

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
November 6, 2012**

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on November 6, 2012 in the Central Office Board Room. Board of Education Chair, Karen Perry, called the meeting to order at 7:34 PM.

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

Steven Banaletti left the meeting at approximately 9:00 PM

Members Absent: *Peggie Bushey and Jonathan Wintsch*

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 7:34 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Audience of Citizens

None

Approval of Minutes

- A. Approval of Minutes for the October 2, 2012 Board of Education Meeting**
- B. Approval of Minutes for the October 9, 2012 Board of Education Special Meeting 100912A**
- C. Approval of Minutes for the October 9, 2012 Board of Education Special Meeting 100912B**
- D. Approval of Minutes for the October 9, 2012 Board of Education Special Meeting 100912C**
- E. Approval of Minutes for the October 10, 2012 Board of Education Special Meeting 101012A**
- F. Approval of Minutes for the October 10, 2012 Board of Education Special Meeting 101012B**
- G. Approval of Minutes for the October 10, 2012 Board of Education Special Meeting 101012C**
- H. Approval of Minutes for the October 16, 2012 Board of Education – Education Subcommittee Meeting**

*Susan Dean **MOVED** and Becky Valenti **SECONDED** a motion to approve the minutes from the October 2, 2012 Board of Education Meeting and the October 16, 2012 Board of Education – Education Subcommittee Meeting and Items 3.B through 3.G. Motion passed 9-0-0 by the following votes:*

Amy Jacques-Purdy	YES <u>√</u> NO <u> </u> A <u> </u>	Peggie Bushey	Absent
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	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	YES <u>√</u> NO <u> </u> A <u> </u>	Karen Perry	YES <u>√</u> NO <u> </u> A <u> </u>
Jonathan Wintsch	Absent		

Report from Student Representatives

Student Representatives Erin Buckley and Charles Crocco gave their reports to the Board. Erin Buckley reported that November began with a rocky start due to Hurricane Sandy. School was cancelled Monday and Tuesday and the opening of school was delayed Wednesday. She reported that many students were still without power that week and that the middle school was open for showers and power all week, and many students were able to go there before school. She also stated that the pep-rally scheduled for Wednesday was postponed, but the students were still able to participate in 'spirit week' which was sponsored by the Spirit Club, where they could dress up in different themes every day.

Erin reported that the National Honor Society is holding its annual Ping-Pong tournament November 7-9. Students and staff are both signed up to compete. The entrance fee is \$3 and the total money raised goes to a charity of the winner's choice.

She also reported that on October 23, the sports captains were able to attend a leadership conference at New Haven's Hill House Athletic Center, thanks to Mr. Dupuis. There were 50 students who were able to attend. The conference included activities for student team captains to meet other team captains from other schools around the shoreline and group discussions on the rewards and challenges of being a leader.

Erin reported that in October, the high school hosted an eighth grade night for incoming freshmen next year. Parents and students had a small presentation and HK ambassadors gave tours afterwards. Erin said that the feedback from eighth grade students and parents was that the event was very helpful and successful.

Charles Crocco reported that the HK Players are presenting "M*A*S*H" November 9 and 10 at 7 o'clock. The performances were delayed due to Hurricane Sandy and students are excited for the performances.

He also reported that the Current Events & Politics Club held a mock election, by which Obama won by a "landslide" of over 100 votes for the presidential election and Chris Murphy won by 10 votes for Senate.

Charles also mentioned that the Mr. HK pageant is coming soon to raise money for the TV Studios LA trip and he mentioned the upcoming HKTV Annual Telethon benefitting Shoreline Soup Kitchen and Pantries, which served over 900,000 meals last year. He also mentioned that the Hurricane response was pretty good and students were a little disgruntled by the two-hour delay on Wednesday, because many of them needed to go to shelters to get showers before school.

He also reported that HK Cross Country are State Champs in class again, for the second year in a row. The HK Girls Field Hockey team are Shoreline Champs again, and Girls Soccer has a winning record and are heading to States. He also reported that students at Morgan High School in Clinton painted a rock on the HK High School Campus blue and white with an "M." In response, the HK football team defeated Morgan 20-7. The rock has been repainted by the Cross Country team.

Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Susan Dean **SECONDED** a motion to move Item 9.B – Middle School Field Trip - Quebec up in the agenda to follow the Report from Student Representatives.

Motion passed 9-0-0 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	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	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

B. Middle School Field Trip – Quebec

Haddam-Killingworth Middle School Language Teacher Laura Gardner presented a field trip proposal for 7th grade French students to travel to Quebec February 17 through February 19, 2013. She stated that the purpose of the trip is for students to practice language and for cultural enrichment. On the trip, the students will see the Ice Hotels, participate in Carnivale, see sugar shacks and tour a traditional village. Ms. Gardner has ran this trip 10 times, including during her time at Watkinson School and Portland Middle School. The chaperones will be Ms. Gardner and Neil English, along with 3-4 parents. They are expecting 20-30 students to attend. Students would need to pay between \$525-\$625 each to attend and would need a passport.

*Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Joel D'Angelo **SECONDED** a motion to approve the 7th grade French student field trip to Quebec February 17-19, 2013. Motion passed 9-0-0 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	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	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 Committee Reports and Future Meetings

A. Facilities and Transportation Subcommittee

Jaime Lehane updated the Board. The Killingworth Energy Task Force and Jeff Cook were in attendance at the meeting. They discussed performance contract opportunities for energy-related capital items and special financing based on energy savings. They also discussed Hurrican Sandy issues including the damage to the roof of the Central Office gymnasium. Field Hockey team members can speak at the December meeting on their field issue. The next meeting will be December 4, 2012.

B. Building Subcommittee (new school)

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

C. Finance Subcommittee

Karen Perry asked Martha Vaughn to update the Board. Martha Vaughn reported that the committee went over the financial report, vendor payments, budget timeline and budget transfers. The next meeting will be December 4, 2012 at 6:30 PM.

D. Policy Subcommittee

Amy Jacques-Purdy updated the Board. She reported that they worked on the Electronics policy and that they have almost completed the 5000 series. The next meeting will be November 8, 2012 at 6:00 PM to work on the 6000 series.

E. Communications Subcommittee

Karen Perry updated the Board. The committee reviewed the Board Update for October and she reported that the Board Update scrolls on TV. The committee also talked about new

minimum standards of communication, Facebook and the Killingworth Elementary School Principal Qualifications. The next meeting will be November 20, 2012 at 6:30 PM.

F. Personnel and Evaluation Subcommittee

Karen Perry and Susan Dean updated the Board. Susan Dean stated that superb goals for the year were finalized. They also heard a request from the Support Services Union to participate in a benefit contribution holiday. The committee is also beginning its Board evaluation process.

Board Liaison Reports

A. Building Committee (Solar/Alternative energies)

Erin Buckley updated the Board. She reported that Peter Brandon attended a meeting with the Killingworth Energy Task Force, and the committee is working with the Task Force with anything we can help with. There is a community awareness event on November 17 that the committee is going to help with.

B. Healthy Communities – Healthy Kids Council

Susan Dean updated the Board. The Council met on October 18. They discussed Community Conversations with Erica Fleig. The Council also offered a screening of “Rachel’s Challenge” which was well-attended and they hosted the Pumpkin Run.

C. LEARN

Sue Twachtman updated the Board. LEARN met on October 11 where Dr. Eileen Howley was introduced. The next meeting is scheduled for November 8, 2012.

D. Park & Recreation

Jaime Lehane had no report. Mr. Lehane asked if another Board member would consider taking over the position as liaison with Park & Recreation and Amy Jacques-Purdy and Joel D’Angelo discussed sharing the responsibility going forward.

E. Haddam Board of Selectmen

Steven Banaletti updated the Board. He gave his report to Paul Distefano over the phone.

