

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES**  
**December 6, 2011**

*A meeting of the Regional School District 17 Board of education was held on December 6, 2011 in the Central Office Board Room. Superintendent Howard Thiery called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.*

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

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

**Visitors: 5**

**Call to Order/Opening of Meeting**

*Superintendent Howard Thiery called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.*

**Audience of Citizens**

*Mark Lundgren thanked the new board members for their willingness to serve. He pledged his help on issues near and dear to his heart, such as Transportation. He indicated he reviewed the Boards 5-year Strategic Plan and he has no idea how the Board will implement it. He suggested the Board create a Listening Subcommittee to hear what town residents like him have to say.*

*Jason Brown addressed the Board regarding class dues, which he said were briefly mentioned in senior orientation. Mr. Brown indicated he sent a couple of emails to Mr. Thiery about this issue. Mr. Brown spoke with Charlie Macunas who said the dues were voluntary but when the \$55.00 bill came it indicated a \$5.00 late charge if not paid by the due date. He stated that paying the bill did not appear voluntary.*

*He questioned why it was not stated in the orientation material that dues are voluntary, and if they are voluntary, why is a late charge incurred. Mr. Brown questioned why senior dues would go toward a gift to the school or the senior class as opposed to being used to offset senior class activities as they should.*

*Superintendent Thiery responded that indeed senior dues are voluntary. Mr. Thiery explained that he met with Mr. Macunas on this issue and Mr. Macunas met with advisors and explained how the letter needed to be written going forward. The voluntary information will be included in orientation materials in the future. Mr. Thiery assured Mr. Brown that students may pay as they go. Mr. Thiery also stated that high school seniors decide if they want to use some of their class dues money to buy a gift for students or a gift for the district and any gift is strictly the choice of the senior class.*

**Nomination and Election of Board of Education Officers**

Mr. Thiery called for nominations for the position of Board Chair.

*Mr. Steven Banaletti NOMINATED Keith Kelsey for BOE Chair, Jonathan Wintsch SECONDED*

*Susan Dean NOMINATED Amy Jacques-Purdy for BOE Chair, Joel D'Angelo SECONDED*

***Board Chair votes:***

Steven Banaletti voted for Keith Kelsey	Keith Kelsey voted for Keith Kelsey
Peggie Bushey voted for Keith Kelsey	Karen Perry voted for Keith Kelsey
Susan Dean voted for Amy Jacques-Purdy	Sue Twachtman voted for Keith Kelsey
Chet Harris voted for Keith Kelsey	Becky Valenti voted for Keith Kelsey
Joel D'Angelo voted for Amy Jacques-Purdy	Jonathan Wintsch voted for Keith Kelsey
Amy Jacques-Purdy voted for Amy Jacques-Purdy	

**Keith Kelsey was elected Board Chair (8 – 3)**

Mr. Thiery turned the meeting over to the new Board Chair Keith Kelsey.

Keith Kelsey called for nominations for the position of Board Vice-Chair.

*Susan Dean NOMINATED Amy Jacques-Purdy as Vice Chair, Joel D'Angelo SECONDED*

*Steven Banaletti NOMINATED Jonathan Wintsch as Vice Chair, Chet Harris SECONDED*

***Board Vice- Chair Votes:***

Steven Banaletti voted for Jonathan Wintsch	Keith Kelsey voted for Jonathan Wintsch
Peggie Bushey voted for Jonathan Wintsch	Karen Perry voted for Jonathan Wintsch
Susan Dean voted for Amy Jacques-Purdy	Sue Twachtman voted for Amy Jacques-Purdy
Chet Harris voted for Jonathan Wintsch	Becky Valenti voted for Amy Jacques-Purdy
Joel D'Angelo voted for Amy Jacques-Purdy	Jonathan Wintsch voted for Jonathan Wintsch
Amy Jacques-Purdy voted for Amy Jacques-Purdy	

**Jonathan Wintsch was elected Board Vice-Chair (6-5)**

Keith Kelsey called for nominations for Board Treasurer.

*Keith Kelsey NOMINATED Amy Jacques-Purdy as Treasurer, Amy Jacques-Purdy DECLINED*

*Karen Perry NOMINATED Peggie Bushey as Treasurer, Amy Jacques-Purdy SECONDED*

*Joel D'Angelo NOMINATED Susan Dean as Treasurer, Susan Dean DECLINED*

***Treasurer Votes:***

Steven Banaletti voted for Peggie Bushey	Keith Kelsey voted for Peggie Bushey
Peggie Bushey voted for Peggie Bushey	Karen Perry voted for Peggie Bushey
Susan Dean voted for Peggie Bushey	Sue Twachtman voted for Peggie Bushey
Chet Harris voted for Peggie Bushey	Becky Valenti voted for Peggie Bushey
Joel D'Angelo voted for Peggie Bushey	Jonathan Wintsch voted for Peggie Bushey
Amy Jacques-Purdy voted for Peggie Bushey	

**Peggie Bushey was unanimously voted Board Treasurer**

Keith Kelsey called for nominations for Board Secretary.

