

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION
JANUARY 10, 2006**

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held January 10, 2006, at Haddam-Killingworth High School. Board of Education Chairman Robert Baranoff called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Members present: Amy Jacques-Purdy, Jo Ferjak, Nancy Gorski, Diane Stock, Robert Baranoff, Richard Cabral, Daniel Cronin, Mark Almeida, and Michael Trahan.

Members absent: Mary Withington and Douglas Stevenson.

Also present: Superintendent of Schools Gary S. Mala, Director of Finance and Operations Gary J. Shettle, and Board Clerk Ann Lang.

Audience of Citizens

No one asked to speak.

Report from Student Representatives

Student representatives were not present.

Presentation: Demonstration of New Technology

District Instructional Specialists Jane Dion and Patty Muzzulin presented the new laptop computers and Smart Boards technology being used in the middle and high school classrooms. They used a Power Point presentation on a laptop computer to demonstrate the use of a Smart Board. There will be a professional development workshop next week on the use of laptops and Smart Boards.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Cabral **MOVED** and Ms. Stock **SECONDED** that the Board approve the minutes of the December 13, 2005 special Board of Education meeting as presented. Motion passed. Abstentions: Jo Ferjak, Diane Stock, and Daniel Cronin.

Mr. Cabral **MOVED** and Ms. Jacques-Purdy **SECONDED** that the Board approve the minutes of the December 13, 2005 regular Board of Education meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Cabral **MOVED** and Ms. Jacques-Purdy **SECONDED** that the Board approve the minutes of the December 14, 2005 special Board of Education meeting as presented. Motion passed. Abstentions: Nancy Gorski, Jo Ferjak, Amy Jacques-Purdy, Michael Trahan, and Daniel Cronin.

Mr. Cabral *MOVED* and Mr. Almeida *SECONDED* that the Board approve the minutes of the December 19, 2005 special Board of Education meeting as presented. Motion passed. Abstentions: Jo Ferjak and Diane Stock.

Board Committee Reports

1. **Facilities and Transportation Subcommittee** – Mr. Almeida reported that the next committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 19, at 6:30 p.m. at Central Office.

Mr. Almeida distributed project summaries of the KES re-roofing project, the HES well/atmospheric tank project, and the BES well project.

- A. **Acceptance of Haddam Elementary School State Department of Education Project Number 217-0044 CV as Complete (Drilling of a second well and installation of a new atmospheric water tank and controls)** – Mr. Almeida *MOVED* and Ms. Jacques-Purdy *SECONDED* that the Haddam Elementary School project, State Department of Education project number 217-0044 CV be accepted as complete. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. **Acceptance of Killingworth Elementary School Roof Replacement State Department of Education Project Number 217-0047 RR as Complete (Replaced the roof over the 1963 wing)** – Mr. Almeida *MOVED* and Ms. Jacques-Purdy *SECONDED* that the Killingworth Elementary School roof replacement project, State Department of Education project number 217-0047 RR, be accepted as complete. Motion passed unanimously.
- C. **Approval of the Education Specifications for Burr Elementary School Regarding the Health Code for the Addition of Another Source for Drinking Water** – Mr. Almeida *MOVED* and Ms. Jacques-Purdy *SECONDED* that the educational specifications for Burr Elementary School for the drilling of a well for another source of drinking water be approved. Motion passed unanimously.
- D. **Authorize the Superintendent of Schools to File an Application for a School Construction Project with the State Department of Education for Burr Elementary School to Provide an Additional Source for drinking water** – Mr. Almeida *MOVED* and Ms. Jacques-Purdy *SECONDED* that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent of Schools to file an application for a school construction project for Burr Elementary School to provide an additional source for drinking water.
- E. **Establish a School Building Committee Consisting of the Facilities Subcommittee and Authorize the Preparation of Schematic Drawings and**

Outline Specifications for the School Construction Project at Burr Elementary School for the Drilling of a Second Well to Provide an Additional Source of Drinking Water – Mr. Almeida *MOVED* and Ms.

