

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
June 4, 2013**

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on June 4, 2013 in the Central Office Board Room. Board of Education Chair, Karen Perry, called the meeting to order at 7:36 PM.

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

Members Absent: *Jonathan Wintsch, Sue Twachtman, and Steven Banaletti*

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

Visitors: 5

Call to Order/Opening of Meeting

Board of Education Chair, Karen Perry called the meeting to order at 7:36 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Board observed a moment of silence in honor of Captain Keith Kelsey, former Board Chair who passed away on May 25, 2013. Board Chair Karen Perry stated on behalf of the Board that they are grateful for his leadership, service and dedication to the district. She stated that although his life was short, we were better for having known him.

Audience of Citizens

None

Approval of Minutes

- A. Approval of Minutes for the May 7, 2013 Board of Education**
- B. Approval of Minutes for the May 21 2013 Board of Education Special Meeting**
- C. Approval of Minutes for the May 21, 2013 Board of Education – Education Subcommittee Meeting**

*Susan Dean **MOVED** and Amy Jacques-Purdy **SECONDED** a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed 7-0-1 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	Absent
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	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>		

Report from Student Representatives

Board Chair Karen Perry thanked Student Representatives Erin Buckley and Charles Crocco for their service to the Board this year and presented them each with a small gift. She also stated to Erin Buckley that the Board is thankful to have had her for two years. The students thanked the Board for the opportunity to be Student Representatives.

Student Representatives Erin Buckley and Charles Crocco gave their reports to the Board. Erin Buckley reported that May was a busy month. She said that AP tests were completed in the first two weeks of May. She continued stating that on May 15, the high school hosted the Mock Car Crash, an event hosted by the State Troopers, Youth and Family Services and Students Against Destructive Decisions and local emergency personnel for seniors to warn students against the dangers of drunk driving. She also reported that on May 24, the National Honor Society organized a High School Kids Night Out for all of the high school students. The event had a "throwback" theme and there was a DJ and games like the three-legged race and balloon pop relays. She also mentioned that the National Honor Society inducted its new members on May 28. In addition, she reported that the Spanish and French Honor Societies also held their induction ceremonies on May 30. She also reported that the Shoreline Math Department hosted "Calculus Day" at HKHS and Calculus classes from all around the shoreline were invited to compete against each other. She stated that the day began with a music video contest, where students wrote songs about calculus and then the students played games in the field house including calculus Sudoku and helix Connect-Four. She also reported that June 6 will be Senior Awards Night and on June 10 the Senior Outing would be to the Brownstone Quarry.

Charles Crocco reported that Junior Prom was held on May 18 and that the class officers did a great job organizing it. He then went on to suggest to the Board that the High School consider organizing a Community Service program where people in the community in need of help or assistance could be paired up with students. He then reported that Channel 19, Valley Shore Community Television is getting a make-over and Mr. Lewis is working on that. He also reported that the Street Fest would be tomorrow, June 5. He also reported that the Jazz Cabaret was held on June 3 and that the Swing 14 Choir performed. He also suggested that the High School look at the way students make their schedules. He stated that the meetings with Guidance Counselors are typically done alphabetically, thus some classes are full by the time some students with names lower in the alphabet are given the chance to meet with their counselor. He then reported that the HK Girls' Lacrosse team beat Granby 18-15, and that they are Shoreline Champions having beat Morgan 3-2.

Board Committee Reports and Future Meetings

A. Facilities and Transportation Subcommittee

Jamie Lehane updated the Board. He reported that the subcommittee met this evening and discussed the IT upgrade and the security systems upgrade. For the security systems upgrade, the subcommittee discussed three bids which were submitted. Two were comparable in price, but the third was higher. Of the two comparable quotes, one provider made its quote using lower quality/grade equipment than the District's current security system provider. The subcommittee also discussed the bids which came in for the HKHS irrigation project. The bids for that project came in \$150,000-\$200,000 higher than the budgeted amount so Michael Distefano is currently working on re-working the specifications to meet requirements but lower cost. The subcommittee also discussed the Lightning Strike at HKMS and the district will be consulting with a structural engineering firm to see how this could be avoided in the future. He also reported that they discussed reimbursements from Storm Sandy and that the score board that was damaged is not covered. He also mentioned that the proposed electrical changes suggested following Hurricane Sandy are \$42,000 and that they are getting quotes on larger items. The next meeting will be July 2, 2013.