Amy Jacques-Purdy NOMINATED Susan Dean as Secretary, Steven Banaletti SECONDED

Peggie Bushey NOMINATED Karen Perry as Secretary, Chet Harris SECONDED – Karen Perry DECLINED

**Secretary Votes:**

Steven Banaletti voted for Susan Dean	Keith Kelsey voted for Susan Dean
Peggie Bushey voted for Susan Dean	Karen Perry voted for Susan Dean
Susan Dean voted for Susan Dean	Sue Twachtman voted for Susan Dean
Chet Harris voted for Susan Dean	Becky Valenti voted for Susan Dean
Joel D’Angelo voted for Susan Dean	Jonathan Wintsch voted for Susan Dean
Amy Jacques-Purdy voted for Susan Dean	

**Susan Dean was unanimously voted Board Secretary**

**Approval of Minutes**

A. *Approval of minutes for the November 15, 2011 Board of Education - Education Subcommittee Meeting*

*Susan Dean **MOVED** and Steven Banaletti **SECONDED** a motion to approve the minutes for the November 15, 2011 Board of Education – Education Subcommittee Meeting as presented. 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>	Karen Perry	YES <u>√</u> , NO <u>  </u> A <u>  </u>
Susan Dean	YES <u>√</u> , NO <u>  </u> A <u>  </u>	Sue Twachtman	YES <u>√</u> , NO <u>  </u> A <u>  </u>
Joel D’Angelo	YES <u>√</u> , NO <u>  </u> A <u>  </u>	Becky Valenti	YES <u>√</u> , NO <u>  </u> A <u>  </u>
Chet Harris	YES <u>√</u> , NO <u>  </u> A <u>  </u>	Jonathan Wintsch	YES <u>√</u> NO <u>  </u> A <u>  </u>
		Keith Kelsey	YES <u>√</u> , NO <u>  </u> A <u>  </u>

**Board Committee Reports**

A. Report from Student Representatives – *Erin Buckley reported on the Co-Curricular Fair which took place on November 9<sup>th</sup>, each club was represented at a table. The play My Fair Lady played on November 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> there was a great turn out. On November 30<sup>th</sup> during advisory period students attended a one hour presentation on “Rachel’s Challenge” which motivates them to positive change in the way they treat others. Rachel Scott was the first person killed at Columbine High School on April 20, 1999. A huge poster hangs in the high school and students sign and accept Rachel’s Challenge. Erin noted that already she has seen a notable change in how students treat each other.*

*Emily reported student council has started a chain of paper links, each link represents a kind word or thought about others. We are hanging the chain in the hallways at the high school and hope to have it reach every hallway.*

*Emily noted the Chorus Concert to be held next week included both Middle School and High School students and together they raised over \$2500 for charity.*

- Football made it to the quarter finals for the first time since 1994.*
- B. Facilities and Transportation – *Did not meet, no report.*
  - C. Building Subcommittee (new school) – *Did not meet. The state approved the project closure however how to spend the remaining 600K is still to be decided.*
  - D. Building Subcommittee (solar/alternative energies) – *Erin reported that she and Peter Brandon attended a task force meeting to look at energy conservation district wide, this has been done in a district in West Hartford. Any savings could be used in curriculum and conservation district wide provides hands on experience for students. Consent from the schools would be required and the students would make the presentations on the results.*
  - E. Education Subcommittee – *No report.*
  - F. Communications Subcommittee – *Susan Dean reported the committee is discussing better ways to communicate with the public using public access channels and setting up forums.*
  - G. Finance Subcommittee – *Jonathan noted at the last meeting refinancing the debt was discussed. Martha indicated that due to current fluctuations in interest rates she would get current rate figures and the committee could look at it again.*
  - H. Policy Subcommittee – *Susan noted the committee is working on the 5000 Series, they meet next week on Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. The 5000 Series is a student series and includes expulsions and bullying. In addition, the committee will be working on a new Bullying Policy mandated by the State.*
  - I. Personnel Subcommittee – *Did not meet, no report.*
  - J. Audit Subcommittee – *Did not meet, no report. Merged with Finance.*
  - K. Healthy Communities – Healthy Kids Council rep. – *Susan Dean reported research from Search Institute identifies 40 Developmental Assets that have a powerful, positive impact on young people. About 59 percent of young people, ages 12–18 years, have 20 or fewer Developmental Assets, according to Search Institute Surveys. The good news is we can change this because we all have the power to build assets in young people’s lives. More on this can be found on our website on the Youth and Family Services tab, under Resources.*
  - L. LEARN representative – *No report. Our LEARN rep is no longer on the Board. A new rep will be needed to keep the Board informed on what our RESC is offering.*
  - M. Park & Recreation representative – *Keith Kelsey reported that Park & Recreation will meet tomorrow.*
  - N. Haddam Board of Selectmen liaison – *Steven Banaletti reported the BOS discussed the Constellation Energy contract recently approved by the BOE.*
  - O. Killingworth Board of Selectmen liaison - *Susan Dean reported the Killingworth BOE met on November 28<sup>th</sup>. It was noted they really appreciate the update that Howard prepares for them each month.*

