

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

*A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on March 6, 2012 in the Haddam-Killingworth High School Community Room. Board of Education Acting Chair, Jonathan Wintsch, called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.*

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

**Members Absent:** *None*

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

**Visitors:** *10*

**Call to Order/Opening of Meeting**

*Board of Education Acting Chair, Jonathan Wintsch called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.*

**Audience of Citizens**

*Mark P. Lundgren of Haddam addressed the Board. He welcomed Jaime Lehane to the Board, gave his prayers to Keith Kelsey and his family, thanked the Board for the time they would be putting in during budget season and asked the Board to read a copy of his memorandum "Thoughts at Budget Time."*

**Election of Board Chair**

*Acting Chair Jonathan Wintsch called for nominations to the position of Board Chair.*

*Steven Banaletti **NOMINATED** Karen Perry as Board Chair. Peggie Bushey **SECONDED**.  
Joel D'Angelo **NOMINATED** Amy Jacques-Purdy as Board Chair Susan Dean **SECONDED**.*

*The Board Chair candidates each presented their backgrounds and reasons for desiring to be elected Board Chair and the Board discussed the nominations.*

*The members of the Board voted as follows:*

<i>Steven Banaletti voted for Karen Perry</i>	<i>Amy Jacques-Purdy voted for Amy Jacques-Purdy</i>
<i>Peggie Bushey voted for Karen Perry</i>	<i>Karen Perry voted for Karen Perry</i>
<i>Susan Dean voted for Amy Jacques-Purdy</i>	<i>Sue Twachtman voted for Karen Perry</i>
<i>Joel D'Angelo voted for Amy Jacques-Purdy</i>	<i>Becky Valenti voted for Karen Perry</i>
<i>Chet Harris voted for Karen Perry</i>	<i>Jonathan Wintsch voted for Karen Perry</i>
<i>Jaime Lehane voted for Karen Perry</i>	

***Karen Perry was elected Board Chair (8-3)***

*Acting Chair Jonathan Wintsch turned the meeting over to the new Board Chair Karen Perry.*

## Approval of Minutes

### A. Approval of minutes for the February 7, 2012 Board of Education Meeting

*Susan **MOVED** and Steven Banaletti **SECONDED** a motion to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2012 Board of Education Meeting as presented. 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 type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input checked="" 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	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"/>
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

*Emily Meredith explained that during the month of February the Haddam-Killingworth High School's Student Council ran a Valentine's Day Carnation Sale. Emily announced that a Cookie Dough Sale was now being sponsored by the National Honors Society to benefit a scholarship fund for students. She also explained that CAPT testing and the practice ACT/SAT has begun for grades 9-11. Because of the testing, Seniors have been permitted to come to school late on Tuesday, March 6 and Thursday, March 8, but are still attending classes, and that this time has allowed the Seniors a well-deserved break and an opportunity to catch up on work applying for scholarships, as deadlines draw near. The Drama Club is also working on a new production, "Arsenic and Old Lace," directed by Mrs. Rowe and Mrs. Hoffman. And she also told the Board that in the month of May, AP (Advanced Placement) students would be taking their AP tests, which make the participating students eligible for college credit.*

*Erin Buckley told the Board that on February 11, 2012, Haddam-Killingworth hosted the ACTs, and that the testing went smoothly. She also reported on the CAPT testing for sophomores, and the preparation for the CAPT by the freshmen, who took mock tests. The juniors, she reported are also taking a SAT Prep course. She also announced that next month there will be a college fair, which she explained is a good opportunity for students to meet representatives from various colleges and begin their college search. There will be approximately 90 colleges and universities participating in the fair ranging from regional to international institutions.*

## Board Committee Reports

### A. Facilities and Transportation Subcommittee

*Superintendent Howard Thiery reported that the subcommittee did not meet.*

### B. Building Subcommittee (new school)

*Amy Jacques-Purdy reported that the subcommittee did not meet.*

### C. Finance Subcommittee

*Jonathan Wintsch reported that the subcommittee did not meet.*

### D. Policy Subcommittee

*Amy Jacques-Purdy updated the Board. The subcommittee met two weeks ago and continued working on the 5000 series. Work on the 5000 series will continue next week at the next meeting.*

