

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

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on February 5, 2013 in the Central Office Board Room. Board of Education Chair, Karen Perry, called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

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

Members Absent: *Jonathan Wintsch and Steven Banaletti*

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

Visitors: *1*

Call to Order/Opening of Meeting

Board of Education Chair, Karen Perry called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Audience of Citizens

None

Approval of Minutes

- A. Approval of Minutes for the January 8, 2013 Board of Education Meeting**
- B. Approval of Minutes for the January 10, 2013 Board of Education Special Meeting**
- C. Approval of Minutes for the January 22, 2013 Board of Education – Education Subcommittee Meeting**

*Susan Dean **MOVED** and Becky Valenti **SECONDED** a motion to approve the minutes from the January 8, 2013 meeting, January 10, 2013 Special Meeting and January 22, 2013 Education Subcommittee meeting. Motion passed 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	Absent
Chet Harris	YES <u> </u> NO <u> </u> A <u>√</u>	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	Absent		

Report from Student Representatives

Student Representative Erin Buckley gave her report to the Board. Erin reported that the high school was focused on midterms during the month of January. She said that this semester, students are starting half-credit classes online, as well as new classes at Middlesex Community College and Wesleyan University, or internships.

Last year, students participated in Moody's Mega Math Challenge last year. Erin reported that this year, two teams will be competing from HKHS – a team of Juniors and a team of Seniors. The teams will spend the day at school on March 3 calculating and completing their submissions to the competition.

She also reported the National Honor Society has been organizing Music in the Halls every Friday, which has been a huge success. Also, on February 6, NHS will be organizing "Cougar Bingo," a school-wide bingo game during the last twenty minutes of the half-day. Winners will receive prizes ranging from small candy bars to iTunes gift cards, donated and collected by NHS. She also reported that on February 8, two Senior-directed plays will be performed.

Board Committee Reports and Future Meetings

A. Facilities and Transportation Subcommittee

Jamie Lehane updated the Board. He reported that the committee had a robust meeting. First, he reported that the committee met with the Girls' Field Hockey Coach, Patsy Kamercia who said that the field hockey field was fabulously prepared this year. The Committee discussed continuing to sod the current field used by the field hockey team and Lehane suggested that the Board consider adding this to the budget or future agenda as an economical solution to the field hockey field issue.

Second, he updated the Board on the Waste Water Treatment plant. He reported that Mike Distefano followed up with the vendor regarding the Board's request to reduce service plan from 5 days per week to 3 days. He reported that the State is currently considering our request and will be giving its recommendations by the end of February.

Third, he reported that the subcommittee also discussed the Crisis/Emergency Plans. Jamie stated that it appeared that the copy in Central Office hadn't been updated since 2005, however Howard Thiery assured the Board that the Crisis/Emergency Plan is reviewed and updated every year with some changes. Karen Perry suggested that the plan be circulated to the Board once the review is completed. He reported that the subcommittee discussed some pre-capital thinking with regard to the security improvements as suggested at the community meeting, including entry access issues, panic alarms, and response time. The subcommittee also discussed implementing some of the simple suggestions for changes, such as installing mirrors in the corners of the school corridors, adding room numbers outside of each classroom. Jamie suggested that the Board approve an expenditure to make these improvements.

Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Becky Valenti **SECONDED** a motion to approve an expenditure of \$5,000 for security measures as recommended by the Facilities and Transportation Subcommittee. Motion passed by the following votes:

Amy Jacques-Purdy	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"/>
Becky Valenti	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Steven Banaletti	Absent
Chet Harris	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"/>
Jamie Lehane	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"/>		
Jonathan Wintsch	Absent		

The next meeting will be March 5, 2013 at 6:30 PM.

B. Building Subcommittee (new school)

Amy Jacques-Purdy reported that the next meeting will be February 12, 2013 at 6:30 PM.

C. Finance Subcommittee

Martha Vaughn updated the Board. She reported that the subcommittee reviewed the Financial Report for February 1, 2013. They also reviewed the checks for January and the Market Study by Willis for Property and Liability Insurance. They also discussed Fund 10. The next meeting will be March 5, 2013 at 6:30 PM.

D. Policy Subcommittee

Amy Jacques-Purdy updated the Board. The subcommittee met on January 30th and reviewed the 6000 series. She said that the proposed Electronic Device policy would likely be moved to the 6000 series as it better relates to technology. The next meeting will be February 13, 2013.

E. Communications Subcommittee

Karen Perry updated the Board. She reported that the subcommittee did not put out the Board Update but they expected distribute another Board Update in February. The next meeting will be February 26, 2013 at 6:30 PM.

F. Personnel and Evaluation Subcommittee

Karen Perry reported that the committee did not meet.

Board Liaison Reports

A. Building Committee (Solar/Alternative energies)

Erin Buckley reported that the committee did not meet.

