

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**August 7, 2012**

*A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on August 7, 2012 in the Central Office Board Room. Board of Education Chair, Karen Perry, called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.*

**Members Present:** *Peggie Bushey, Steven Banaletti Sue Twachtman, Joel D'Angelo, , Amy Jacques-Purdy, , Jaime Lehane, Susan Dean and Karen Perry*

**Members Absent:** *Chet Harris, Becky Valenti, and Jonathan Wintsch*

**Also Present:** *Superintendent of Schools, Howard Thiery and Board Clerk Larissa Johnson*

**Visitors:** *0*

**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 July 10, 2012 Board of Education Meeting**

*Susan Dean **MOVED** and Amy Jacques-Purdy **SECONDED** a motion to approve the minutes as presented. 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	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	YES <u>√</u> NO <u>   </u> A <u>   </u>	Karen Perry	YES <u>√</u> NO <u>   </u> A <u>   </u>
Jonathan Wintsch	Absent		

**Board Committee Reports**

**A. Facilities and Transportation Subcommittee**

*Jaime Lehane updated the Board. He reported that the committee discussed options for solving the issue with the girls' field hockey playing field, including Field Five, the JV Football field, and off-site Killingworth Rec. field. They also discussed continuing the sod the field seasonally, however he stated that the subcommittee is committed to finding a permanent solution. Next meeting date to be determined.*

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

*Amy Jacques-Purdy reported that the committee did not meet. Howard Thiery added the there is a body of work on-going which the subcommittee approved, and the subcommittee will likely not meet again until the project is completed. Next meeting date to be determined.*

**C. Finance Subcommittee**

*No report.*

**D. Policy Subcommittee**

*Amy Jacques-Purdy updated the Board. The subcommittee met on July 30 and 31<sup>st</sup> and made progress on the 5000 series. Next meeting date to be determined.*

**E. Communications Subcommittee**

*Karen Perry reported that the committee did not meet. Next meeting date will be August 21, 2012 at 6:30 PM in the Haddam Killingworth Middle School Media Center.*

**F. Personnel and Evaluation Subcommittee**

*Karen Perry updated the Board. She reported that it was a productive meeting where they talked about goal setting and evaluation criteria. Next meeting date to be determined.*

**Board Liaison Reports**

**A. Building Committee (Solar/Alternative energies)**

*No report.*

**B. Healthy Communities – Healthy Kids Council**

*Susan Dean reported that Healthy Communities – Healthy Kids Council did not meet.*

**C. LEARN**

*Sue Twachtman reported that LEARN did not meet.*

**D. Park & Recreation**

*Jaime Lehane had no report.*

**E. Haddam Board of Selectmen**

*Steven Banaletti updated the Board. He spoke to Selectman DiStefano over the phone and asked about unexpended balances. The next meeting will be August 15, 2012.*

**F. Killingworth Board of Selectmen**

*Susan Dean had no report.*

**Consent Agenda**

- A. Acceptance of donation from Stop & Shop in the amount of \$2,666.05 as part of their Bonus program submitted by Charles Macunas, Principal of Haddam Killingworth High School**
- B. Acceptance of donation from Stop & Shop in the amount of \$1,566.36 as part of their Bonus Bucks Program 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 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	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	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. Donation of Girls' Soccer Storage Shed**

*The Board briefly discussed the donation. Howard Thiery explained that this donation will be replacing an existing plastic storage shed. The Board also discussed the logistics of the installation and insurance coverage requirements.*

*Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Steven Banaletti **SECONDED** a motion to approve the donation of the Girls' Soccer Storage Shed. 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	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	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. Haddam Trails Grant**

*The Board briefly discussed the Haddam Trails Grant. Karen Perry stated that the item should be tabled for a future meeting while the Board and the District check into liability and other issues relating to the Haddam Trails Grant.*

**C. Policy 5131.81: Electronic Devices – First Read**

*The Board discussed Policy 5131.81. The Board talked about how this policy represents a dramatic change from the current, outdated policy which does not allow the use of electronic devices or cell phones in school. The intention of the policy is for kids to learn how to use electronic devices appropriately. Sue Twachtman and Karen Perry discussed having the policy cross-reference the*

*disciplinary policy. The Board was also concerned about students feeling excluded if they don't have the technology being used in the classroom, and students feeling ostracized. Amy Jacques-Purdy read the proposed policy into the record:*

#### **Use and Possession of Electronic Devices**

The Board of Education recognizes that the use of electronic devices can play a positive role in supporting student learning. The Board also understands that the use of electronic devices can be disruptive to the educational process and has a variety of legal and safety related implications. Therefore the possession and use of personal electronic devices in school is permitted providing that the use of the electronic device is not disruptive to the educational process, unsafe for the school community or illegal.

### **From the Superintendent**

#### **A. Explanation of RSD 17 Organizational Structure**

*Howard Thiery made a presentation to the Board outlining the personnel organizational infrastructure.*

#### **B. Professional Evaluation Criteria – Existing and Future**

*Howard Thiery made a presentation to the Board explaining the methods of professional evaluation for teachers and administrative team members, as well as anticipated changes in the state's required methods of evaluation.*

#### **C. Legislative Update**

*Howard Thiery presented "2012 Education Law Summaries" by CAFE in their July 2012 issue. He highlighted several summaries of Public Acts which he thought were most pertinent for the Board.*

#### **D. Enrollment Report**

*Howard Thiery presented the Enrollment Report.*

#### **E. Personnel Report**

*Howard Thiery presented the Personnel Report and explained that this report reflected new hires which have been made all summer, not just in the past month.*

### **From the Director of Fiscal Operations**

#### **A. Status of Health Insurance RFP**

*Howard Thiery presented an update on the Health Insurance RFP from Lindberg & Ripple.*

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

*Amy Jacques-Purdy suggested possibly holding a forum for parent and community feedback on bus routes. Howard Thiery mentioned that thus far this year, the District has not received any comments or complaints about the bus routes for the upcoming school year.*

*Susan Dean mentioned that “Conversations in Education” will fit well into Board Discussion.*

*Jaime Lehane thanked Howard Thiery for his presentations and Karen Perry for arranging for the presentations.*

## **Adjournment**

*Karen Perry called for the meeting to adjourn at 9:32 PM.*

*Respectfully submitted,*



Larissa B. Johnson  
Board Clerk

Approval:  Date: 9/4/2012  
Susan Dean, Secretary