F. Killingworth Board of Selectmen

Susan Dean updated the Board. The Board of Selectmen met on October 29. They reviewed the Board Update and Susan reported that Cathy Ino had positive feedback about the Window Walk on Education.

Old Business

A. Policy 5131.82 Use and Possession of Electronic Devices – First Read

The Board discussed the policy at length. Amy Jacques-Purdy stated that the changes to the policy would not prohibit use of electronic devices by high school students, but it would for student K-8. The Board discussed concerns about appropriate use of devices by younger students in balance with the need to allow students to use the latest technology in the course of their education. The Board also discussed the need for education about appropriate use of electronic devices and the use of devices by students in the cafeteria and outside of school, such as on busses.

Consent Agenda

- A. **Acceptance of a donation from Haddam Elementary School PTO in the amount of \$2,250.00 to go to the Student Activity Account, submitted by Bryan Kerachsky, Interim Principal of Haddam Elementary School.**
- B. **Acceptance of a donation from the Casagrande family of various donated items submitted by Eric Larson, Principal of Burr Elementary School.**

*Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Steven Banaletti **SECONDED** a motion to approve the acceptance of the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion passed 9-0-0 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	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	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. Insurance Policies Presentation – Scott Davis

Scott Davis from presented information regarding the District's property casualty insurance and workers' compensation insurance. The Board discussed these insurance policies at length. He talked about the importance of having a clear Electronic Devices policy as many claims can arise from issues relating to electronic devices and the abuse and molestation of children.

He reported that the District has been with Zurich as their property and casualty insurer for 19 years. He also spoke briefly on the market cycles, and the District's worker's compensation insurance with MEMIC, can potentially help the District bring down their claims ratings. Board Chair Karen Perry asked Mr. Davies if they could receive additional information about how many policies the District has, when the policies go out for renewal and the possibility of a future market study, as well as the coverage for Board members and the deductible for that coverage.

C. Hurricane Sandy Update

Superintendent Howard Thiery reported on the damage caused by Hurricane Sandy and some of the other issues and occurrences resulting from the storm. He reported that there were three major areas of damage. First is the Central Office gymnasium roof, which is being addressed by Mike Distefano, insurance and the contractors who worked on the roof over the summer. Second, there were some trees and limbs down, which have been addressed by maintenance. Third, the old scoreboard on the old field on the High School campus was damaged. The only other issue is the fiber optics, which is part of SEND, so when other facilities go down, the District also goes down. It is circuited with Chester and Killingworth Libraries, amongst others. Superintendent Thiery also stated that the communication was good through Facebook messages and email. The District coordinated around the shelter situation and with this storm, there was more Red Cross involvement, which made the coordination a little more challenging. He added that there have been some wiring issues identified at KES and HKMS. The shelter at HKMS was able to stay online, and can be separated from the rest of the school, which is a benefit.

From the Superintendent

A. Killingworth Elementary School Transition

Superintendent Thiery updated the Board.

B. Personnel Report

Superintendent Thiery presented the Personnel Report. He mentioned that there was a replacement hire and a new addition due to an Independent Education Plan and that they were long-term hires.

C. Legislative Update

Superintendent Thiery had no report.

D. Enrollment Report

Superintendent Thiery presented the Enrollment Report. The enrollment report was the latest figures as of November 1, 2012.

From the Director of Fiscal Operations

A. Budget Transfers

Martha Vaughn presented several budget transfers for approval. There was a transfer of personnel to Pupil Services, a transfer from General Supply to Nursing Supply, and a correction reflecting software coded to the wrong account.

*Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Sue Twachtman **SECONDED** a motion to accept the budget transfers as presented. Motion passed 8-0-0 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	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
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. Budget Timeline

*Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Susan Dean **SECONDED** a motion to accept the budget timeline as presented. Motion passed 8-0-0 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	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
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 Discussion – Areas of Opportunities for District Improvement

The Board had no discussion.

Adjournment

*Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Chet Harris **SECONDED** a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters at 9:33 PM. Motion passed 8-0-0 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	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
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 approximately 9:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Larissa B. Johnson
Board Clerk

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