24, 2014. 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	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"/>
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	Absent		

B. CSDE Attestation of Compliance with Meal Pattern Requirements 2013-14

Superintendent Howard Thiery and Director of Food Services Sharon Shettleworth presented the CSDE Attestation of Compliance with Meal Pattern Requirements 2013-14. Ms. Shettleworth explained that this program allows the District to purchase fresh produce, and without it the financial situation would be more difficult to provide better foods for the students of the District.

*Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Sue Twachtman **SECONDED** a motion to sign the Attestation of Compliance with Meal Pattern Requirements. Motion passed 6-0-1 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 type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steven Banaletti	Absent
Jamie Lehane	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"/>
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	Absent		

C. 2012-2013 Student Achievement Report – Howard Thiery

Superintendent Howard Thiery presented the 2012-2013 Student Achievement Report titled, “Regional School District 17 Continuous Improvement Process CMT Data Analysis and Report 2013.”

Superintendent Thiery stated that Student Performance Index and District Performance Index scores were not yet available from the state due to auditing and delaying in scoring at the state level.

Superintendent Thiery explained that there are two scoring methods for the CMT which answer three different questions: 1) How are we doing in on our Continuous Improvement Goals? 2) How well do we raise student achievement to grade level achievement standards? 3) How well do we as a School System “grow” student achievement from year to year?

The Superintendent also discussed with the Board that the testing method to be used this spring by the state is as of yet undetermined. A board member asked how this will affect teaching methods this year. Superintendent Thiery explained that in this district, teachers do not teach to a test, but teach to the subject and to their teaching goals, thus the undetermined testing method for this spring should not greatly affect the District.

Superintendent Thiery then reviewed the CMT scores for math for grades 3 through 8 and the reading scores for grades 3 through 8. For grades 4-8, Superintendent showed a vertical growth chart showing the difference between the district growth and the average growth statewide. These graphs showed that by 8th grade, the district’s mathematics and reading scores were topping out just below 600, at the ceiling of stage 5, compared to the state, which was just approaching 500. However, the 4th grade reading scores were showing a downward trend, although showing an overall improvement in scoring at Proficiency and Goal over eight years. Superintendent Thiery stated that this cohort did move up from Grade 3 to 4, but that he and the administrators are watching this cohort and working towards improving their performance.

He also talked about the Writing Assessment. Superintendent Thiery stated that there is some concern regarding the writing scores, as the District is doing very well with reading and that reading and writing are convergent skills. He said that the results between reading and writing are divergent as scored by this test. He reported that there has been a downward fluctuation in Grade 3 and 4 Writing Scores and flat scores in Grades 5 through 7, and that the District is taking a hard look at writing. He is looking into a Writer’s Workshop program, like Reader’s Workshop to work on improving on students’ writing skills in the District. Grade 8 did show an improvement by 2.4% at Proficient and 5.6% at Goal, showing a 6.0% and 15.2% over eight years at Proficient and Goal levels respectively.

He also presented the Science Assessment for Grades 5 and 8. For Grade 5, the District is 92.2% at Goal and 98.4% at Proficiency, which are #1 scores in the state. Grade 8 showed 80.2% at Goal and 90.6% at Proficiency.

For Haddam-Killingworth High School, Howard Thiery reviewed the CAPT Exam Results. Howard Thiery said that scoring is high at Proficiency, but needs improvement at Goal. For Math, 91.3% of students are at Proficiency and 65.8% are at Goal, showing an increase by 10%. For Reading, 95.7% of students are at Proficiency and 71.4% are at Goal, a 9% increase. For Writing, 93.9% of students are at Proficiency and 79.1% are at Goal, showing relatively flat scores over last year. For Science, 93.9% of students are at Proficiency and 73.0% are at Goal, at 9% increase.

Under the “Measures of Achievement and Improvement: HKHS” portion of his presentation, Superintendent Thiery discussed students’ early college experience, post-graduate profile, college application profile and college acceptance profile. The post-graduate profile shows an upward trend in 4-year college attendance, at 70.8% for the Class of 2013, with 19.9% attending two-year colleges, 6.2% entering employment, and 3.1% joining the armed forces. The college application profile shows that 51.98% of the overall college applications were made to colleges ranked “Competitive” by Baron’s Standards, 17.5% ranked “Very Competitive,” and 23.24% to colleges ranked “Highly Competitive.” The college acceptance profile shows that 54.66% of the overall college acceptances were made by colleges ranked “Competitive,” 18.45% ranked “Very Competitive,” and 17.75% to colleges ranked “Highly Competitive.”

The students’ early college experience showed that the enrollment in Advanced Placement (AP) courses almost doubled from 111 to 204 between the 2012-2013 school year and 2013-2014 school year. Student enrollment in Project Lead the way increased from 79 to 92 from the prior school year, enrollment in University of Connecticut programs increase from 67 to 86, and although enrollment at Middlesex Community College decreased from 27 to 12, there was an overall increase in Early College Experience enrollment from 285 to 394 over the prior school year.

In the section, “Celebrations” Mr. Thiery stated that 5th grade science scores at #1 in the state, and that 5th and 8th grade reading scores are #4 in the state. High School math scores had an increase of 10.8% at the standard of Goal or Above, and High School reading scores had an increase of 9% at the standard of Goal or Above. The number of students enrolled in Advanced Placement courses increased by 84% and enrollment in college articulated courses increased by 34%. The 3rd grade reading scores are at the highest level ever of Goal or Above, and 87% of Grades K-1 are reading at Grade Level Goal.

In the section “Conclusions – Areas of Focus,” Superintendent Thiery listed writing instruction with a focus on consistency and articulation to reading, instructional and curricular consistency in literacy and mathematics, instructional and interventional supports in High School where curricular rigor has been advanced for all students, and student level data analysis and instructional planning.

Board Chair Karen Perry thanked Superintendent Thiery for his presentation and the administrators and staff for their hard work and stated that the District has a lot to celebrate. Superintendent Thiery thanked the Board for their support.

Old Business

A. Bus Contract Proposal

Superintendent Thiery re-introduced the STA Bus Contract Extension Proposal. He stated that STA had presented an offer to extend the existing bus contract by five years. He said that he met with the Regional President and that they reviewed the offer and discussed economic parameters and comparative analysis of agreements across the region.

*Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Susan Dean **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	YES <u>√</u> NO <u> </u> A <u> </u>
Chet Harris	YES <u>√</u> NO <u> </u> A <u> </u>	Steven Banaletti	Absent
Jamie Lehane	YES <u>√</u> NO <u> </u> A <u> </u>	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	Absent		

The Board went into Executive Session at 9:06 PM.


Adjournment

The Board returned from Executive Session at 9:40 PM and Board Chair Karen Perry adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Larissa B. Johnson
Board Clerk

Approval:  Date: 10/1/2013
Susan Dean, Secretary