

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**FEBRUARY 7, 2006**

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held February 7, 2006, at the Haddam-Killingworth Middle School. Board of Education Chairman Robert Baranoff called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Members present: Jo Ferjak, Nancy Gorski, Robert Baranoff, Mark Almeida, Daniel Cronin, Michael Trahan, and Douglas Stevenson.

Members absent: Amy Jacques-Purdy, Diane Stock, Mary Withington, and Richard Cabral.

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**

The student representatives were not present.

**Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Almeida **MOVED** and Mr. Cronin **SECONDED** that the Board approve the minutes of the January 4, 2006, special meeting as presented. Motion passed. Aye: Robert Baranoff, Mark Almeida, Daniel Cronin, Michael Trahan, and Douglas Stevenson. Abstentions: Jo Ferjak and Nancy Gorski.

Mr. Almeida **MOVED** and Mr. Cronin **SECONDED** that the Board approve the minutes of the January 10, 2006, special meeting as corrected. Correction: page 7 – The Board moved out of executive session before voting to approve the collective bargaining agreement. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Almeida **MOVED** and Mr. Cronin **SECONDED** that the Board approve the minutes of the January 17, 2006, special meeting as presented. Motion passed. Aye: Jo Ferjak, Nancy Gorski, Robert Baranoff, Mark Almeida, Michael Trahan, and Douglas Stevenson. Abstention: Daniel Cronin.

Mr. Almeida **MOVED** and Mr. Cronin **SECONDED** that the Board approve the minutes of the January 18, 2006, special meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

**Addition to New Business**

Mr. Almeida **MOVED** and Mr. Stevenson **SECONDED** that the Board add the approval of another donation to the agenda under New Business. Motion passed unanimously.

**Board Committee Reports**

1. **Facilities and Transportation Subcommittee** – Mr. Almeida reported that the committee met January 19 and discussed transportation relative to the new school. They have been in contact with TAS, the organization that did the transportation analysis for them, to assist with the bidding process. The estimated cost for one-half year for transportation for the new school will be approximately \$185,000. The committee also discussed the well project at Haddam Elementary School.
2. **Education Subcommittee** – Mrs. Ferjak reported that the committee met January 29 and began reviewing the 6000 policy series, specifically the Religion in the Schools policy. They also reviewed the 2005-06 priorities and had a presentation by Youth and Family Services Director Cheryl Chandler, and discussed the possibility of again sending out the survey that had been sent to parents in the fall. Mrs. Chandler was asked to get more information and come back to the Board with answers to some questions that were raised.
3. **Communications Subcommittee** – Mrs. Ferjak reported that the committee discussed Honeywell pricing at its last meeting.
4. **Finance Subcommittee** – Mr. Cronin reported the committee met prior to this meeting and reviewed invoices. Cost savings continue to hold the line. They are anticipating receiving the Superintendent's proposed budget and will continue to review ways to present the budget. The Superintendent's budget presentation is March 1, and there will be a community input meeting on February 9, at 7 p.m., in the high school's lower Media Center.
5. **Policy Subcommittee** – No report.
6. **Negotiations Subcommittee** – Mr. Baranoff reported that the next meeting is scheduled for February 15, at 6 p.m., at Central Office, where issues raised by transportation staff will be discussed. The support staff contract will be reviewed at the February 27 meeting, which is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. in the Central Office.
7. **Prevention Council Representative** – No report.
8. **LEARN** – No report.
9. **Park and Recreation Representative** – No report.
10. **Haddam Board of Selectmen Liaison** – No report.
11. **Killingworth Board of Selectmen Liaison** – No report.

**Approval of High School Field Trip to Ellis Island April 26, 2006**

Based on Mr. Mala's recommendation, Mr. Almeida *MOVED* and Mr. Cronin *SECONDED* that the Board approve a field trip by the high school History classes to Ellis Island and the Federal Reserve, in New York. Motion passed unanimously.

