

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
March 5, 2013**

*A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on March 5, 2013 in the Haddam-Killingworth High School Lower Media Center. Board of Education Chair, Karen Perry, called the meeting to order at 7:36 PM.*

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

**Members Absent:** *Steven Banaletti*

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

**Visitors:** *4*

**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.*

**Audience of Citizens**

*Mark Lundgren of Haddam addressed the Board. Mr. Lundgren presented his memorandum to the Board. He talked about the Eighth Grade Quest Class visiting the Haddam Senior Center on March 15, 2013. He said that the Haddam Senior Center would love the laptops that the elementary schools will be discarding next year. He said that the biggest mistake in the District was regionalization, the second was building the new middle school and the third was the sale of the bus operation. He said that the mistake of selling the bus operation can be corrected and that the Board of Education can return the bus operation to the towns. He said that the Board should look at the small class sizes during this time of severe economic downturn and consider reductions in staffing.*

**Approval of Minutes**

- A. Approval of Minutes for the February 5, 2013 Board of Education Meeting**
- B. Approval of Minutes for the February 26, 2013 Board of Education – Education Subcommittee Meeting**

*Susan Dean **MOVED** and Amy Jacques-Purdy **SECONDED** a motion to approve the minutes from the February 5, 2013 meeting and February 26, 2013 Education Subcommittee meeting with corrections noted by the Board. Motion passed 10-0-0 by the following votes:*

Amy Jacques-Purdy	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Jonathan Wintsch	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
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	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>		

## **Report from Student Representatives**

*Student Representatives Erin Buckley and Charles Crocco gave their reports to the Board.*

*Erin Buckley reported that CAPT testing is starting in the high school and in the lower grades the CMTs are beginning. Freshmen take CAPT prep tests while sophomores take the actual CAPT. Seniors are able to come in late on Tuesday and Thursday while the Juniors take an SAT prep class. She also reported that Senior-directed one-act plays were performed on March 1<sup>st</sup> and were a huge success. She also reported that on March 2, HK's Jazz Band and Swing Choir traveled to Boston to compete at the Berkelee Jazz Festival. The groups received very good reviews and the Jazz Band came in ninth and the Swing Choir came in fourth. She also reported that AP Literature attended a lecture and a movie at Wesleyan on March 1. HK and other schools from the Middletown area will be attending multiple co-op classes that seek to enhance study on American and classical literature. She also reported on Moody's Mega Math Challenge. The contestants are waiting to hear on results in April or May. The question the groups had to answer was regarding a recycling model in three towns in America and the groups had to draft a recommendation letter to the EPA.*

*Charles Crocco reported that now that the one-act plays have concluded, the drama department will be putting together a production of "West Side Story" which will have performances on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. He added that with regard to the Berklee competition, the Swing Choir was the only public high school to rank. He also reported that the HKTU STN trip to Los Angeles is leaving tomorrow and that the students are very excited to be going. The mirrors the Board approved to be placed in the corners of the schools were installed after February break and Charles reported that many students noticed them and that Mr. Macunas got on the HKTU news and explained about them. He also reported that the basketball team is in the state championship competition and that they were competing in the third game in the championship tonight.*

## **Board Committee Reports and Future Meetings**

### **A. Facilities and Transportation Subcommittee**

*Jamie Lehane reported that the subcommittee did not meet. The next meeting will be April 2, 2013.*

### **B. Building Subcommittee (new school)**

*Amy Jacques-Purdy updated the Board. She reported that the committee met and is making progress on the well and irrigation as well as security upgrades. There is current \$488,000 in the fund for projects. The next meeting will be April 9, 2013.*

### **C. Finance Subcommittee**

*Martha Vaughn updated the Board. She reported that the committee reviewed the Financial Report as of February 28 and discussed the open Treasurer position on the Board. The next meeting will be April 2, 2013 at 6:30 PM.*

### **D. Policy Subcommittee**

*Amy Jacques-Purdy reported that the subcommittee did not meet.*

### **E. Communications Subcommittee**

*Karen Perry updated the Board. She reported that the committee met February 28, 2013 and discussed the Board Update for the end of February. She reported that the committee will not meet March 19, 2013 due to the Community Input Meeting.*

### **F. Personnel and Evaluation Subcommittee**

*Karen Perry reported that the subcommittee did not meet.*

**Board Liaison Reports**

**A. Building Committee (Solar/Alternative energies)**

*No report.*

**B. Healthy Communities – Healthy Kids Council**

*Susan Dean reported that she was unable to attend the last meeting. She reported that the next meeting will be March 14, 2013.*

