

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION – EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE**  
**February 26, 2013**

*A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on February 26, 2013 in the Haddam-Killingworth Middle School Media Center. Board of Education Chair, Karen Perry, called the meeting to order at 7:34 PM.*

***Members Present:** Joel D'Angelo, Jamie Lehane, Steven Banaletti, Jonathan Wintsch, Sue Twachtman, Amy Jacques-Purdy, Susan Dean, Becky Valenti, and Karen Perry*

***Members Absent:** Chet Harris*

***Also Present:** Superintendent of Schools, Howard Thiery, Director of Fiscal Operations, Martha Vaughn 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 7:34 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.*

**Board Liaison Reports**

**A. Curriculum Council Update**

*No report. Meeting cancelled due to weather.*

**Old Business**

**A. Fund 10: Discussion**

*Steven Banaletti proposed that the proceeds of Fund 10 be returned to the Killingworth and Haddam out of respect of the towns' trust in the Board of Education. Jamie Lehane asked if the Board could have more discussion and hear the rationale behind the proposal and other ideas. He said he was concerned about other areas of the budget that have been underfunded and was concerned that Fund 10 may be better appropriated by supporting one of those areas in the budget.*

*Board Chair Karen Perry asked Director of Fiscal Operations Martha Vaughn to review the history of Fund 10. Martha Vaughn stated that Fund 10 began in 1998-1999. She said that Fund 10 has always been accounted for in the annual audit and has been a part of the audit report. She said it was a special revenue fund. Fund 10 was reviewed by Seward and Monde and Shipman and Goodwin. The attorney for the Board made a recommendation of three options: 1) Deposit into Capital Fund; 2) Reserve for accrued liabilities such as sick leave and severance; or 3) Reimburse member towns.*

*Amy Jacques-Purdy suggested that the Board consider depositing Fund 10 into the Capital Non-Recurring Fund because it hasn't been fully-funded and the Board has a responsibility to maintain the District's buildings and facilities and keep them looking good.*

*Jamie Lehane said that there is an increase proposed to the Capital Fund and that Fund 10 could help offset those increases or in other budget areas.*

Becky Valenti said that she could see both arguments. That on one hand the Board should try to keep the budget down. But on the other hand, she agreed about the Board's need to keep the trust of the towns. She also said that decreasing the budget is another way of giving back to the towns as well. Karen Perry agreed that it was important to preserve the integrity to the taxpayers.

Sue Twachtman asked where the money came from. Howard Thiery explained that it was a special revenue account which was funded by building rental revenues, custodial usage and utility reimbursement.

Jamie Lehane said that Fund 10 could be moved to the Capital, Health or Retirement Funds. He said he didn't want to see those areas short-changed as we go ahead. However, he also said that the discussion had persuaded him to reimburse the member towns.

Susan Dean also said that she believed it was important to reimburse the towns because it was the right thing to do.

Steven Banaletti **MOVED** and Jonathan Wintsch **SECONDED** a motion to allocate Fund 10 to reimburse the District's member towns in its entirety, approximately \$80,938.00. Motion passed 9-0-0 by the following votes:

Amy Jacques-Purdy	YES <u>√</u> NO <u>   </u> A <u>   </u>	Sue Twachtman	YES <u>√</u> NO <u>   </u> A <u>   </u>
Becky Valenti	YES <u>√</u> NO <u>   </u> A <u>   </u>	Steven Banaletti	YES <u>√</u> NO <u>   </u> A <u>   </u>
Chet Harris	Absent	Susan Dean	YES <u>√</u> NO <u>   </u> A <u>   </u>
Jamie Lehane	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>		
Jonathan Wintsch	YES <u>√</u> NO <u>   </u> A <u>   </u>		

## New Business

### A. Finance Transfer

Jonathan Wintsch **MOVED** and Sue Twachtman **SECONDED** a motion to transfer funds from the Professional Service, Special Education account to the Pupil Services, Administrator, Salaries account in the amount of \$54,094.56. Motion passed 9-0-0 by the following votes:

