

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17  
BOARD OF EDUCATION – EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE  
February 28, 2012**

*A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on February 28, 2012 in the Haddam-Killingworth Middle School Media Center. Board of Education Acting Chair, Jonathan Wintsch, called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM.*

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

**Members Absent:** *None*

**Also Present:** *Superintendent of Schools, Howard Thiery*

**Visitors:** *Approximately 35*

**Call to Order/Opening of Meeting**

*Board of Education Acting Chair, Jonathan Wintsch called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.*

**Changes to the Agenda for February 28, 2011**

*Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Joel D’Angelo **SECONDED** a motion to add “Audience of Citizens” to the agenda. Motion passed by the following votes:*

Steven Banaletti	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u>  </u>	A <u>  </u>	Amy Jacques-Purdy	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u>  </u>	A <u>  </u>
Peggie Bushey	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u>  </u>	A <u>  </u>	Sue Twachtman	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u>  </u>	A <u>  </u>
Susan Dean	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u>  </u>	A <u>  </u>	Jonathan Wintsch	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u>  </u>	A <u>  </u>
Joel D’Angelo	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u>  </u>	A <u>  </u>	Chet Harris	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u>  </u>	A <u>  </u>
Karen Perry	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u>  </u>	A <u>  </u>	Becky Valenti	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u>  </u>	A <u>  </u>

**Audience of Citizens**

*Mariellen Cherry of Haddam and Girls’ Field Hockey Coach addressed the Board regarding the addition of sodding the field hockey field to the 2012-2013 budget. Cherry explained that the field hockey team needs sod on the field it shares with the baseball teams in order to be able to host state games at home, as the field is currently ineligible to host state games. Field Hockey Players Samantha Waskowitz of Killingworth and Marissa Moncata of Higganum also addressed the Board regarding sodding the field along with parents Suzanne Madore of Higgnum, Frank Buckley III of Haddam, Alicia Sledzik of Higganum, and Patti Hauslern of Killingworth. The members of the field hockey team and their parents emphasized to the Board that they are at a disadvantage playing state games away, that fields with “higher seeds” get the home advantage, that they have had to rent a playing field from Wesleyan University to qualify for tournament games, and that the condition of the field on HKHS campus without the sod raises safety concerns because of the uneven surface of the field.*

**Changes to the Agenda for February 28, 2011**

Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Becky Valenti **SECONDED** a motion to move up items 1.B and 1.C to 1.A and 1.B in the interest of consideration for guest speakers. Motion passed by the following votes:

Steven Banaletti	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"/>
Peggie Bushey	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"/>	Jonathan Wintsch	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"/>	Chet Harris	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"/>	Becky Valenti	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>

**New Business**

**A. HKHS Teacher, Shefali Mehta and students present their NASA research**

*Shefali Mehta and students Cameron Cook, Debbie Nixon, Parker Hutchinson, and Matthew Zenie made a presentation to the Board. Cook presented on the students' experience at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory at the California Institute of Technology in the summer of 2011, where they worked on a project identifying galaxy clusters and learned about life as a scientist. Nixon presented on the research aspect of their undertaking and explained black holes and described the Spitzer telescope. Hutchinson and Zenie discussed their trip to the Texas American Astronomical Society, where they continued and presented their work on the CalTech project. The students explained that not only has their involvement in this project taught them a lot about science and technology, but that it has taught them more about working in the scientific field and life as a professional scientist. The students emphasized that they learned a great deal and gleaned a lot from the experience.*

**B. Field trip to Greece & Italy – April 2012 (Approved 1.24.11)**

*HKHS Special Education Teacher and field trip chaperone John Regan made a presentation to the Board. Regan explained that due to the political demonstrations in Athens Greece, he and Charlie Macunas, Principal of HKHS had concerns regarding the itinerary of the student trip to Greece and Italy planned for April 2012. Regan presented some changes to the original itinerary which the travel company, EF Educational Tours had already made in accommodation of the conditions in Greece, such as having students stay in a hotel outside the city in the neighboring town of Glyfada. Regan also presented some additional alternatives to the approved travel plan which could also keep the student group out of Athens and locations where the political demonstrations have been occurring.*

*Superintendent Thiery also added some facts that he researched about the political conditions and safety records of American tourism in Greece over the past ten years.*

*The Board discussed the risks associated with traveling in that area, possible complications resulting from changes to the itinerary, the benefits of being able to tour ancient landmarks of Athens, and the rights of the parents whose children are attending the trip. The Board and Regan also discussed the ability for himself and EF Educational Tours to allow the itinerary to change and respond to any possible complications that might arise from a political protest or other safety concern while they are abroad.*

Steven Banaletti **MOVED** and Karen Perry **SECONDED** a motion to require the field trip to Greece and Italy stay out of the city of Athens. Motion failed by the following:

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

### C. Curriculum Council Update

Amy Jacques-Purdy updated the Board. Jacques-Purdy discussed the Reader's workshop the teachers participated in. Superintendent Thiery also mentioned that the district was accepted as a Columbia affiliate.

### D. District Student Achievement Report Card

Superintendent Thiery presented to the Board. Thiery explained that the District Student Achievement Report Card would be another way in which the district could grade or measure student achievement. The district is looking for input from the Board, Parent-Teacher Organizations and community for input on what criteria they would like to see student achievement measured by and how the district should define success at every level. Thiery talked about how this will bring a conversation about the school district to a variety of constituencies. Thiery is hoping that this will be a three-dimensional way to report out information about the district other than just by CMT and CAPT scores.

### Adjournment

Steven Banaletti **MOVED** and Chet Harris **SECONDED** a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:32 PM. Motion passed by the following votes:

Steven Banaletti	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"/>
Peggie Bushey	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"/>	Jonathan Wintsch	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"/>	Chet Harris	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"/>	Becky Valenti	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>

Respectfully submitted,

*Larissa B. Johnson*

Larissa B. Johnson  
Board Clerk

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