

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
December 4, 2012**

*A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on December 4, 2012 in the Central Office Board Room. Board of Education Chair, Karen Perry, called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM.*

**Members Present:** *Sue Twachtman, Amy Jacques-Purdy, Susan Dean, Jaime Lehane, Steven Banaletti, and Karen Perry*

**Members Absent:** *Chet Harris, Joel D'Angelo, Peggine Bushey, Becky Valenti, and Jonathan Wintsch*

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

**Visitors:** *Approximately 23*

**Call to Order/Opening of Meeting**

*Board of Education Chair, Karen Perry called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.*

**Audience of Citizens**

*Mark Lundgren of Haddam and Emily Bates of Higganum addressed the Board.*

*Mr. Lundgren announced the high school choral concert at the Haddam Senior Center on Friday, December 7, 2012 at 12:30 PM.*

*Miss Bates talked about the Boys' Swim Team's interest in a training trip to Florida for team building. Superintendent Thiery mentioned that the appropriate avenue for seeking permission for such a trip is through the Administrators at the high school.*

**Approval of Minutes**

- A. Approval of Minutes for the November 6, 2012 Board of Education Meeting**
- B. Approval of Minutes for the November 20, 2012 Board of Education – Education Subcommittee Meeting**

*Jaime Lehane **MOVED** and Amy Jacques-Purdy **SECONDED** a motion to approve the minutes from the November 6, 2012 Board of Education Meeting and the November 20, 2012 Board of Education – Education Subcommittee Meeting. Motion passed 6-0-0 by the following votes:*

Amy Jacques-Purdy	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Peggine Bushey	Absent
Becky Valenti	Absent	Sue Twachtman	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Chet Harris	Absent	Steven Banaletti	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Jaime 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"/>
Joel D'Angelo	Absent	Karen Perry	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Jonathan Wintsch	Absent		

## **Report from Student Representatives**

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

*Erin Buckley reported on the Holiday Show, benefitting the Shoreline Soup Kitchen and Pantry. The TV Studio in partnership with the National Honor Society is holding a canned food drive benefitting the Shoreline Soup Kitchen and Pantry. The homeroom which donates the most canned goods by December 21 will receive a free breakfast at the Cougar Café and have a guest appearance on the Holiday Show. She also reported that the concert and jazz band had their winter concert on November 29, 2012. She also reported that on November 16, 2012 the Creative Writing class taught by Mrs. Hoffman and student teacher, Chelsea Dodds attended the annual Shoreline Heads of English Department Writing Conference at Coginchaug High School. The conference featured seminars from renowned writers in all genres including, fiction, poetry and drama. She also reported that Juniors and Seniors who are enrolled in online classes at Middlesex Community College are registering for the Spring 2013 term.*

*Charles Crocco also reported on the Holiday Show, as the Senior Producer of the program. It is to be held on the last day of classes. Over \$300,000 has been raised for charities through the program. This year they are accepting both monetary and food donations. He also reported that Mr. HK, the male talent competition benefitting HKTU was a success. Nate Cruise is the new Mr. HK. He also discussed the parking issue for the Junior class, who cannot always find parking spots when they drive to school. He also talked about the Advisory period, which is every Wednesday. Many students use this as a study hall when there are not events scheduled, and Charles was wondering what is the purpose of Advisory period and if events could be better communicated so that students would not count on that time as a study hall when there is a presentation scheduled.*

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

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

*Jaime Lehane updated the Board. The committee discussed the damage to the gymnasium roof during Hurricane Sandy. The contractors will begin work on the roof Friday. The claim on the roof is going to be submitted to insurance and FEMA. There is a \$5,000 deductible with the insurance company. He also reported that there will be a training on Friday by the Energy Task Force with Chair Jeff Cook attending. They also talked about some concerns about using the Middle School as a Red Cross shelter. The Middle School would require approximately \$45,000 in electrical upgrades to serve as a Red Cross shelter. The committee is going to look into opportunities for regional funding for these upgrades. The next meeting will be January 3, 2012.*