Jacques-Purdy *SECONDED* that the Board of Education establish a school building committee consisting of the Facilities Subcommittee and authorize the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the school construction project at Burr Elementary School for the drilling of a second well to provide an additional source of drinking water. Motion passed unanimously

2. **Building Subcommittee** – Mr. Almeida reported the next meeting is tomorrow night (January 11).
3. **Education Subcommittee** – Ms. Ferjak reported that the committee met November 22 and had presentations on the food services program and the district's math program. The next meeting is scheduled for January 24.
4. **Finance Subcommittee** – Mr. Cronin reported the committee met prior to tonight's meeting and heard the annual audit report from Kostin and Ruffkess. All requirements have been met. The auditors felt the district has moved forward and made progress on the tracking and accountability of student activity fees and there is no issue.
5. **Policy Subcommittee** – Ms. Ferjak reported that the committee reviewed the Board's 6000 policy series at its November 15 meeting. In addition, the Religion in the School policy, #6115, was specifically reviewed and presented at the last regular Board meeting.
6. **Negotiations Subcommittee** - Mr. Baranoff reported that he will update the Board on the agreement that was reached during last night's mediation session between the Board of Education and the Haddam-Killingworth Education Association.
7. **Prevention Council** - Mrs. Stock reported that Cheryl Chandler will be at the next Education Subcommittee meeting to discuss the survey on drug and alcohol use.
8. **LEARN** - Mrs. Stock reported that at the last several meetings there has been discussion regarding the programs offered by LEARN for special needs students. Programs have had to shut down because districts are not sending their students to LEARN because of the distance involved.
9. **Park and Recreation Representative** – No report.
10. **Haddam Board of Selectmen** – Mrs. Jacques-Purdy reported that she will attend the next meeting scheduled for January 18.

11. **Killingworth Board of Selectmen** – Mr. Cabral reported that he was welcomed at last night's Selectmen's meeting and received a "thank you" note today from Marty Klein for his attendance at the meeting.

Student Representative Input: Update

Mr. Mala distributed an update in response to Kelsey Sokol's e-mail regarding several issues at the high school she brought to the Board's attention at the last meeting. He noted that no student has received a detention for wearing a coat. He also noted the thermostats are monitored and they are set at 68°. The issue regarding the late buses will be looked into. Regarding seniors leaving before the buses, he noted there is a district policy that states that students who drive must wait until after the buses leave. Mr. Baranoff stated that he is pleased at the dialogue that is taking place between the students and the administration.

Approval of Recognizing Rock Christian Academy as a "Private School" in Killingworth

Mr. Mala referred to the application in Board members' packets that had been filed by the Rock Christian Academy in Killingworth so it could be recognized as a non-public school and stated that the Board does not need to act on it. He noted, however, that because it operates within the boundaries of Region 17 and the district receives special education federal grant dollars, the district is required to provide a number of services to its students. He will be scheduling a meeting with the administrator of the school. He has contacted the district's legal counsel for clarification of the level of services the district will be required to provide.

Approval of the Health Teacher Instructional Material to Replace The Great Body Shop Material for Use at the Elementary School Level

Mr. Mala noted that at the last meeting Curriculum Council members approved the *Health Teacher* instructional material to replace *The Great Body Shop* at the elementary school level. It is consistent with the present health curriculum but is more contemporary and has an on-line component.

Ms. Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Ms. Stock **SECONDED** that the Board approve the *Health Teacher* to replace *The Great Body Shop* for use at the elementary level in Health classes. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of The Digital Era: New Text for a New Generation Textbook for Use at Haddam-Killingworth High School

Mr. Mala noted the *The Digital Era* was also approved at the last Curriculum Council meeting to replace the current textbook, which was published prior to 1980. It will be used in the Graphics Communications course and comes with an instructional CD and web links.

Ms. Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Mr. Almeida **SECONDED** that the Board approve the textbook *The Digital Era: New Text for a New Generation*. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Spanish IV and Spanish V Curriculum as Presented for Use at Haddam-Killingworth High School

Mr. Mala noted the Curriculum Council has recommended approving the Spanish IV and V curriculum that was presented to them at their last meeting by Corey Borzain.

