

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
April 3, 2012

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on April 3, 2012 in the Central Office Board Room. Board of Education Chair, Karen Perry, called the meeting to order at 7:29 PM.

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

***Members Absent:** Joel D'Angelo*

***Also Present:** Superintendent of Schools, Howard Thiery and Director of Fiscal Operations, Martha Vaughn, and Student Representatives Erin Buckley and Emily Meredith*

***Visitors:** 6*

Call to Order/Opening of Meeting

Board of Education Chair, Karen Perry called the meeting to order at 7:29 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Audience of Citizens

Harry Taylor of Killingworth addressed the Board about his concerns over the Kelly Services contract. He asked why the district was hiring someone else to do the job, and stated that he was concerned about the district losing substitute teachers who live and work in the district, with whom students already have a relationship.

Approval of Minutes

- A. Approval of minutes for the February 28, 2012 Board of Education – Education Subcommittee Meeting**
- B. Approval of minutes for the March 6, 2012 Board of Education Meeting**
- C. Approval of minutes for the March 6, 2012 Board of Education Special Meeting**
- D. Approval of minutes for the March 8, 2012 Board of Education Special Meeting**
- E. Approval of minutes for the March 12, 2012 Board of Education Joint Meeting with the Selectmen and Boards of Finance of the Towns of Haddam and Killingworth**
- F. Approval of minutes for the March 20, 2012 Board of Education Community Input Session**
- G. Approval of minutes for the March 20, 2012 Board of Education Special Meeting**

*Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Susan Dean **SECONDED** a motion to approve the minutes as reflected on the April 3, 2012 agenda.*

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

Report from Student Representatives

Erin Buckley and Emily Meredith updated the Board. Erin Buckley reported that in March, the sophomores took the CAPT, the freshmen had their CAPT experience, juniors took SAT prep classes and the seniors attended various assemblies. Erin strongly recommended that the SAT prep classes be offered to juniors again next year as they were very helpful. She also reported that the French Honor Society showed the movie "The Red Balloon" and collected small donations for Medicins Sans Frontiers (Doctors Without Borders). She also reported that Haddam-Killingworth hosted a "Spring Fling" dance for all students, although the turnout was not as high as expected. On March 30, 2012 H-K hosted an Open Mic Night led by Ms. Allesandrine and Mrs. Gersz, with student Amie Esteves and Emily herself and other adult and student organizers. There were over 20 acts, including 3 songs performed by the high school's swing choir. There were about 130 people in attendance and they raised \$70 for the Connecticut Food Bank.

Emily Meredith reported that the students of the senior class were finishing their Senior Service Projects. The seniors talked with 8th graders, and also hosted a clothing drive and a bake sale. The seniors also made a presentation to the junior class and are receiving notifications from colleges regarding acceptances.

Board Committee Reports

A. Facilities and Transportation Subcommittee

Chet Harris updated the Board. The subcommittee met on March 28, 2012 and discussed the Facilities Report with Mike Distefano, including which capital projects were of first tier priority.

B. Finance Subcommittee

Jonathan Wintsch updated the Board. The subcommittee met April 3, 2012 and reviewed a transfer. He reported that everything looked as expected.

C. Policy Subcommittee

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

D. Communications Subcommittee

Karen Perry, Susan Dean and Sue Twachtman updated the Board. The subcommittee met on March 20, 2012 and discussed the first Board update. They also talked about HK Community Conversations, which has been funded by the William T. Graustein Memorial Fund to continue the community's discussion of education. HK Community Conversations will be hosting a Community Conversation on Saturday, June 2, 2012 to discuss the role of parents and community in childrens' education.

Board Liaison Reports

A. Building Committee (Solar/Alternative energies)

Erin Buckley reported that the committee did not meet. Sue Twachtman volunteered to be the new Board Liaison.

B. Healthy Communities – Healthy Kids Council

Susan Dean updated the Board. Healthy Communities – Healthy Kids met on March 14, 2012. Susan reported that the HC-HK.org website was updated and that they were sponsoring World Café Day on April 10, 2012 from 7:30-8:30 PM. Also they are circulating surveys on the subject of smoking in parks. And they have placed a billboard on Rt. 154 to educate the community that parents are not bartenders to their children. Additionally, their barbeque will be postponed until fall.

C. LEARN

Sue Twachtman updated the Board. LEARN met on March 8, 2012. Sue reported that the Judy Golden, the Superintendent for East Hampton schools discussed Global Education at the meeting after visiting Thailand and Vietnam. Sue also reported that Paul Freeman, the Superintendent for Guilford schools has Budget 101 webisodes to educate the community on the budget process, including where the money comes from and where the money goes.

D. Park & Recreation

No report. Jaime Lehane volunteered to be the new Board Liasion.

E. Haddam Board of Selectmen

Steven Banaletti updated the Board. Steven reported that the Board of Selectmen met on March 4, 2012 and the topic was Paul DeStefano's Workforce Alliance. Howard Thiery added that this was something he had briefly touched on in a Board Update, where this initiative will result in a Summer Jobs Program for students in the district to have summer employment at community small businesses.

F. Killingworth Board of Selectmen

Susan Dean updated the Board. Susan was unable to attend the meeting, however she was aware that the Workforce Alliance was also mentioned.