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

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

### **C. Finance Subcommittee**

*Martha Vaughn reported that the committee did not meet. The next meeting will be January 3, 2012 at 6:30 PM.*

### **D. Policy Subcommittee**

*Amy Jacques-Purdy reported that the committee did not meet. The next meeting is to be announced.*

**E. Communications Subcommittee**

*Karen Perry reported that the committee did not meet. The next meeting will be December 18, 2012 at 6:30 PM.*

**F. Personnel and Evaluation Subcommittee**

*Karen Perry updated the Board. The committee met on November 29, 2012 and considered a request from the Union not related to the Personnel Update and discussed the Killingworth Elementary School Principal search.*

**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. The council met on November 15, 2012 in the HKMS Media Center. They discussed the presentation of the survey results, the pancake breakfast, drug take-back, and Killingworth Transfer station.*

**C. LEARN**

*Sue Twachtman updated the Board. She was unable to attend the November 8, 2012 meeting. Dr. Virginia Seccomb reported on the State of the Agency and discussed future projects and early childhood. Sue Twachtman expressed her thanks to Dr. Seccomb for devoting herself to educational opportunities for thousands of children.*

**D. Park & Recreation**

*Amy Jacques-Purdy reported that she had not yet attended a meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for December 5, 2012.*

**E. Haddam Board of Selectmen**

*Steven Banaletti reported that the Haddam Board of Selectmen did not meet. The next meeting is scheduled for December 5, 2012.*

**F. Killingworth Board of Selectmen**

*Susan Dean had no report.*

**Old Business**

*None*

**Consent Agenda**

- A. Acceptance of a donation from Killingworth Elementary School PTO in the amount of \$1,500.00 to go to the Student Activity Account, submitted by Judy Seldner, Interim Principal of Killingworth Elementary School.**
- B. Acceptance of a donation from an anonymous donor, totaling \$30.00 to be applied to HKHS Athletic programs.**

Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Steven Banaletti **SECONDED** a motion to approve the acceptance of the Consent Agenda with the amendment that the donation of \$1,500 from the Killingworth Elementary School PTO is to go to the KES Library, not the student activity account. Motion passed 6-0-0 by the following votes:

Amy Jacques-Purdy	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Peggie Bushey	Absent
Becky Valenti	Absent	Sue Twachtman	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Chet Harris	Absent	Steven Banaletti	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Jaime 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"/>
Joel D'Angelo	Absent	Karen Perry	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Jonathan Wintsch	Absent		

## New Business

### A. HK Healthy Communities-Healthy Kids Coalition – Kathryn Glendon, Prevention Coordinator

*Kathryn Glendon, Cheryl Chandler and Michelle Hamilton made a presentation, “2012 Search Institute Survey, Profiles of Student Life” to the Board. To conduct the survey, the HK Healthy Communities-Healthy Kids Coalition receives two federal grants. The survey measures the 40 Developmental Assets of kids in the community as well as risk-taking behaviors, such as violence, rates of alcohol and other drug use. The survey is anonymous and the results took three months to analyze. The report goes to the Middlesex United Way. The 40 Developmental Assets are broken down into eight categories. The more assets a child has the more likely they are to be successful and less prone to risk-taking behaviors. 870 students took the survey. Students 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade averaged 20 of 40 assets, which represents a 1.2% increase since 2006. Alcohol is the most abused drug. Tobacco usage has decreased since 2006, but marijuana usage has increased. The Coalition has a Call to Action to benefit the children of the community, including the Social Norms Campaign, Developmental Assets Campaign, Coalition Initiatives, Party Patrol and Family Dinner Night. Michelle Hamilton also reported on Social Norming, “science of the positive,” which focuses on communicating the differentiation between kids’ perceptions and actual usage as a method of deterring kids from risk-taking behaviors. This includes the “What About You?” Campaign.*

### B. Wastewater RFP

*Jaime Lehane recommended the second proposal from the Weston & Sampson, the current vendor for the District. The proposal was \$47,880, approximately \$5,000 less than the other proposal received. The water treatment system currently requires a 5-day license. Jaime Lehane discussed that the Board may want to consider investigating the possibility with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection of obtaining a 3-day license.*

*Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Sue Twachtman **SECONDED** a motion to award the Wastewater Treatment contract to Weston & Sampson, amended to include language to require investigation into the possibility of modifications to the water treatment system that would allow a 3-day license schedule and maintain current pricing pro-rated accordingly. Motion passed 6-0-0 by the following votes:*

Amy Jacques-Purdy	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Peggie Bushey	Absent
Becky Valenti	Absent	Sue Twachtman	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Chet Harris	Absent	Steven Banaletti	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Jaime 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"/>
Joel D'Angelo	Absent	Karen Perry	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Jonathan Wintsch	Absent		

**C. HKMS Washington DC Trip – April 23, 2014**

*The Board agreed to postpone agenda item until the December 18, 2012 Board of Education – Education Subcommittee meeting, when an administrator would be able to make a presentation to the Board.*

**From the Superintendent**

**A. Legislative Update**

*Superintendent Thiery updated the Board. He reported that CAPPs and CAbE are tracking the government to see how any budget cuts may impact the school system. He discussed that there is no way to know what changes could be implemented, thus he is looking to be conservative in the new budget season. He is also working with the regional superintendents of the Connecticut River Valley and the Shoreline and went to a legislative breakfast in Clinton.*

**B. Killingworth Elementary School Transition**

*Superintendent Thiery updated the Board. He reported that there was no candidate resulting from the first round of interviews. He has asked the current interim principal to stay on through the end of the year. He believes that having a July 1, 2013 start date will bring talented applicants and plans to have the next round yield a candidate. He and Karen Perry give their gratitude to Judy Seldner for being able to stay through the end of the year.*

**C. Enrollment Report**

*Superintendent Thiery presented the Enrollment Report.*

**D. Personnel Report**

*Superintendent Thiery reported that there were no personnel changes in the month of November.*

**From the Director of Fiscal Operations**

**A. Budget Transfers**

*Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Sue Twachtman **SECONDED** a motion to accept the budget transfer as presented. Motion passed 6-0-0 by the following votes:*

Amy Jacques-Purdy	YES <u>√</u> NO <u>   </u> A <u>   </u>	Peggie Bushey	Absent
Becky Valenti	Absent	Sue Twachtman	YES <u>√</u> NO <u>   </u> A <u>   </u>
Chet Harris	Absent	Steven Banaletti	YES <u>√</u> NO <u>   </u> A <u>   </u>
Jaime Lehane	YES <u>√</u> NO <u>   </u> A <u>   </u>	Susan Dean	YES <u>√</u> NO <u>   </u> A <u>   </u>
Joel D'Angelo	Absent	Karen Perry	YES <u>√</u> NO <u>   </u> A <u>   </u>
Jonathan Wintsch	Absent		

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

*The Board briefly discussed the Window Walks on Education event scheduled for December 13, 2012. They also talked about CABE and looking at self-evaluation and the Early Childhood Coalition.*

**Adjournment**

*Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Sue Twachtman **SECONDED** a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters at 9:00 PM. Motion passed 6-0-0 by the following votes:*

Amy Jacques-Purdy	YES <u>√</u> NO <u>   </u> A <u>   </u>	Peggie Bushey	Absent
Becky Valenti	Absent	Sue Twachtman	YES <u>√</u> NO <u>   </u> A <u>   </u>
Chet Harris	Absent	Steven Banaletti	YES <u>√</u> NO <u>   </u> A <u>   </u>
Jaime Lehane	YES <u>√</u> NO <u>   </u> A <u>   </u>	Susan Dean	YES <u>√</u> NO <u>   </u> A <u>   </u>
Joel D'Angelo	Absent	Karen Perry	YES <u>√</u> NO <u>   </u> A <u>   </u>
Jonathan Wintsch	Absent		

*Board Chair Karen Perry adjourned the meeting from Executive Session at 9:19 PM.*

*Respectfully submitted,*



Larissa B. Johnson  
Board Clerk

Approval:  Date: 1/8/2013  
Susan Dean, Secretary