**C. LEARN**

*Sue Twachtman reported that she was unable to attend the last meeting.*

**D. Park & Recreation**

*Amy Jacques-Purdy updated the Board. She asked if the Finance subcommittee could look into the Park & Recreation’s request to add the department into the District’s health insurance policy.*

**E. Haddam Board of Selectmen**

*No report.*

**F. Killingworth Board of Selectmen**

*Susan Dean updated the Board. She reported that she shared the February Board Update with the Board of Selectmen and shared the Budget Timeline with Cathy Iino.*

**Old Business**

*None*

**Consent Agenda**

**A. Acceptance of a donation from the Haddam Junior Women’s Club in the amount of \$50.00 to be deposited into our Student Activity Account. Submitted by Eric Larson, Principal of Burr Elementary School.**

**B. Acceptance of a donation of fitness/weightlifting equipment from Xavier High School. Submitted by Dick Dupuis, Athletic Director, HK High School.**

*Item 8.B was withdrawn from the consent agenda.*

*Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Susan Dean **SECONDED** a motion to approve Item 8.A as presented. Motion passed 10-0-0 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	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>		

**New Business**

**A. Election of Board of Education Treasurer**

*Sue Twachtman **MOVED** and Susan Dean **SECONDED** a motion to appoint Joel D'Angelo as Treasurer for the Board of Education. Motion passed 10-0-0 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	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>		

**B. HKHS Field Hockey Field Study**

*Superintendent Howard Thiery stated the Facilities Subcommittee studied the Field Hockey playing field situation. He stated that the Field Hockey team is the State Champion. He said that there are not many spaces in town for a possible field hockey field. This past season, the team played on a baseball field where the diamond was sodded. The Head Coach of the team was invited to the Facilities Subcommittee meeting who stated that the team loves the sodded field and that it worked incredibly well. It costs approximately \$6,000-\$7,000 annually for the District staff to sod the field. Jaime Lehane stated that options which were less advantageous to the team and other District teams were also more expensive. Sue Twachtman added that Director of Facilities Mike Distefano will have the sod transplanted to other parts of the District and reused at the end of each season. The Board agreed it wanted to create a public record to show its intention to use annual sodding of the field as the solution for finding a home field for the Field Hockey team.*

*Jonathan Wintsch **MOVED** and Susan Dean **SECONDED** a motion to endorse the findings of the Facilities and Transportation Committee to continue sodding the field for the Girls' Field Hockey field until such a time that a better option is available. Motion passed 10-0-0 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	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>		

**C. RSD 17 Health Insurance Presentation**

*The presentation will be postponed until March 11, 2013.*

**From the Superintendent**

**A. Legislative Update**

*Superintendent Thiery updated the Board. He presented Bill 374 to the Board. Bill 374 is an act requiring behavioral health assessments for children grades 6, 8, 10 and 12 and home-schooled children ages 12, 14, and 17. Board Chair Karen Perry stated that she thinks the bill is*

vague, broad, undefined and reactionary. The Board discussed the bill with disapproval and Superintendent Thiery stated that he supports the Board and is leery of dummy bills, as this bill appears to be but that often bones are implemented into a Bill later, thus this is the time to act. He also stated that he believes that this Board is committed to Mental Health in the District. Superintendent Thiery also mentioned that there would be a public hearing on the Bill on March 8, 2013.

Jonathan Wintsch **MOVED** and Chet Harris **SECONDED** a motion for Superintendent Thiery to draft a letter on behalf of the Board of Education in opposition to Proposed Bill No. 374. Motion passed 9-0-1 by the following votes:

Amy Jacques-Purdy	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Jonathan Wintsch	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
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 type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input checked="" 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. Enrollment Report**

*Superintendent Thiery presented the Enrollment Report.*

**C. Personnel Report**

*Superintendent Thiery presented the Personnel Report.*

**From the Director of Fiscal Operations**

*None*

**From the Board Chair**

*Board Chair Karen Perry welcomed Jeannie Young to the Board.*

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

*None*

**Adjournment**

*Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Susan Dean **SECONDED** a motion to go into to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters at 8:18 PM. Motion passed 10-0-0 by the following votes:*

Amy Jacques-Purdy	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Jonathan Wintsch	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
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	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>		

*Board Chair Karen Perry adjourned the meeting from Executive Session at approximately 8:40 PM.*

*Respectfully submitted,*



Larissa B. Johnson  
Board Clerk

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