**E. Communications Subcommittee**

*Karen Perry updated the Board. The subcommittee discussed putting together an informational update monthly to distribute and share with the community and the public.*

**Board Liaison Reports**

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

*Erin Buckley reported that the committee did not meet.*

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

*Becky Valenti updated the Board. The Healthy Communities-Healthy Kids Council heard a presentation on substance abuse including a report from law enforcement about the risks of underage persons drinking at home. There will be a barbeque fundraiser for student bullying at The Riverhouse at Goodspeed Station in Haddam on April 1, 2012. Tickets are \$50.00 per family.*

**C. LEARN**

*Sue Twachtman updated the Board. LEARN met on February 9, 2012 and there was a video presentation by Dr. Cirasoulo of the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents regarding his proposal for transforming schooling and Governor Malloy's goals and objectives for education.*

**D. Park & Recreation**

*No report. Board Chair Karen Perry requested that a member of the Board volunteer to act as a liaison to Parks & Recreation.*

**E. Haddam Board of Selectmen**

*Steven Banaletti updated the Board. The Haddam Board of Selectmen met on February 15, 2012. Banaletti reported that the Board of Selectmen was anxious to hear about the results at the Superintendent's budget presentation.*

**F. Killingworth Board of Selectmen**

*Susan Dean updated the Board. The Killingworth Board of Selectmen did not discuss any matters relating to the Board of Education or school district at either of its two previous meetings.*

**Correspondence**

*A letter submitted by student Harry Daniells was read into the record by Board Chair Karen Perry:*

Dear Mr. Howard Thiery,

I am writing this letter to thank you and the members of the Board of Education for providing the students of Haddam-Killingworth High School the opportunity to attend the Education Center for the Arts in New Haven. ECA offers classes in music, dance, creative writing, visual arts, and theater. I am currently enrolled in my second year and studying music. The program has allowed me to participate in honors level music courses such as composition, theory, and musicianship. I have played electric and up-right bass in several ensembles including classical, jazz and Latino. I feel that I am receiving a superb musical education.

I moved from another school district and started at HK High School last year as a freshman. My experience at HK has also been positive and I feel that the education is excellent. I realize that without the financial contribution of the HK school system, I would not be able to attend ECA. I believe that this commitment exemplifies the high quality of education offered by Haddam-Killingworth; students are exposed to a wide variety of opportunities including those in the

various fields of the arts. I am fortunate to be in a position to attend both HK and ECA; I again express my sincere thanks.

Respectfully,

Harry Daniells

*Superintendent Thiery remarked that he is very impressed when a sophomore writes this kind of letter and that "this young man is going places."*

### Consent Agenda

- A. Acceptance of donation from KES PTO sponsored Fall Book Fair in the amount of \$500.00 submitted by Alicia Duncanson, Killingworth Elementary School PTO.
- B. Acceptance of donation from Gateway Community College of three vehicles (1998 & 2000 Buick Regals and a 1997 Chevy Malibu) for use in the HK High School auto shop instruction, submitted by Charles Macunas, HKHS Principal.

*Jonathan Wintsch **MOVED** and Susan Dean **SECONDED** a motion to accept the donations as presented in the consent agenda. 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	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"/>
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"/>				

### New Business

#### A. Discussion and possible approval of the Jared Kulmann Memorial Walkway Project at Haddam Elementary School

*Superintendent Thiery explained that this project has been to honor Jared Kulmann, a Haddam Elementary School teacher who passed away. The HES community has been selling walkway bricks to pave the entrance to the primary playground at the school, where Mr. Kulmann supervised recess. The sales of the walkway bricks raised \$4,830 for the project and an additional \$835 towards scholarship. Board Chair Perry thanked Dr. Janice Harris, Principal of HES for her leadership in the project, and Dr. Harris deferred the thanks to Mrs. Levitt and the third grade class and staff members.*

*Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Susan Dean **SECONDED** a motion to approve the Jared Kulmann Memorial Walkway Project at Haddam Elementary School. 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	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"/>
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. Facilities Committee – Appointment of Chairperson**

*Board Chair Karen Perry appointed Chet Harris as Chairperson of the Facilities Committee. Becky Valenti and Jaime Lehane also agreed to join the Facilities Committee.*

**B. Kelly Services – Contract**

*The Board discussed the Kelly Services contract for substitute services. Board Chair Perry expressed concern for the continuing employment for substitute teachers who are from the District. Superintendent Thiery explained that Kelly Services will be willing to hire existing substitute teachers, and that those substitutes would also become eligible to work in other districts if they so choose due to their affiliation with Kelly Services. Kelly Services will also be running hiring workshops on site. He also explained that teachers can request specific substitutes, that District substitutes can be given priority, and that they will not be ranked based on assignment acceptance rates. Superintendent Thiery also explained that this was a cost-neutral proposal, as the District can set the pay rate, then pays Kelly Services 140% of that rate, where Kelly Services places the substitutes, pays unemployment, offers benefits, bonuses and professional development. The Board expressed concerns over how this would work for long-term substitute situations and needed additional time to review and consider the details of the contract.*

**C. Food Services – Equipment Replacement (Capital Fund)**

*Sharon Shettleworth, Food Services Director informed the Board that the Electric Booster Heater at Killingworth Elementary School needed to be replaced as well as the Electric Pressure Steamer and Steam Kettle at Haddam-Killingworth High School. This equipped had first been serviced in an attempt to repair them, but the equipment has irreparably broken down. All of the equipment requested is required in order for the schools to meet food safety regulations. Superintendent Thiery also explained that these were FUND 06 items. The Board requires that three quotes be considered for the purchase of this equipment.*

*Becky Valenti **MOVED** and Joel D'Angelo **SECONDED** a motion to approve the purchase of an Electric Booster Heater; cost not to exceed \$1400.00. The 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	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"/>
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"/>		

*Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Sue Twachtman **SECONDED** a motion to approve the purchase of an Electric Pressure Steamer and Steam Kettle; total cost not to exceed \$31,000.00. The 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	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"/>
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"/>		

**D. Enrollment Report**

*Superintendent Thiery presented the monthly Enrollment Report to the Board.*

**E. Personnel Report**

*Superintendent Thiery presented a Personnel Report to the Board.*

**From the Director of Fiscal Operations**

**A. Seward & Monde – Contract Renewal**

*The Board asked for some background regarding the District’s affiliation with Seward & Monde. Seward & Monde has been the auditor for the District since ’07-’08. The cost annually is \$41,400, which is the same as the previous contract. Board Member Jonathan Wintsch suggested that the Board consider hiring a different auditing firm in the future, not because of any dissatisfaction with Seward & Monde, but just so that a fresh set of eyes might review the District’s financials.*

*Peggie Bushey **MOVED** and Chet Harris **SECONDED** a motion to accept the contract renewal from Seward and Monde as presented. 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	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"/>
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:** March 20, 2012 at 5:30 PM
- E. Finance Subcommittee:** April 3, 2012 at 6:30 PM
- F. Policy Subcommittee:** March 14, 2012 at 6:30 PM

**Adjournment**

*Steven Banaletti **MOVED** and Sue Twachtman **SECONDED** a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 PM. Motion passed by the following votes:*

Steven Banaletti    YES √ NO    A     
Peggie Bushey        YES √ NO    A     
Joel D'Angelo        YES √ NO    A     
Susan Dean            YES √ NO    A     
Chet Harris           YES √ NO    A     
Amy Jacques-Purdy   YES √ NO    A   

Jaime Lehane        YES √ NO    A     
Karen Perry          YES √ NO    A     
Sue Twachtman       YES √ NO    A     
Becky Valenti        YES √ NO    A     
Jonathan Wintsch    YES √ NO    A   

*Respectfully submitted,*



Larissa B. Johnson  
Board Clerk

Approval:  Date: 4/3/2012  
Susan Dean, Secretary