**New Business**

1. **Approval of a Donation to Haddam Elementary School of \$300 from Aetna Foundation in Community Giving** - Mr. Almeida *MOVED* and Mr. Stevenson *SECONDED* that the Board approve a \$300 donation from Aetna Foundation in Community Giving for the Haddam Elementary School general fund. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Mala will research the criteria for the donation and report back to the Board.
2. **Approval of a Donation to Haddam Elementary School of \$2,100 from the HES PTO** – Mr. Almeida *MOVED* and Mr. Stevenson *SECONDED* that the Board approve a \$2,100 donation from the Haddam Elementary School PTO to be divided among the school's classrooms teachers. Motion passed unanimously.
3. **Approval of a Donation to Haddam Elementary School of \$50 from Associated Dock Builders** – Mr. Almeida *MOVED* and Mr. Cronin *SECONDED* the Board approve a \$50 donation from Associated Dock Builders to Haddam Elementary School to be used for the HES Loves to Read Activity. Motion passed unanimously.
4. **Approval of a Donation to Burr Elementary School of Epson Stylus Color Printer and HP DeskJet Printer from Lisa Miceli** – Mr. Almeida *MOVED* and Mr. Cronin *SECONDED* that the Board approve the donation to Burr Elementary School of an Epson Stylus Color Printer and HP DeskJet Printer from Lisa Miceli. Motion passed unanimously.
5. **Approval of a Donation to Burr Elementary School of \$255 from General Mills Box Tops for Education** – Mr. Almeida *MOVED* and Mrs. Gorski *SECONDED* that the Board approve a \$255 donation from General Mills Box Tops for Education to Burr Elementary School. Motion passed unanimously. The Board discussed ways to involve the community in these types of donations and obtaining a master list of the opportunities that are available. Mr. Mala will discuss the topic with district administrators and the senior citizens' organizations in town and report back to the Board.
6. **Approval of a Donation of 12 Walkie-Talkies to Haddam Elementary School** – Mr. Mala noted that this donation was the outgrowth of the district's revised safety plan. Each principal has identified the need to communicate with staff in their buildings. Mr. Almeida *MOVED* and Mr. Cronin *SECONDED* that the Board approve the donation of 12 walkie-talkies from the PTO to Haddam Elementary School for use by designated staff members during the school day. Motion passed unanimously.

### **From the Chair**

1. **Board of Education Evaluation and Superintendent's Evaluation** - Mr. Baranoff stated that State law dictates that the Board must conduct a self-evaluation and an evaluation of the Superintendent each year. The Board will also have to approve the Superintendent's contract. The Board discussed how they would like to conduct the Superintendent's evaluation and whether or not they would like the Superintendent to evaluate himself prior to the Board's evaluation and what evaluation form he would use. Mr. Mala said he would do whatever the Board asked of him but questioned the reasoning behind evaluating himself and identifying data points to include when they were not in the original evaluation plan. He also noted he understood the difficulty of new Board members to evaluate the Superintendent at this point and suggested soliciting input from previous Board members.

After considerable discussion, the Board agreed the evaluation would be done the same as it was last year. The Board will complete the evaluation document and then meet with Mr. Mala. A meeting to begin the Superintendent's evaluation was scheduled for February 16, from 7-10 p.m., in the Central Office. The Board will meet with Mr. Mala regarding his evaluation after the budget presentation on March 1.

The Board will meet March 7, from 7 to 10 p.m., at the Central Office to conduct its self-evaluation.

2. Mr. Baranoff noted that the district's attorney has stated that the district should pay the attorneys' fees for the litigation done by Jeter, Cook and Jepson regarding the land dispute for the new school, rather than the town of Killingworth, which was a defendant in the case.