## **New Business**

- A. Board of Education Committees- *The current BOE committees were reviewed giving new board members an opportunity to learn the purpose for each and the meeting schedule.*
  - *Facilities and Transportation oversees long term projects and transportation reports as needed. Currently meets monthly but may go to a quarterly schedule.*
  - *Building Committee (Solar Energy) is not a BOE committee but is made up of district faculty and students and meets in Mrs. Ferrer’s class. The board decided a member of the Facilities Committee would serve as liaison on this committee.*
  - *Education meeting is made up of all Board members and is one of the two meetings held by the Board per month. The meeting is held at the Middle School in the Lower Media Center on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month.*
  - *Communications – The BOE communicates to the community through this committee. Susan would like to see us have a stronger relationship with our state legislators. This committee meets once per month.*

- Finance and Audit – The Board discussed and decided to merge these two committees into one. This committee meets once per month on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month prior to the regular BOE meeting.
- Policy – This committee has a big job and requires an intense commitment. The committee meets once each month and is currently working on the 5000 Series. The Policy Series begins at 0000 and ends at 9000, all are undergoing revision except the 0000, 9000 & 4000 Series, which were recently completed. This committee meets in the Superintendent’s office.
- Personnel meets as needed when issues arise and during negotiations and/or contract issues. No contract renewals are due for the next two years. Howard recommended eliminating a standing personnel committee and convening the committee when needed, all agreed.
- Healthy Community – Healthy Kids Council, Susan Dean stated, is a part of Youth and Family Services, they meet once per month. A Board member serves as liaison.
- LEARN – LEARN is our RESC, located in Old Lyme. LEARN is made up of representatives from each district in the RESC. The LEARN representative brings information to LEARN and from LEARN to the BOE.
- Park & Recreation – Parks and Recreation is the single largest user of our facilities.
- Haddam Board of Selectman – They meet twice a month. Howard creates an update on district events and the liaison shares it with the BOS.
- Killingworth Board of Selectman – Same as above.

**From the Superintendent**

- A. December Education Subcommittee Celebrations – Last month celebrations were instituted at the Education Sub-Committee meeting of the Board. This month we will celebrate two high school students who were awarded the CAPSS (Connecticut Association of Public Schools Superintendents) Award. The HKMS was named a Unified School because of its Unified Sports Program. The HKHS was named to the Advanced Placement Honor Roll on AP exams by the College Board.
- B. CAPSS Educational Transformation Project – Howard explained that CAPSS is a professional organization for superintendents. The Education Transformation Project presented by CAPSS includes 134 recommendations, with both a new Commissioner of Education and a new Governor, CAPSS felt they needed to get their agenda in place now for consideration. Howard has a full report electronically and would be happy to share it with any board member interested. Lastly, Howard reported that he met with local superintendents and state representative Jim Crawford last week to exchange ideas, they plan to meet again in January.
- C. Enrollment Report- The report was reviewed, Karen Perry suggested having the class sizes on the right total the average class size at the bottom. Howard will make the change.
- D. Personnel- The board is not required to act on this, although it has been voted on traditionally in the past even though the action has already occurred. Keith Kelsey suggested for the next meeting this item be brought under the consent agenda in the future and appear as a report.

Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Susan Dean **SECONDED** a motion to accept the new hires as presented. 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"/>	Karen Perry	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"/>	Sue Twachtman	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"/>	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"/>
		Keith Kelsey	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> , NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>

**From the Director of Fiscal Operations**

*Martha reported the 2010-11 Audit is completed and she expects the final report in a few weeks. Finance Committee meetings will resume the first Tuesday of the month on January 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 p.m. and are held at Central Office.*

**Future meetings**

- A. Facilities and Transportation: 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, may change to quarterly.
- B. Building Subcommittee (new school): TBD
- C. Building Subcommittee (solar/alternative energies): *Meets every Tuesday at 11:15 a.m. in Mrs. Ferrer’s class at the High School*
- D. Education Subcommittee: *December 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. , Middle School Lower Media*
- E. Communications Subcommittee: TBD
- F. Finance Subcommittee: *January 3, 2012 at 6:00 p.m., Central Office*
- G. Policy Subcommittee: *December 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m., Howard’s office – Email him if you plan to attend.*

**Communication Reports**

- a) Healthy Communities – Healthy Kids Council: 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month
- b) LEARN: 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday at 10:00 a.m.
- c) HK Park & Recreation: 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. at the White House
- d) Haddam Board of Selectmen liaison: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays
- e) Killingworth Board of Selectmen liaison: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays

*Susan Dean took a moment to welcome new board members and to congratulate the new officers. In addition she offered her thanks to Amy Jacques-Purdy for her years of wonderful service to Board and the communities of Haddam & Killingworth.*

*Keith Kelsey thanked Amy Jacques-Purdy for her service.*

**Adjournment**

*Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Chet Harris **SECONDED** a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9.26 PM. Motion passed unanimously.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

Pamela L. Hensel  
Acting Board Clerk

Approval: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Susan Dean, Secretary