

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION – Education Committee
January 17, 2012

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education - Education Committee was held on January 17, 2012 in the Haddam-Killingworth Middle School Media Center. Board of Education Vice Chair, Jonathan Wintsch, called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

Members Present: *Susan Dean, Jonathan Wintsch, Sue Twachtman, Karen Perry, Joel D'Angelo, Becky Valenti, Peggie Bushey and Chet Harris*

Members Absent: *Keith Kelsey, Amy Jacques-Purdy, and Steven Banaletti*

Also Present: *Superintendent of Schools, Howard Thiery*

Visitors: *Approximately 25*

Call to Order/Opening of Meeting

Board of Education Vice Chair, Jonathan Wintsch called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

New Business

A. Discussion of State Education Reform Agendas - Superintendent Thiery

a. Governor Molloy's Education Reform Proposal

Superintendent Thiery explained that the Governor has declared that next year would be focused on education. The Governor's proposal for education reform will be based upon the following principles:

- *Enhance families' access to high quality early childhood education opportunities.*
- *Authorize the intensive interventions and enable the supports necessary to turn around Connecticut's lowest-performing schools and districts.*
- *Expand the availability of high-quality school models, including traditional schools, magnets, charters, and others.*
- *Unleash innovation by removing red tape and other barriers to success, especially in high-performing schools and districts.*
- *Ensure that our schools are home to the very best teachers and principals – working within a fair system that values their skill and effectiveness over seniority and tenure.*
- *Deliver more resources, targeted to districts with the greatest need – provided that they embrace key reforms that position our students for success.*

b. Connecticut Education Association Reform Proposal

The CEA proposal focuses on shared responsibility including teachers and the larger community to close the achievement gap by:

- *Preparing students to achieve*
- *Reforming teacher accountability through development and evaluation*
- *Creating a positive learning environment*
- *Encouraging parental and community participation*
- *Ensuring the fair distribution of resources*

c. CAPSS Education Reform Proposal

The CAPSS proposal suggests doing away with tenure and offering teachers a 5 year contract instead. It also proposes limiting Board's of Education power and promoting Superintendent's power. Howard informed the Board, this item is for places where Boards micromanage and are too involved in the Superintendent's work.

A Superintendent's contract by law can be no less than 3 years – this provides continuity in most cases and is a good thing, as it takes time to make change.

B. Curriculum Council Update

Teachers and Administrators attended Curriculum Council to present two new courses and text. Neither course will require additional personnel; some technology will need to be purchased for the A.P. Chemistry Course.

Advanced Placement Chemistry

The course is designed to be a first year college general chemistry course and follows the College Board's AP Chemistry topic outline. This course is a 1.5 credit course. Summer work is required to front load the course work and prerequisites are that students have a teacher recommendation and successful completion of Algebra II.

This course was approved by Curriculum Council.

F.I.T.S.(Fitness in Today's Society)

This is a new P.E. 0.5 credit course for grades 10-12 and lends itself to teaching more life skills and less game playing. The course will provide students with a thorough understanding of overall wellness. Students will be introduced to various training techniques (endurance training, circuit training, and cardio training), stress reducing activities such as Yoga, injury prevention and short term care. Students will be learning in both a classroom (40%) and practical setting (60%). Students will be required to develop an individualized fitness goal and demonstrate their knowledge of a fitness topic by sharing one lesson to peers at the end of the semester. This course will have no additional costs i.e. textbooks, personnel, equipment etc.

This course was approved by Curriculum Council.

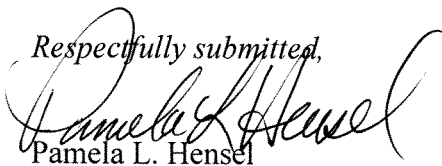
Adjournment

Susan Dean **MOVED** and Peggie Bushey **SECONDED** a motion to adjourn at 8:40 PM.

Peggie Bushey	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"/>
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"/>
Sue Twachtman	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"/>
Jonathan Wintsch	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela L. Hensel
Acting Board Clerk

Approval:  Date: 2-7-2012
Susan Dean, Secretary