

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
March 7, 2013

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on March 7, 2013 in the Central Office Board Room. Board of Education Chair, Karen Perry, called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

***Members Present:** Joel D'Angelo, Jeanie Young, Susan Dean, Amy Jacques-Purdy, Karen Perry, Sue Twachtman (departed at 8:05 PM), and Becky Valenti (departed at 8:05 PM)*

***Members Absent:** Chet Harris, Steven Banaletti, Jamie Lehane, and Jonathan Wintsch*

***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 6:35 PM.

Discussion of the Superintendent's Proposed 2013-2014 Budget

The Board discussed the Superintendent's Proposed 2013-2014 budget at length. The Board began by briefly discussing the Health Insurance Reserve. The Board decided to reserve its questions for Bob Lindberg at Monday night's Budget Workshop. The Board then discussed the declining student population over the past four years and asked whether any efficiencies in staffing would be possible in response to the decline in student population. Superintendent Thiery responded that in the future, he doesn't see the District maintaining current staffing level. However, at this time distribution of students may not allow for any additional efficiencies to be made in staffing. The Board discussed how staffing changes may be made and where student distribution and demographics are changing at some length.

The Board also looked at some changes in how overtime salaries are reported for Finance staff. They also talked about the Industrial Arts program and the proposed changes as well as the technology spending in the high school. The Board talked about how the electronic device policy may allow the District to purchase fewer electronic devices. The Board also talked about Technology Repair and Maintenance expenses, some of which reflected a change in how those expenses were reported.

The Board also talked about concerns with under-funding the Capital Fund. However, Director of Facilities, Mike Distefano said that he was comfortable with the proposed level of funding. The Board also talked about the increase in the Buildings & Grounds line.

The Board also discussed some of the Superintendent's cuts to the Administrators' Requested Budget pertaining to HKMS, including the Guidance Counselor position, the Athletic Director position and Dean of Students position, as well as some positions at BES and HES.

The Board also looked at the increase in Line 205 - Worker's Compensation.

The Board also discussed looking at Transportation Costs more closely following budget season, to review whether or not outsourcing the transportation services to the District has benefitted the District.

The Board also looked at Line 439 in the Proposed Budget by Object section. The Board discussed taking Field Maintenance expenses out of the Field Improvement Fund in the amount of \$14,000, such as to cover the cost of sodding the baseball field in the fall for Girls' Field Hockey. The Board also talked about the Irrigation Fund.

The Board also talked at length about the proposed changes to the Library staffing and how those changes would be implemented and the benefits of those changes. Superintendent Thiery explained that the new positions would offer the ability for teaching students researching skills and design cohesive library and media plans across the District, grades K-12. The new positions would also help the District in its goals of meeting the standards of the Common Core Curriculum.

The Board also talked briefly about the Holiday Premium for Teachers and Administrators as well as upcoming negotiations with the custodial union and other union parties in the future. They also briefly discussed unaffiliated salaries and other salaries, as well as overtime salaries and substitute salaries.

The Board also spoke again about the Health Insurance premium and their concerns about the proposed increase of 12%.

The Board also expressed a general concern about the 2.92% increase and talked about finding additional areas of the budget where reductions might be possible.

Adjournment

Board Chair, Karen Perry called for the meeting to adjourn at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Larissa B. Johnson
Board Clerk

Approval:  Date: 4/2/2013
Susan Dean, Secretary