### **From the Superintendent**

1. **Enrollment Report as of February 1, 2006** – Mr. Mala noted that enrollment is up a bit from last month. The format of the report has changed to include a comparison of State projections versus actual district enrollment. He noted that as of February 1 there are 50 more students than the State has projected. He also noted that in an effort to obtain more accurate information on Kindergartners entering the district in the fall, there will be two Kindergarten registrations this year.
2. **New School Transition Planning Update** – Mr. Mala reported that Mrs. Wagner was absent tonight due to illness. They have been working together on plans for the new school and have been discussing the immediate needs when the school opens in January 2007. The goal is to have all transition planning done and in place by August 15. There will be a number of professional development opportunities to prepare the staff for the opening of the new school. He referenced the Guiding Principles (included in Board packets) that Mrs. Wagner had prepared.
3. **District Career Fair** – Mr. Mala reported that a district Career Fair is being planned for March 4 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. As of this date, there are 17 vacancies for certified staff for the 2006-2007 school year.

4. **Unfunded State Mandates** – Mr. Mala referred Board members to information in their packets and noted that he is participating in a statewide group studying these mandates.
5. **2006 CMT/CAPT Schedules** – Mr. Mala made the Board aware of the amount of time CMT and CAPT scheduling takes in the district during March.
6. **Class Size Report: HKHS** – Mr. Mala stated that he has a number of questions regarding the Class Size Report and will present another report to the Board when those questions have been answered.
7. **Bosco Property** – Mr. Mala reported that he was contacted by Killingworth First Selectman Marty Klein to see if the district would be interested in purchasing part of the Bosco property. He noted that part of the property abuts the new school's land. He brought this to the Building Committee, but they felt it should be brought before the Board of Education.

Mr. Stevenson *MOVED* and Mr. Almeida *SECONDED* that the Board get more information on the Bosco property, including maps that show the property, how it abuts the land for the new school, the terrain, how large the property is, and the cost. Motion passed unanimously.

8. **Correspondence** – Mr. Mala referenced the correspondence in Board members' packets, including a letter from David Potts regarding the Amphidrome septic treatment system being installed at the new school that will be shared with the Building Committee at their meeting tomorrow night. He also noted that he is looking into the fees Middletown Adult Education charges cooperating districts. He noted the list of the Board's strategic planning meetings and noted the next meeting is scheduled for March 21.

### **From the Director of Finance and Operations**

No report.

### **Future Meetings**

1. February 8 – Building Committee, high school lower Media Center, 7 p.m.
2. February 9 – Community input on the budget, lower Media Center, 7 p.m.
3. February 15 – Negotiations Subcommittee, 6 p.m., Central Office
4. February 16 – special Board of Education meeting for the Superintendent's evaluation, 7-10 p.m., Central Office
5. February 27 – Negotiations Subcommittee, Central Office, 6 p.m.
6. February 28 – Communications Subcommittee, 6 p.m.; Education Subcommittee, 7 p.m., middle school
7. March 1 – Budget Subcommittee, Superintendent's budget presentation, 6 p.m., lower Media Center

**Negotiations**

Mr. Almeida **MOVED** and Mrs. Ferjak **SECONDED** the Board enter executive session to discuss legal matters. Motion passed unanimously at 9:15 p.m.

Members present: Jo Ferjak, Nancy Gorski, Robert Baranoff, Mark Almeida, Daniel Cronin, Michael Trahan, and Douglas Stevenson.

Members absent: Amy Jacques-Purdy, Diane Stock, Mary Withington, and Richard Cabral.

Also present: Superintendent of Schools Gary S. Mala.

Mr. Baranoff **MOVED** and Mr. Cronin **SECONDED** the Board move out of executive session. Motion passed unanimously at 9:40 p.m.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Baranoff **MOVED** and Mr. Cronin **SECONDED** the meeting adjourn. Motion passed unanimously at 9:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Lang, Board Clerk

Approval:

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Amy Jacques-Purdy, Secretary

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Date

**Approved as presented at the March 14, 2006, Board of Education meeting.**