B. Building Subcommittee (HKMS)

Amy Jacques-Purdy reported that the subcommittee did not meet. Next meeting date to be determined.

C. Finance Subcommittee

Martha Vaughn updated the Board. She reported that the subcommittee looked at the Year-to-Date Financial Report and reviewed checks and the status of grants. They also reviewed the invoice for the Assessment to the Towns of Haddam and Killingworth. They also discussed the Health Insurance Market study and the results of the Legal RFP. The subcommittee then talked about seeking interest rates and information on the Technology Lease for 2013-2014 and discussed the Pre-Audit 2012-2013. The next meeting will be July 2, 2013 at 6:30 PM.

D. Policy Subcommittee

Amy Jacques-Purdy reported that the committee did not meet. Next meeting date to be determined.

E. Communications Subcommittee

Karen Perry updated the Board. She reported that the Board Update should be coming out in the next day or so.

F. Personnel and Evaluation Subcommittee

Karen Perry updated the Board. She reported that there have been meetings in negotiations with the custodial union. She stated that a June 11 meeting is scheduled and that meeting to discuss other issues will be scheduled later in June.

Board Liaison Reports

A. Healthy Communities – Healthy Kids Council

Susan Dean updated the Board. She reported that the council met on May 16. She said that every meeting has an activity. She stated that the council has areas in common such as parents, church, health, law and policy, but that they are lacking in association with media. She also talked about the new billboards on Rt. 154 and the drug take-back day being scheduled for the fall. She mentioned that other over-the-counter medicines can be brought to the drug take-back day. She also reported that someone donated a Harley Davidson for a fundraiser. And she said that the council discussed how they could increase membership.

B. LEARN

No report.

C. Park & Recreation

Amy Jacques-Purdy reported that she was unable to attend the most recent meeting, however she had been in touch with the Park & Recreation Director of Recreation.

D. Haddam Board of Selectmen

No report.

E. Killingworth Board of Selectmen

Susan Dean updated the Board. She said that they met on May 28. She ~~said~~ ^{SAD} thanked Howard for his update and told the Board of Selectmen about the Regional School District No. 17 end-of-the-year award ceremonies.

Old Business

A. Health Insurance Market Study

The Board discussed whether or not they should renew with Anthem for the upcoming year or continue with the interview process for a new provider. The Board discussed that in the coming year it might look at seeking a new health insurance broker for the District because the process with not as timely as it could have been. Board Chair Karen Perry also remarked that she is grateful for Sue Twachtman's input on the topic. The Board briefly discussed the matter.

*Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Becky Valenti **SECONDED** a motion to renew the contract with Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield. Motion passed 8-0-0 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	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	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>		

B. Policy 5000 Series

Board Chair Karen Perry suggested that the Board review the 5000 series at next month's meeting.

C. Approved Security Upgrades - Update

The Board briefly discussed the Approved Security Upgrades. The Board also mentioned that the monies for these upgrades would be coming out of the Capital Fund.

*Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Joel D'Angelo **SECONDED** a motion to approve a contract with Shoreline Security Systems as recommended by the District Security Committee. Motion passed 8-0-0 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	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	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>		

Consent Agenda

- A. Acceptance of a donation from an anonymous donor, totaling \$30.00 to be applied to HKHS Athletic programs.**
- B. Acceptance of a donation from the Burr School Parents Association in the amount of \$500.00. Submitted by Eric Larson, Principal of Burr Elementary School.**

*Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Susan Dean **SECONDED** a motion to accept the donations in the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion passed 8-0-0 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	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	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>		

New Business

A. IT Upgrade Contract

The Board discussed the IT Upgrade Contract – a proposal to upgrade the fiber backbone of the network. Superintendent Thiery explained that this proposal is cost neutral because of the reimbursement by the Federal E-Rate grant. The Board reviewed three bids from three different companies, Digital Back Office, Comcast, and Proficient Telecom. Director of Technology, Scott Butson recommended the proposal from the District's current provider, Digital Back Office at \$54,972 because it provided the highest speed and allows the district to use its own private network, rather than one provided by the vendor. The Comcast proposal came in at \$52,720 and the proposal from Proficient Telecom came in at \$137,872. The Board discussed this matter briefly.

*Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Becky Valenti **SECONDED** a motion to approve a contract with Digital Back Office to complete IT Upgrades as presented in Item 9.A. Motion passed 8-0-0 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	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	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>		

B. Liability Insurance Market Study – Scott Davis

Scott Davis made a presentation of the Willis of Connecticut Liability Insurance Market Study. He stated that the Worker's Comp renewal rate did not come ^{SPD} as well as he would have liked. Thus, he will continue to try to negotiate the rate down with the current provider, MEMIC. He stated that the District has had a good experience with them in the first year and that they will continue to accomplish what the District is looking for in claims management. The Board discussed the market

study with Scott Davis at length, including the impact of the District's claims history on the rates offered and interest of different vendors in providing Worker's Compensation Insurance.

C. Capital Projects

Director of Facilities Michael Distefano presented Capital Projects for 2013 to the Board. The Board discussed individual items at BES, HES, KES and HKHS and which items would be put out for bid. The Board discussed these items at some length and that this matter should be brought to the Board again at the Special Meeting at the end of the fiscal year with final numbers for approval.

From the Superintendent

A. Legislative Update

Superintendent Thiery updated the Board. He reported that the Transportation Funding was restored in House and Senate passed version of the State Budget. He also reported on HB 5113: Pool Safety which requires that a teacher plus one other person, which may be a certified educator, swim coach or lifeguard must monitor a pool during school activities or during classes using a pool. He also reported on HB 6330: An Act Concerning Look Alike Fire arm, which makes it in infraction to alter any look-alike firearm to make it appear like a real firearm, as well as to possess such an item on school grounds or on public or private school property, except in a school approved theatrical production. He also reported that each school must provide a written notice of these rules to its students. He also reported on HB 6507: An act establishing a sliding tuition scale for preschool programs at magnet schools, HB 6525: An act concerning childhood obesity and physical exercise in schools, and HB 6682: An act concerning collaboration between School Districts and Law Enforcement.

B. Personnel Report

Superintendent Thiery presented the Personnel Report.

C. Enrollment Report

Superintendent Thiery presented the Enrollment Report.

From the Director of Fiscal Operations

A. Approval and acceptance of the Assessment to the Towns of Haddam and Killingworth 2013-2014

The Board briefly discussed the Assessment.

*Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Becky Valenti **SECONDED** a motion to approve the Assessment to the Towns of Haddam and Killingworth 2013-2014 as presented. Motion passed 8-0-0 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	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	YES <u>√</u> NO <u> </u> A <u> </u>		

From the Board Chair

Board Chair Karen Perry set a Special Meeting of the Board for Wednesday, June 26, 2013 at 7:30 PM.

Board Chair Karen Perry thanked the Board members for reminding friends and family to get out and vote on the Board Budget last month.

Board Discussion – Areas of Opportunities for District Improvement

Amy Jacques-Purdy suggested that the Board consider doing some Professional Development as a Board. The Board briefly discussed this suggestion.

Adjournment

Chet Harris **MOVED** and Amy Jacques-Purdy **SECONDED** a motion to go into Executive Session for the purposes of discussion personnel, negotiations and legal issues at 9:36 PM. 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	Absent
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	YES <u>√</u> NO <u> </u> A <u> </u>		

The Board returned from Executive Session at 10:15 PM. Board Chair Karen Perry called for the meeting to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,



Larissa B. Johnson
Board Clerk

Approval:  Date: 7/2/2013
Susan Dean, Secretary