

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**May 7, 2013**

*A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on May 7, 2013 in the Central Office Board Room. Board of Education Chair, Karen Perry, called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM.*

***Members Present:** Joel D'Angelo, Amy Jacques-Purdy, Susan Dean, Jonathan Wintsch (departed at 9:06 PM), Jeannie Young, Becky Valenti, Sue Twachtman, Jamie Lehane and Karen Perry*

***Members Absent:** Steven Banaletti, and Chet Harris*

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

***Visitors:** 6*

**Call to Order/Opening of Meeting**

*Board of Education Chair, Karen Perry called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.*

*Susan Dean addressed the Board to recognize Teacher Appreciation Day and thank all of the teachers in the district for their dedication and all that they do.*

**Audience of Citizens**

*None*

**Approval of Minutes**

- A. Approval of Minutes for the March 19, 2013 Board of Education Special Meeting**
- B. Approval of Minutes for the April 2, 2013 Board of Education**
- C. Approval of Minutes for the April 8, 2013 Board of Education Annual Hearing**
- D. Approval of Minutes for the April 8, 2013 Board of Education Special Meeting**
- E. Approval of Minutes for the April 23, 2013 Board of Education – Education Subcommittee Meeting**
- F. Approval of Minutes for the April 22, 2013 Board of Education Special Meeting**

*Susan Dean **MOVED** and Amy Jacques-Purdy **SECONDED** a motion to approve the minutes agenda items 3.A-F as presented. Motion passed 9-0-0 by the following votes:*

Amy Jacques-Purdy	YES <u>✓</u> NO <u>  </u> A <u>  </u>	Jonathan Wintsch	YES <u>✓</u> NO <u>  </u> A <u>  </u>
Becky Valenti	YES <u>✓</u> NO <u>  </u> A <u>  </u>	Sue Twachtman	YES <u>✓</u> NO <u>  </u> A <u>  </u>
Chet Harris	Absent	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>		

## Report from Student Representatives

*Board Chair Karen Perry read Student Representative Erin Buckley's report to the Board:*

May 1<sup>st</sup> was the day for many seniors to send in a deposit at the college they will be attending in the fall. National Honor Society will be sending out slips in homeroom later this week to ask seniors to write their future plans, and their colleges/career choices will be displayed on a 'College Board.'

Art Linares came to visit the high school last month. He was able to connect with the students very well, and opened up the last part of his talk to questions. He talked about not making destructive decisions in regards to alcohol, drugs, and other substance abuse, and told stories and memories he had about others that were very relatable to high school students.

On April 24, French Honor Society held a French film festival. FHS asked for donations to Doctors Without Borders, and raised about \$30 to donate to the cause. The event rose awareness for French culture and language both in the school and in the community.

Senior advisories are wrapping up their Spring Into Service Projects – half of the advisories gave presentations about what they did during the year to the junior class, and the other half will be this month. Projects included raising money for a basketball hoop for underprivileged children and planting a tree in front of the school (outside the locker rooms) in honor of the Newtown tragedy. Junior advisories are beginning to plan their projects for next year.

On May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> the HK Players performed West Side Story. The musical was a huge success, and tickets sales were the highest in years.

*Student Representative Charles Crocco gave his report to the Board. He reported on the HKTV students' STN trip to Los Angeles. He also talked about his experience working on the review of school safety in Hartford and Art Linares. He talked about HKYFS, the student production of "West Side Story" and prom. He also discussed the College Fair, HK Film Fest and the sports' teams success, especially the Girls' Lacrosse team, Track team and Softball team.*

## Board Committee Reports and Future Meetings

### A. Facilities and Transportation Subcommittee

*Jamie Lehané updated the Board. He reported that the committee reviewed Capital Improvement Projects, including equipment replacement and security upgrades. They also discussed Energy Efficiency and bids. They talked about installing solar power panels on the Old Middle School building. The committee also discussed the STA Proposal to install a new fueling tank and the possible purchase of a new sander and pick-up truck. Jamie Lehané said that the committee would try to have recommendations for the Board at the first meeting in June. The next meeting will be June 4, 2013.*

### B. Building Subcommittee (HKMS)

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

### C. Finance Subcommittee

Karen Perry updated the Board. The committee discussed Funds, Fund Balances, Vendor Details, a graph of Fixed Assets, and discussed an update on the Legal RFP. They also discussed the transfer from the Bus Fund to the General Fund.