Old Business

A. Kelly Services Contract – Update

Howard Thiery updated the Board. Thiery advised that the insurance company and attorneys for the district are currently reviewing the contract and "red-lining" it. Once that is completed, it will be sent back to Kelly Services for review. He also advised the Board that long-term substitutes will not fall under this contract, thus there will be no fee to hire long-term substitutes. To address some concerns which have arisen from the community, he added that he has proposed using Kelly Services because the administration over substitutes is Human Resources-intensive, which the district does not have a staff for. Currently, the duties are split between the Finance office and the Superintendent's office, and is incredibly inefficient, as 50% of the substitutes are transient and 50% of the substitutes are steady, thus the district is constantly short on filling vacancies for substitutes even though the hiring is steady. He believes that this solution is cost neutral, but could represent a savings of \$10,000. He assured that the current pool of substitutes will be protected, and that joining Kelly Services will be of no cost to them, and that they will not risk losing priority if they turn down opportunities, plus the current substitutes can be requested by teachers and administrators if they are the preferred substitutes. Also, all substitutes with Kelly Services will be eligible for professional development, bonuses and benefits, which they are not currently eligible for under the current method of substitute administration. The Board expressed some additional concerns, such as whether or not the district can return to the current method if there is dissatisfaction with Kelly Services, that the no-cost transfer of current substitutes to Kelly Services be included in the contract, and if substitutes could be culled from teaching colleges in the area.

Consent Agenda

A. Acceptance of donation from Haddam Junior Women's Club in the amount of \$50.00 to be deposited in our student activity fund. Submitted by Janice Harris, Principal of Haddam Elementary School.

*Sue Twachtman **MOVED** and Susan Dean **SECONDED** a motion to accept the donation from Haddam Junior Women's Club in the amount of \$50.100 to be deposited in the student activity fund. Motion passed by the following votes:*

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

B. Acceptance of a Smartboard donation, from Dr. Michael Powers of the Center for Children with Special Needs, to be mounted in our Learning Center and used for instruction. Submitted by Eric Larson, Principal of Burr Elementary School.

The Board discussed whether there was a conflict of interest in accepting this donation from Dr. Powers because of his occasional consulting in Special Education for the district. Superintendent Thiery and Principal Larson discussed that Dr. Powers is not one of the top consultants and that he has a genuine interest in supporting the community and special education, that he has children in the district and that this Smartboard has been in his office for five years and it has only been used minimally because his office upgraded to new technology shortly after acquiring it. The Board also discussed the concern that once this Smartboard would be placed in the Special Education classroom, that it would automatically be slated for replacement once its working life ceases. To conserve costs, the Board discussed being consulted prior to the replacement of that Smartboard.

*Steven Banaletti **MOVED** and Amy Jacques-Purdy **SECONDED** a motion to accept the donation of a Smartboard from Dr. Michael Powers of the Center for Children with Special Needs to be mounted in the Learning Center, not to be replaced without prior Board of Education approval. Motion passed by the following votes:*

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

Karen Perry would like to thank Dr. Powers for his generous donation.

New Business

A. Discussion and possible approval of 2012-2013 Middle School Trip to Washington D.C. April 24-26, 2013.

*Neil English presented the proposal for the field trip to the Board. This trip is being presented to the Board earlier than it normally would be to allow for more time for fundraising. English has been chaperoning and organizing the trip for about 15 years. The students stay two days overnight. Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Steven Banaletti **SECONDED** a motion to approve the 2012-2013 Middle School Trip to Washington D.C. April 24-26, 2013. Motion passed by the following votes:*

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

Addition to the New Business Agenda

*Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Susan Dean **SECONDED** a motion to add Item B to the New Business Agenda – Graduation Date for 2011-2012 School Year. Motion passed by the following votes:*

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

B. Graduation Date for 2011-2012 School Year

The Board discussed that the district has missed four days of school, thus necessitating that those days made up. The Superintendent proposed that the graduation date be set for the last day of school, June 22, 2012.

*Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Susan Dean **SECONDED** a motion to set the graduation date for the 2011-2012 School Year as June 22, 2012. Motion passed by the following votes:*

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

From the Superintendent

A. FEMA Reimbursement

Superintendent Thiery advised the Board of the receipt of a reimbursement in the amount of \$24,991.63 from FEMA for expenses incurred during Hurricane Irene. Thiery said that this reimbursement was unexpected but that it did not represent a windfall, but only covers some expenses and thanked Mike Distefano for filing the paperwork required for the reimbursement, and acknowledged the support from Haddam and Killingworth in the FEMA application.

B. Personnel Report

Superintendent Thiery presented a Personnel Report to the Board.

C. Enrollment Report

Superintendent Thiery presented the monthly Enrollment Report to the Board.

From the Director of Fiscal Operations

A. Budget Transfer

Martha Vaughn presented a transfer from Building Insurance, District Account to the Workers Compensation Insurance Account in the amount of \$34,856.00. The transfer was necessary because of an increased number of workers' compensation claims resulting in higher workers' compensation claims.

*Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Peggie Bushey **SECONDED** a motion to approve the Budget Transfers as presented on April 3, 2012. Motion passed by the following votes:*

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

Future Meetings

- A. Facilities and Transportation:** To Be Determined
- B. Building Subcommittee (new school):** To Be Determined
- C. Building Subcommittee (solar/alternative energies):** To Be Determined
- D. Communications Subcommittee:** April 24, 2012 at 6:00 PM
- E. Finance Subcommittee:** May 1, 2012
- F. Policy Subcommittee:** April 23, 2012 at 6:30 PM

Adjournment

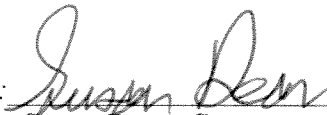
*Chet Harris **MOVED** and Steven Banaletti **SECONDED** a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 PM. Motion passed by the following votes:*

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

Respectfully submitted,



Larissa B. Johnson
Board Clerk

Approval:  Date: 5/1/2012
Susan Dean, Secretary