Ms. Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Ms. Stock **SECONDED** the Board approve the Spanish IV and V curriculum for the high school as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

From the Chair

No report.

From the Superintendent

1. **Enrollment Report as of January 1, 2006** – Mr. Mala noted the district's enrollment is presently 35 students higher than the State projections. He will send the State's projected enrollment report to Board members.
2. **2006 –2006 Priorities Update** – Mr. Mala distributed a status report of the 2005-06 priorities.
3. **Board of Education Retreat Agenda** – The Board retreat will be held January 21 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at a location to be determined.
4. **Pending Legal Matters** – Will be discussed in executive session.
5. **Security Upgrades** – Mr. Mala recommended that the district purchase security cameras for each of the district's schools. Funds are available from the Safe and Drug Free Schools grant. Buildings and Grounds Director Michael Distefano explained that four cameras would be installed on the exterior of each of the five schools and there will be a video monitor in each of the main offices with recording capabilities. Mr. Mala noted this is a precautionary measure and part of a good safety program. He also noted his concern that people enter through the Youth and Family and Park and Recreation office entrance all the time, and a plan is being considered whereby a buzzer system would be installed for visitors entering the building in that area. Mr. Baranoff and Mr. Cronin were concerned with the surveillance issue that is becoming more common in society. Mr. Cronin suggested staff receive a higher level of training in security issues, such as keeping doors closed and knowing when visitors are in the buildings. Mr. Mala reiterated that these cameras are only for exterior use.

(Ms. Stock left – 10 p.m.)

After considerable discussion, the Board agreed to purchase the cameras.

6. **NCLB Update: “Highly Qualified”** – Mr. Mala reviewed the material that had been sent to all certified staff members in the district and noted that only 20-25 individuals will have to participate in the HOUSE Plan. According to NCLB regulations, all certified staff members employed after July 1, 2006 must be highly qualified except for those areas that are exempt.
7. **Correspondence** – Mr. Mala noted that an updated Board list and list of Board officers and subcommittee membership have been included in Board members’ packets.
8. **Acknowledgment of Classified Staff Resignations** - Ms. Jacques-Purdy *MOVED* and Mr. Cronin *SECONDED* that the Board accept the resignations of Elaine Klotz, bus driver, and Teresa Resnick, high school paraprofessional, with regret. Motion passed unanimously.

From the Director of Finance and Operations

No report.

Future Meetings

1. Building Committee – January 11, 7 p.m., High School Media Center
2. Facilities and Transportation Subcommittee – January 19, 7 p.m., Central Office
3. Education Subcommittee – January 24, 7 p.m., High School Media Center
4. Communications Subcommittee – January 24, 6 p.m., High School Media Center
5. Special meetings – January 17 and 18, 6 p.m., Central Office
6. Board of Education retreat – January 21, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Pending Legal Matters

Mr. Almeida *MOVED* and Ms. Ferjak *SECONDED* that the Board enter executive session to discuss pending legal matters. Motion passed unanimously at 10:07 p.m.

Members present: Amy Jacques-Purdy, Jo Ferjak, Nancy Gorski, Robert Baranoff, Richard Cabral, Daniel Cronin, Mark Almeida, and Michael Trahan.

Members absent: Diane Stock, Mary Withington and Douglas Stevenson.

Also present: Superintendent of Schools Gary S. Mala.

Mr. Baranoff **MOVED** and Mr. Almeida **SECONDED** that the Board approve the collective bargaining agreement between the Haddam-Killingworth Education Association and the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education for the time period July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2009 as negotiated. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Baranoff **MOVED** and Mr. Cronin **SECONDED** the Board move out of executive session. Motion passed unanimously at 10:25 p.m. (*correction: This motion should appear before the motion in the above paragraph.*)

Adjournment

Mr. Almeida **MOVED** and Mr. Cronin **SECONDED** the meeting adjourn. Motion passed unanimously at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Lang, Board Clerk

Approval:

Amy Jacques-Purdy, Secretary

Date

Approved as corrected at the February 7, 2006, Board of Education meeting.