Jonathan Wintsch **MOVED** and Amy Jacques-Purdy **SECONDED** a motion to transfer \$276,607 from the Bus Fund to the General Fund. Motion passed 9-0-0 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	Absent	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"/>		

The next meeting will be June 4, 2013 at 6:30 PM.

### D. Policy Subcommittee

Amy Jacques-Purdy updated the Board. She reported that Scott Butson joined the committee to discuss technology aspects of the policies. She reported that they would like to go through the 6000 series one more time and bring it to the Board for review with the 5000 series. The next meeting will be May 13, 2013 at 6:30 PM.

### E. Communications Subcommittee

Karen Perry updated the Board. She reported that the committee discussed putting together a Board Update in May.

### F. Personnel and Evaluation Subcommittee

Karen Perry updated the Board. She reported that the committee has been having on-going meetings regarding custodial negotiations.

## Board Liaison Reports

### A. Healthy Communities – Healthy Kids Council

Susan Dean updated the Board. She reported that the council met on April 11, 2013 and that they had their Pancake Breakfast last Sunday. She said that high school students did a lot to help out with the breakfast. She also reported that the council sponsored Drug Take Back Day and is beginning to plan the Pumpkin Run and had a planning breakfast at River House.

### B. LEARN

Sue Twachtman updated the Board. She reported that LEARN met on April 11, 2013 and that the Director of Development Doreen Marvin made a presentation titled, "Educational Alphabet Soup," explaining the different acronyms surrounding education. She reported that Dr. Howley also met with the Superintendents and Board members to discuss LEARN's mission. The next meeting will be May 9, 2013.

### C. Park & Recreation

Amy Jacques-Purdy reported that Park & Recreation met on April 24, 2013. She had nothing further to report.

#### D. Haddam Board of Selectmen

*No report.*

#### E. Killingworth Board of Selectmen

*Susan Dean updated the report. She reported that the Board of Selectmen met two weeks ago. She said that the Board of Selectmen thought that the 0 budget was pretty amazing and that she updated them on Readers' Workshop, Middle School honors, test scores and the KES Principal search.*

### Old Business

#### A. School Security Review: Committee Recommendations

*The Board reviewed the Security Committee recommendations again. Superintendent Thiery confirmed which of the recommendations had already been put in place. The Board briefly discussed the recommendation of having a key card or pass-code entry system installed on entry doors in the district. Superintendent Thiery explained that the district is looking to save money on installation by having some the work performed by District staff, rather than working with a large company which would require the District to work with its installers and equipment. He also clarified that the panic button system would autodial 911 through Valley Shore Dispatch. The Board also briefly discussed the idea of having a State Trooper office at KES.*

*Jamie Lehane **MOVED** and Becky Valenti **SECONDED** a motion to approve the Security Committee recommendations and proceed to begin the bidding process on each of the items as a part of the Capital Improvement Plan. Motion passed 9-0-0 by the following votes:*

Amy Jacques-Purdy	YES <u>✓</u> NO <u>  </u> A <u>  </u>	Jonathan Wintsch	YES <u>✓</u> NO <u>  </u> A <u>  </u>
Becky Valenti	YES <u>✓</u> NO <u>  </u> A <u>  </u>	Sue Twachtman	YES <u>✓</u> NO <u>  </u> A <u>  </u>
Chet Harris	Absent	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>		

*Board Chair Karen Perry thanked the members of the Security Committee for their hard work, as well as Howard Thiery, Scott Butson and Mike Distefano.*

#### B. Policy Review: 5000 Series

*The Board briefly discussed the 5000 series. Board Chair Karen Perry asked about the age requirements for students to go to school. Superintendent Thiery responded, saying that the key is the top and bottom ages, 5 and 7 but that the policy talks a lot about age 6, which is a discretionary age. The Board also talked about the change in the absenteeism policy. There is an obligation on the part of the District to reach out on behalf of absent students and there are new definitions of excused and unexcused absences. The policy also explains that there can be a referral to Superior Court relating to truancy laws or family with services reporting.*

## Consent Agenda

- A. **Acceptance of a donation from General Mills Box Tops in the amount of \$385.20. The funds to be used by our library to purchase new books for student use. Submitted by Eric Larson, Principal of Burr Elementary School.**

*Susan Dean **MOVED** and Jonathan Wintsch **SECONDED** a motion to accept a donation from General Mills Box Tops in the amount of \$385.20 for Burr Elementary School. Motion passed 9-0-0 by the following votes:*