B. Healthy Communities – Healthy Kids Council

Susan Dean updated the Board. She reported that the Council met on January 17, 2013 in the Lower Media Center. The Council approved a new logo for the Council. They also discussed the Social Norm Campaign. She also reported that the Council discussed a compliance check of local tobacco sellers. She also mentioned that Ericka Fleig is working on a blog for the Council. The next meeting will be a Meet & Greet on February 14, 2013 at 8:00 AM in the Haddam-Killingworth High School Lower Media Room.

C. LEARN

Sue Twachtman updated the Board. LEARN met on January 10, 2013. She reported that there was a presentation on the Three Rivers College Magnet School. The school offers dual-enrollment so that students can complete two years of high school and one year of college over a two-year period. The school serves only 11th and 12th grade and currently has 33 students enrolled with four teachers. Students can specialize in business finance, engineering technology and hospitality management. She also added that school districts contribute \$5,500 for students who attend from their district, but they receive credit from the state.

She reported that Dr. Howley talked about school safety. Dr. Howley also talked about the potential bill that might delay the start of the school evaluation model. Also, LEARN was hit with cuts in grant money and funding for Choice Programs were cut.

LEARN will meet again on Thursday, February 14, 2013.

D. Park & Recreation

Amy Jacques-Purdy updated the Board. Park & Recreation met on January 23, 2013. She reported that there was a presentation of a budget. There was also a question as to whether Park & Recreation might be able to utilize the District's insurance program, similarly to the Town of Haddam.

E. Haddam Board of Selectmen

No report.

F. Killingworth Board of Selectmen

Susan Dean updated the Board. She reported that she spoke with Cathy Iino during January and has been in contact with her this month. She also mentioned that there will be a town meeting to fill the vacancy on the Board by March 2, 2013.

Old Business

A. Property and Casualty Insurance Alternative Carrier Quotations

Board Chair Karen Perry briefly presented the Property and Casualty Insurance Alternative Carrier Quotations from Willis. Perry suggested the Board review these quotations and discuss at a future meeting.

Consent Agenda

- A. *Acceptance of a donation from Haddam Elementary School PTO from the collection of box tops in the amount of \$1,280.50, submitted by Janice Harris, Principal of Haddam Elementary School.*
- B. *Acceptance of a donation from the collection of General Mills box tops in the amount of \$308.20, submitted by Eric Larson, Principal of Burr Elementary School.*

*Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Susan Dean **SECONDED** a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion passed 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	Absent
Chet Harris	YES <u> </u> NO <u> </u> A <u>√</u>	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	Absent		

New Business

None

From the Superintendent

A. Security Update

Superintendent Thiery updated the Board. Howard Thiery reported that a Security Meeting was held yesterday. The participants in the meeting represented a cross-section of our community, with parents, Board of Education members, teachers, administration, custodians, nursing, technology, building management and State Troopers in attendance. There was a presentation from the last meeting and a list of Security Review Areas. Items discussed at the community meeting, such as glass, doorways, buzzers, panic buttons, and emergency tones were brought forth for the Facilities Subcommittee to review. He said that all of these items have fiscal implications. He also said that the State Troopers would be formalizing their protocols of visiting schools, by making visits daily, walking the perimeter and saying “hello” and “goodbye” upon their arrival and departure. Howard Thiery said that the conversation about Security is under way. He also reported that there were lock down drills at the elementary schools and the high school. He said that the conversation is underway and he is appreciative that the State Troopers have been involved in this process.

B. Legislative Update

Superintendent Thiery updated the Board. He reported on the Governor’s proposed increase to ECS Aid by \$152 million over the biennium. He reported that Senator Linares is on the Governor’s Security Committee and they are hoping to have him attend the Legislative Breakfast in March, which would be a smaller meeting consisting of a round-table discussion group.

C. Enrollment Report

Superintendent Thiery presented the Enrollment Report.

D. Personnel Report

Superintendent Thiery presented the Personnel Report.

From the Director of Fiscal Operations

A. Discussion and possible decision regarding Fund 10 – Special Revenue Fund

Martha Vaughn presented a letter to the Board members from the District auditor and attorney regarding Fund 10. She briefly gave some background on Fund 10, stating that it was established in the 1990s and hasn’t been used in two years. She said that the letter offers three options for what the Board could do with Fund 10. One of the options is to fund the Capital Fund and a second option was to fund Sick Leave and Severance Liability. Board Chair Karen Perry recommended that the Board review this letter and the options presented and reconsider it at a future meeting.

From the Board Chair

Board Chair Karen Perry thanked the members of the Board who have been volunteering their time on Security and Safety matters and the Security Committee and for their involvement. She also thanked Superintendent Thiery for his organization of the Security Committee and its first meeting, for which she said he did an excellent job.

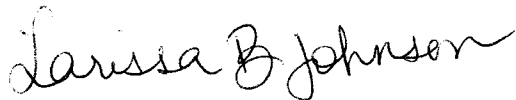
Board Discussion – Areas of Opportunities for District Improvement

Jamie Lehane mentioned that he had received feedback from a community member that he or she felt that the Board is functioning well and said that he was glad to hear positive feedback.

Adjournment

Board Chair Karen Perry called for the meeting to adjourn at 8:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Larissa B. Johnson
Board Clerk

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