

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION – EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE
November 20, 2012

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on November 20, 2012 in the Haddam-Killingworth Middle School Media Center. Board of Education Chair, Karen Perry, called the meeting to order at 7:36 PM.

Members Present: *Sue Twachtman, Joel D'Angelo, Peggie Bushey, Steven Banaletti, Susan Dean, Becky Valenti, Jaime Lehane, and Karen Perry*

Members Absent: *Amy Jacques-Purdy, Chet Harris and Jonathan Wintsch*

Also Present: *Superintendent of Schools, Howard Thiery 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 7:36 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Board Liaison Reports

A. Curriculum Council Update

Susan Dean and Howard Thiery updated the Board. The Curriculum Council discussed a Reader's Workshop Update, Mathematics Common Core and District CIP as well as new courses at the High School, including AP Music Theory and AP Human Geography. Superintendent Thiery added that the addition of these courses reflects that there are Advanced Placement courses now offered in every discipline, which offers every student an avenue to college-level courses. At the Curriculum Council meeting, Mim Wagner, Principal of HKMS proposed the addition of a Health Course for the seventh grade during the Roundtable component of the meeting.

B. CAFE Conference Report

Sue Twachtman, Becky Valenti and Karen Perry reported to the Board. Each reported on the workshops they attended at the conference, which ranged from topics on the Common Core, to Professional Development, Board of Education participation (including a mock Board of Education demonstration), policy, and union relations. Karen Perry also reported on the Key Note speaker, Mary Broderick who talked about empowering and motivating children, poverty and rethinking professional development to model other school systems throughout the world with better educational results.

Old Business

A. Follow up discussion on presentation by Insurance Broker, Scott Davis

The Board discussed the presentation at the November 6, 2012 Board of Education meeting and following up with a written request for Mr. Davis to provide additional information about the District's insurance policies, including a summary of policies, deductibles, outstanding claims, Board of Education coverage, a timeline of the Request for Proposal Process and some ideas on who he would approach during that process for other possible carriers.

*Susan Dean **MOVED** and Steven Banaletti **SECONDED** a motion to move agenda Item 4.B – VOAG – Sound School Affiliation ahead of Item 4.A – Special Education Presentation – Tracy Whaples & Sarah Smalley. Motion passed 8-0-0 by the following votes:*

| | | | |
|-------------------|--|------------------|--|
| Amy Jacques-Purdy | Absent | Peggie Bushey | 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 | 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 | 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"/> |
| Jonathan Wintsch | Absent | | |

New Business

A. VOAG – Sound School Affiliation

Maryann Grimaldi, Dean of Academics at Haddam-Killingworth High School presented a request for the District to become affiliated with a State VOAG school, The Sound School on behalf of a student in the District who wishes to attend. The Board discussed the request at length. The District has to send a formal request for affiliation. Maryann Grimaldi reported that the school is not a magnet school, but a State VOAG school and offers courses in oceanography, boat building, marine sciences and aquaculture. In addition to these specialty courses, the school also offers traditional courses, such as English and Math. Students who attend the school from the shoreline area take the Shoreline East Train into New Haven to attend, and in the case of the student from this District, his/her parents would be responsible for transferring him/her to the train station to get to school. There is no additional cost to the District for the student to attend the Sound School except for the cost of transportation on the train which is \$300-\$400 per year, which is about 1% of the cost of providing bus service. Several Board members were concerned about the student's ability to participate in afterschool activities, such as sports or other extra-curriculars. Ms. Grimaldi explained that in this program, the student would be required to participate in 150 hours per year in vocational projects relating to their education at the Sound School, which would not leave a lot of time for other extra-curriculars and that this is understood by the student and his/her parents. In addition, should the student choose to return to the District for school, they would be allowed to do so and would also be allowed to participate in extra-curriculars HKHS if they so desired.

Jaime Lehane **MOVED** and Becky Valenti **SECONDED** a motion to approve affiliation with The Sound School in New Haven. Motion passed 8-0-0 by the following votes:

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|-------------------|--|------------------|--|
| Amy Jacques-Purdy | Absent | Peggie Bushey | 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 | 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 | 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"/> |
| Jonathan Wintsch | Absent | | |

B. Special Education Presentation – Tracy Whaples & Sarah Smalley

Tracy Whaples, Director of Pupil Services and Sarah Smalley, Special Education Coordinator made a presentation to the Board explaining the District Special Education program. The presentation consisted of an overview of the Special Education program. They explained their guiding values, outlined the different staff positions that make up the department, what the special education population looks like in the district, and when and under what circumstances special education becomes involved, as well as where they are located.

Adjournment

Jaime Lehane **MOVED** and Susan Dean **SECONDED** a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel and contract matters at 8:54 PM. Motion passed 8-0-0 by the following votes:

| | | | |
|-------------------|--|------------------|--|
| Amy Jacques-Purdy | Absent | Peggie Bushey | 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 | 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 | 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"/> |
| Jonathan Wintsch | Absent | | |

Board Chair Karen Perry adjourned the meeting from Executive Session at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Larissa B. Johnson
Board Clerk

Approval:  Date: 12/4/2012
Susan Dean, Secretary