Amy Jacques-Purdy	YES <u>√</u> NO <u>   </u> A <u>   </u>	Sue Twachtman	YES <u>√</u> NO <u>   </u> A <u>   </u>
Becky Valenti	YES <u>√</u> NO <u>   </u> A <u>   </u>	Steven Banaletti	YES <u>√</u> NO <u>   </u> A <u>   </u>
Chet Harris	Absent	Susan Dean	YES <u>√</u> NO <u>   </u> A <u>   </u>
Jamie Lehane	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>		
Jonathan Wintsch	YES <u>√</u> NO <u>   </u> A <u>   </u>		

### B. Support Services and Mental Health Services Presentation: Tracy Whaples and Sarah Smalley

Tracy Whaples, Sarah Smalley, HKMS School Psychologist Heather Pach, Social Worker Tara Bartlett, and HKMS Dean of Academics Maryann Grimaldi gave a presentation to the Board. The presentation outlined the roles and responsibilities of school-based mental health services. The Mental Health and Support Services team consists of school psychologists, school social workers, school counselors and school nurses. They offer assessment services, therapeutic support and program development. Through their assessment services, they provide comprehensive evaluations for Special Education and Behavioral Assessments and Intervention Plans, collaborating with 504, SRBI and PPT teams and consulting with families. Through their therapeutic support, they offer individual and group counseling, social skills groups, classroom instruction, crisis management and

*transition planning. Through their program development they work on student related scheduling, peer advocate training, college and career readiness, positive school climate programs, Cougar Cubs, Circle of Friends, S.A.D.D. and G.S.A. The presentation described the roles of the different positions at the school in greater detail and also described a typical day.*

*The Board briefly discussed the roles and responsibilities of the Mental Health Services with the presenters.*

***The Board took a recess at 8:40 PM and returned to session at 8:49 PM.***

### **C. Legal Update: Board Attorney Rebecca Santiago**

*Attorney Rebecca Santiago of Shipman & Goodwin, Board Attorney made a presentation to the Board. Attorney Santiago presented some of the legislative changes passed recently in the State Legislature, P.A. 12-116, An Act Concerning Education Reform and provided the Board with a copy of a Summary of Legislation as published by the State of Connecticut Commissioner of Education, Stefan Pryor. She focused on areas of legislation which might have a fiscal impact on the Board. She discussed:*

*§§ 8-9: Child Health and Well Being requires students grades Kindergarten through 5 to participate in 20 minutes of physical exercise per day.*

*§§ 15-16: Uniform System of Accounting and Chart of Accounts requires school districts to use a uniform system of accounting as developed by the SDE.*

*§ 39: Professional Development requires districts to provide at least 18 hours of professional development to certified employees, majority of which must be in small group or individualized settings.*

*§§ 51-56: Teacher Evaluation and Support Programs which relates to the new Teacher Evaluation and Support Program.*

*§ 57: Teacher Tenure and Termination redefines the process for dismissing tenured teachers and the related requirement of the Teacher Evaluation program.*

*§ 62: Minimum Budget Requirement redefines the terms under which a town may request that its Minimum Budget Requirement be reduced. Previously, the Minimum Budget Requirement could be based on a reduction in enrollment, however under this new statute, a reduction in the Minimum Budget Requirement can only be obtained by approval of the Commissioner of Education based on ½ of any increased efficiencies within the school district or collaborations with other school districts, limited to a .5% decrease in the Minimum Budget Requirement.*

*Attorney Santiago also discussed Private School Transportation under P.A. 12-132 § 48, FMLA Benefits for Certain School Paraprofessionals under P.A. 12-43 § 1, as well as several acts concerning Special Education, including P.A. 12-88 § 1, and P.A. 12-173 § 6.*

*The Board discussed these changes at length.*

**Adjournment**

*Board Chair Karen Perry adjourned the meeting at 9:45 PM.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Larissa B. Johnson*

Larissa B. Johnson  
Board Clerk

Approval: *Susan Dean* Date: *3/5/2013*  
Susan Dean, Secretary