

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

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on September 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, Joel D'Angelo, Amy Jacques-Purdy, Becky Valenti, Peggie Bushey, Susan Dean and Karen Perry

Chet Harris arrived at 7:40 PM

Members Absent: Jaime Lehane, Steven Banaletti and Jonathan Wintsch

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

Visitors: 2

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

Haddam-Killingworth High School Athletic Director, Dick Dupuis addressed the Board regarding the Ice Hockey Co-Op proposal. The proposal is for a small group of students from Regional School District 17 to participate in a Ice Hockey Co-Op Team with Lyman Hall in Wallingford and possibly Maloney High School in Meriden.

*Susan Dean **MOVED** and Joel D'Angelo **SECONDED** a motion to move Item 8 – New Business up in the agenda to follow Audience of Citizens. Motion passed 7-0-0 by the following votes:*

Amy Jacques-Purdy	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	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	Absent
Jaime Lehane	Absent	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. HKHS Ice Hockey Coop Team

The Board discussed the Ice Hockey Coop Team proposal at length. Dick Dupuis explained Lyman Hall would be providing the Ice Hockey coach, and has ice time at the Northford Arena at 5:00 AM. The transportation to practice and games would be the responsibility of the parents. In the case of away games, transportation would be provided from Lyman Hall, but it would be the responsibility of the parents' to transport their child to Lyman Hall to meet the bus.

Mr. Dupuis stated that this sport would not likely pull students away from sports they are currently enrolled in to join the Ice Hockey team, and only a limited number of students would be allowed to participate under Co-Op league guidelines. Additionally, Mr. Dupuis and Superintendent Thiery stated that the participation in this Co-Op would not affect Title 9 compliance. Lyman Hall, which had an existing program, though their numbers are dwindling, would provide approximately 10 students, Maloney High School in Meriden would likely provide 4-8 students, and Haddam-Killingworth could provide 4-8 students, which Dick Dupuis and Howard Thiery believe would likely be closer to 2-4 students.

To determine the popularity and likely participation in the co-op team, Mr. Dupuis and Superintendent Thiery found that there are less than 50 students district-wide who currently play ice hockey, outside of school. Mr. Dupuis held a meeting this past Thursday for parents to give an idea of interest. Three parents of high-school aged students attended, two parents were very interested and one was unsure. Mr. Dupuis also explained that there has been a small group of parents at the high school who have been looking for an opportunity for their children to be able to play for the district or on a co-op team.

The Co-Op team, if participation of Haddam-Killingworth is approved by the Board, would need to be approved by the CIAC and their approval would consist of a 2-year term.

The cost of the team would be paid for by the parents at an estimated \$1,700 to \$2,200 per player based on an estimated team of 20-30 players, depending upon the number of participating players. The team would be of no additional cost to the district.

The Board expressed concerns about an Ice Hockey team being permanently created by the RSD 17 district at some point in the future and the burden of that expense and this participation creating a pay-to-play standard. The Board also briefly compared this proposal to the Co-Op gymnastics team and talked about how the cost of ice time distinguishes ice hockey from other sports.

Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Susan Dean **SECONDED** a motion to approve the establishment of an Ice Hockey Coop Team with Lyman Hall as proposed. Motion passed 7-1-0 by the following votes:

Amy Jacques-Purdy	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	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	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Steven Banaletti	Absent
Jaime Lehane	Absent	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		

Approval of Minutes

- A. Approval of minutes for the August 7, 2012 Board of Education Meeting
- B. Approval of minutes for the August 21, 2012 Board of Education – Education Subcommittee Meeting

*Susan Dean **MOVED** and Amy Jacques-Purdy **SECONDED** a motion to approve the minutes from the August 7, 2012 Board of Education Meeting and the August 21, 2012 Board of Education – Education Subcommittee Meeting. Motion passed 7-0-1 by the following votes:*

Amy Jacques-Purdy	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	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	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steven Banaletti	Absent
Jaime Lehane	Absent	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

- A. Facilities and Transportation Subcommittee
No report.
- 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 gave a report. The subcommittee went over vendor history, a summary of the financial status and a summary of vendor contracts.
- D. Policy Subcommittee
Amy Jacques-Purdy reported that the committee did not meet.
- E. Communications Subcommittee
Karen Perry and Susan Dean updated the Board. The subcommittee met on August 21, 2012. They put together the Board Update. They went out the day before school started and discussed Community Conversations, which will have an administrative meeting on September 17, 2012 to prepare for the October 3, 2012 follow-up meeting. The next meeting of the Communications Subcommittee will be on September 18, 2012 at 6:30 PM.

Board Liaison Reports

- A. Building Committee (Solar/Alternative energies)
Sue Twachtman reported that the committee did not meet.
- B. Healthy Communities – Healthy Kids Council
Susan Dean reported that the council did not meet.
- C. LEARN
Sue Twachtman reported that LEARN did not meet. The next meeting is scheduled for September 13, 2012.

D. Park & Recreation

No report.

