

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION – EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE
April 23, 2013

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on April 23, 2013 in the Haddam-Killingworth Middle School Media Center. Board of Education Chair, Karen Perry, called the meeting to order at 7:36 PM.

Members Present: *Chet Harris, Jamie Lehane, Steven Banaletti, Sue Twachtman, Susan Dean, Becky Valenti, and Karen Perry*

Members Absent: *Joel D'Angelo, Jonathan Wintsch, Amy Jacques-Purdy, and Jeannie Young*

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

Visitors: 8

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 and a moment of silence was observed.

Following the moment of silence, Susan Dean asked for a moment of personal privilege to recognize Doreen Messier who passed away on April 15. Doreen was a teacher at the Killingworth Elementary School for 32 years. She was a true professional-very conscientious and hardworking. She was a gentle, quiet, and kind person who loved children. This district was fortunate to have an employee of this caliber.

Board Liaison Reports

A. Curriculum Council Update

Sue Twachtman updated the Board. She said that Bryan Kerachsky reported on the Common Core Standards and that the Summer Reader's Workshop by Columbia University is set up. She stated that Sheila Ward reported that the 9th graders completed the first round of pilot testing of the SBAC, as well as the 3rd and 4th graders at HES and Burr. She stated that Sheila Ward also reported that the State of Connecticut is considering new science standards. She also stated that Eric Larson recommended that the foreign language instruction at the elementary school level be reviewed and a committee was formed to meet at the end of the school year. Sue Twachtman also reported that Mariann Grimaldi talked about an internship program for regular and Special Education students for credit.

Old Business

None

New Business

A. School Security Review: Committee Recommendations

Superintendent Thiery presented the Committee recommendations from the School Security Review. The Board discussed the recommendations at length.

The first recommendation is to place room numbers on the external windows of classrooms. Superintendent Thiery added that this has already been approved by the Board and that it can be done within the operating budget.

The second recommendation is to install mirrors on blind corners in schools. He added that this item was also already approved by the Board and that they have already been installed. He also added that these mirrors increase safety for individuals using wheel chairs or custodians or other staff members moving carts or equipment through the hallways.

The third recommendation is to install a key card or passcode entry system on school doors. The total estimated cost for this across the district is \$65,266.20. The Board discussed whether having a dual-system (key card and passcode) was necessary and the details of the operations of the system. The estimate came from the District's current security company, Shoreline Security.

The fourth recommendation is to upgrade security cameras and monitoring systems. The total estimated cost for this item across the district is \$39,645.00. The system upgrade would include installing pan-tilt-zoom cameras in locations where they do not already exist and the system could possibly have IP Accessibility. The Board discussed this item briefly.

The fifth recommendation is to install an Emergency/Panic Button system. The total estimated cost across the district is \$12,500.00. The Board discussed where some of these buttons would be installed and whether the system would auto-dial 911 or a security company.

The sixth recommendation is to install a Security/Visitor Check-In window at HES. This would be a banker/reception style sliding window in the entryway at HES to prevent individuals from proceeding to the lower level of the school without checking in. Superintendent Thiery added that the cost of this item would be approximately \$500.00 and could be performed by District staff. The Board discussed the logistics of this item briefly.

The seventh recommendation is to have personnel or staff in place for visitor check-in at HKHS and HKMS. The reason for this additional staff being the higher volume of visitors at these larger schools. The total estimated cost for security monitors and office furniture for these positions is \$2,450.00. The Board discussed this item briefly.

The eighth recommendation is to propose a formal agreement with State Police to make it a daily responsibility for State Troopers to check in at all schools and walk the perimeter and check into the main offices. The Board also briefly discussed the idea of a state-funded Student Resource Officer program.

The ninth recommendation is to support the current establishment of time on task-tracking for support services personnel for mental health matters to assure proper staffing levels and to establish minimum communications standards with families for all support services personnel.

The total projected project cost for these improvements is \$119,861.20.

Superintendent Thiery also reported that the committee suggested that the member towns of the District consider reviewing the number of state troopers or law enforcement levels in each town to address concerns about response time in case of an incident. The Board discussed this briefly.

Jamie Lehane commended the committee on its work.

Superintendent Thiery also said that he wanted to take the opportunity to publicly thank the committee, and he remarked that it was no small amount of work and that the committee members performed faithfully and diligently.

Board Chair Karen Perry thanked the committee as well. She then suggested that the Board consider these recommendations again at the next Board meeting.

B. RSD17 Teacher and Administrator Evaluation plans sign off for State.

Superintendent Thiery presented "SEED: Connecticut's System for Educator Evaluation and Development" and the District's plan to submit its intention to implement the system in the District. He said that the administration and teachers have been meeting weekly, piloting SEED. Superintendent Thiery stated that he feels it is a sound document and philosophically in-line with the District, however that the District may make some minor changes procedurally within the confines of the State's prescribed guidelines. He said that the proposed changes have been informally reviewed by members of the State's subcommittee on SEED. He also added that every year, districts may make adjustments to the procedures for review by the State. The Board discussed the 45-40-10-5 evaluation criteria categories and evaluation procedures, as well as dismissal procedures and discussed them at some length.

From the Board Chair

Board Chair Karen Perry acknowledged the passing of former Director of Transportation for the District. Karen Perry said that the District is grateful for her years of service and that everyone who knew her had wonderful things to say about her.

Adjournment

*Sue Twachtman **MOVED** and Susan Dean **SECONDED** a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss negotiations at 8:50 PM. Motion passed 7-0-0 by the following votes:*

Amy Jacques-Purdy	Absent	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	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
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	Absent	Karen Perry	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Joel D'Angelo	Absent		

Board Chair Karen Perry adjourned the meeting from Executive Session at 9:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Larissa B. Johnson
Board Clerk

Approval:  Date: 5/7/2013
Susan Dean, Secretary