Amy Jacques-Purdy	YES <u>✓</u> NO <u>  </u> A <u>  </u>	Jonathan Wintsch	YES <u>✓</u> NO <u>  </u> A <u>  </u>
Becky Valenti	YES <u>✓</u> NO <u>  </u> A <u>  </u>	Sue Twachtman	YES <u>✓</u> NO <u>  </u> A <u>  </u>
Chet Harris	Absent	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>		

## New Business

- A. **Health Insurance Market Study**

*The Board reviewed the Health Insurance Market Study provided by Bob Lindberg of Lindberg & Ripple. The Board discussed the differences between responses provided by Aetna, CIGNA, and Anthem at length, including the overall coverage of health care providers in the different networks, the differences in service fees and dental coverage.*

*The Board took a recess at 8:25 PM. The meeting resumed at 8:30 PM.*

*Mr. Lindberg recommended that the Board proceed with the interview process with the insurance carriers based upon the possible savings available to the District and explained the interview process.*

*Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Sue Twachtman **SECONDED** a motion to proceed with the interview process for a health insurance provider. 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	YES <u>✓</u> NO <u>  </u> A <u>  </u>
Chet Harris	Absent	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>		

- B. **Attestation of Compliance with Meal Pattern Requirements**

*Superintendent Thiery explained that the District is required to attest to compliance with the Federal Meal Pattern Requirements in order to receive federal funding.*

Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Joel D'Angelo **SECONDED** a motion that the District will attest to compliance with the Meal Pattern Requirements as stated by the Federal Government. 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	YES <u>✓</u> NO <u>   </u> A <u>   </u>
Chet Harris	Absent	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>		

### C. Healthy Foods Certification

Superintendent Thiery and Sharon Shettlesworth, Director of Food Services explained that the District does not want to agree to the Healthy Foods Certification, which restricts what the District can serve not only during school hours but at PTO events and sports games, which as a result causes the District to lose money.

Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Joel D'Angelo **SECONDED** a motion that the District will decline the Healthy Foods Certification. 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	YES <u>✓</u> NO <u>   </u> A <u>   </u>
Chet Harris	Absent	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 Superintendent

### A. Legislative Update

Superintendent Thiery updated the Board. He said that the District is tracking changes in legislation on the Safety recommendations by the State as well as Transportation funding. He explained that the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities will also be lobbying against any cuts in transportation funding as these funds go to the municipalities in most districts.

### B. Killingworth Elementary Principal Search

Superintendent Thiery updated the Board. He stated that Dennis Reed is the finalist from the second round of candidates. He said that Reed is currently an elementary school teacher and lead teacher, who has been Principal in Absence in his current position. Superintendent Thiery stated that he has never seen a teacher more ready to be a principal. He said that the candidate will be brought before the Board on May 21, 2013 for consideration.

### **C. Personnel Report**

*Superintendent Thiery presented the Personnel Report. He stated that there were several resignations and retirements that will be honored at the Recognition Ceremony in May.*

### **D. Enrollment Report**

*Superintendent Thiery presented the Enrollment Report.*

### **From the Director of Fiscal Operations**

#### **A. Budget Transfers**

*None*

### **From the Board Chair**

*Board Chair Karen Perry stated that she received a nice letter from Art Linares responding to the Board's letter regarding P.A. 374.*

*She also stated that Killingworth Elementary School sponsored a tremendous Learning Fair that students were really excited about.*

*She also mentioned that the next meeting will be on May 21, 2013 at 6:00 PM to discuss the hiring of the new KES Principal followed by a Board Meeting at 7:00 PM in the High School Auditorium.*

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

*Amy Jaques-Purdy thanked Karen Perry for her leadership during the budget process. Karen Perry thanked Howard Thiery and Martha Vaughn for their extra work as well. Susan Dean also thanked the teachers in the district for putting up signs to encourage the community to vote.*

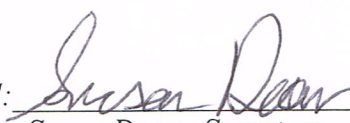
### **Adjournment**

*Board Chair Karen Perry called for the meeting to adjourn at 9:29 PM.*

*Respectfully submitted,*



Larissa B. Johnson  
Board Clerk

Approval:  Date: 6/4/2013  
Susan Dean, Secretary