E. Haddam Board of Selectmen

No report.

F. Killingworth Board of Selectmen

Susan Dean had no report.

Old Business

A. Donation of Swan Hill Trail Signs

Howard Thiery and the Board discussed the liability issues relating to the trail and signage. Superintendent Thiery wanted to determine what the legal liability would be should an injury or other harm arise from public use of the trail over school property and how much insurance coverage should the district have. He received confirmation in writing from the district's attorney that the district would likely have no liability for injury resulting from use of the trail and confirmed in writing with our insurance provider that our \$11 million policy from Zurich is sufficient to cover usage of the trail. The Board discussed that pursuant to current policy, the trail would only be available for use while school is not in session. Sue Twatchman suggested that school hours be posted as well.

*Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Susan Dean **SECONDED** a motion to approve the donation of the Swan Hill Trail Signs with the assurance that the school hours will be posted. Motion passed 8-0-0 by the following votes:*

Amy Jacques-Purdy	YES <u>√</u> NO <u> </u> A <u> </u>	Peggie Bushey	YES <u>√</u> NO <u> </u> A <u> </u>
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	Absent
Jaime Lehane	Absent	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		

B. Policy 5131.81: Electronic Devices

Amy Jacques-Purdy suggested that the Policy Committee should meet first to address some of the changes to the policy that the Board has proposed.

Consent Agenda

A. Acceptance of a donation from an anonymous donor, totaling \$45.00 to be applied to HKHS Athletic Programs

*Sue Twachtman **MOVED** and Amy Jacques-Purdy **SECONDED** a motion to accept a donation in the amount of \$45.00 from an anonymous donor to the HKHS Athletic Programs. 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	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	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Steven Banaletti	Absent
Jaime Lehane	Absent	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		

From the Superintendent

A. Opening of Schools Reports

Superintendent Thiery gave a report on the Opening of Schools. He stated that all Capital Projects which were authorized to be completed over the summer were concluded before school opened. All staff and faculty vacancies were filled except for late-notice vacancies, including the Killingworth Elementary School principal vacancy.

As a part of the Opening of Schools, the district hosted a New Staff Orientation. Many of the new hires were teachers with 5-6 years experience. Monday, August 27, 2012 was a professional development day where faculty and staff worked on school goals, individual teachers' goals. The feedback was that the day was well-spent and worth-while.

The Convocation held on Tuesday, August 28, 2012 was attended by State Representative Jim Crawford. At the Convocation, Superintendent Thiery presented a video of students of Region 17 discussing the attributes of their favorite teachers. This video was presented as the "Key Note Speaker." He shared the video with the Board. The video asked "What makes my favorite teacher special?" and "What does good teaching look like?" Howard Thiery said of the video that he could not be more proud of our students and that he felt inspired. The message being that we began the school year by listening to students, that we need to listen to students throughout the school year. Amy Jacques-Purdy remarked that the video was "just fabulous." Susan Dean added that it was "nice to hear all of those phrases and thoughts from students." Chet Harris also characterized what the students were saying, adding, "Pique my interest...believe in me...teach me how to think..." The Board as a whole very much enjoyed the video.

Wednesday, August 29, 2012 was the opening day of school. Superintendent Thiery said that the day went spectacularly, especially when compared to last year's delay caused by Hurricane Irene. He filled in as Principal at KES. Transportation went very well on the first day and he was proud of the work of STA and Kathy.

B. Killingworth Elementary School Transition

Superintendent Thiery gave a report on the opening of Killingworth Elementary School and his progress in searching for an Interim Principal and Principal. Superintendent Thiery reported that he is currently acting as Principal and overseeing Killingworth Elementary School until an Interim Principal can be found.

Acting as principal of KES, he has been visiting all classrooms in the mornings and afternoons. He felt that KES had a good opening. He meets with faculty every Monday to determine what they need. He also gave his cell phone number to the staff and faculty so that he can be reached as needed.

He has been conducting an aggressive search for Interim Principals. Some of the candidates he has contacted are retired and not currently available.

He also begun the search for a permanent Principal. He identified 60 school districts and personally identified 6 people who were recommended to him. He sent invitations for these individuals to apply. He is hoping to continue to narrow down and engineer the search process.

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. Contracts 2012-2013

Martha Vaughn presented a list of current vendor contracts for the 2012-2013 school year, which provides contract amounts and contract renewal dates. The vendors were divided into three categories: business, technology, and facilities. This summary should improve the timeliness and efficiency of renewals and give a better understanding of what contracts the district has. Some renewals will have to be done at the Board level. The contracts amount which determines whether Board approval is required is \$25,000. Karen Perry stated that this summary will really help the district to have an overview of the contracts.

Board Discussion – Areas of Opportunities for District Improvement

The Board had no discussion.

Adjournment

Karen Perry called for the meeting to adjourn at 8:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Larissa B. Johnson

Larissa B. Johnson
Board Clerk

Approval: *Susan Dean* Date: *7/2/2012*
Susan Dean, Secretary