

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MARCH 14, 2006

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held March 14, 2006, at Burr Elementary School. Board of Education Chairman Robert Baranoff called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Members present: Amy Jacques-Purdy, Jo Ferjak, Nancy Gorski, Robert Baranoff, Daniel Cronin, Douglas Stevenson, and Michael Trahan. Richard Cabral arrived at 7:34 p.m. Diane Stock arrived at 7:40 p.m.

Members absent: Mary Withington and Mark Almeida.

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. Mr. Mala will check into why the student representatives have not been coming to the meetings.

Ms. Jacques-Purdy ***MOVED*** and Mr. Cronin ***SECONDED*** that the following topics be added to the agenda: Youth and Family Services survey and student intern to the Board, and that 8c, Approve waiver provision of residency policy 5118.1 through June 21, 2006, be discussed in executive session. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Jacques-Purdy ***MOVED*** and Mr. Cronin ***SECONDED*** that the Board approve the minutes of the February 7, 2006, regular Board of Education meeting as presented. Motion passed. Aye: Jo Ferjak, Nancy Gorski, Robert Baranoff, Daniel Cronin, Douglas Stevenson, and Michael Trahan. Abstention: Amy Jacques-Purdy.

Ms. Jacques-Purdy ***MOVED*** and Mr. Cronin ***SECONDED*** that the Board approve the minutes of the February 16, 2006, special Board of Education meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Jacques-Purdy ***MOVED*** and Mr. Stevenson ***SECONDED*** that the Board approve the minutes of the February 27, 2006, special Board of Education meeting as presented. Motion passed. Aye: Nancy Gorski, Amy Jacques-Purdy, Robert Baranoff, Richard Cabral, Douglas Stevenson, Michael Trahan, and Daniel Cronin. Abstention: Jo Ferjak

Ms. Jacques-Purdy ***MOVED*** and Mr. Stevenson ***SECONDED*** that the Board approve the minutes of the February 28, 2006, special Board of Education meeting as presented.

Motion passed. Aye: Jo Ferjak, Nancy Gorski, Amy Jacques-Purdy, Robert Baranoff, Richard Cabral, Douglas Stevenson, Michael Trahan. Abstention: Daniel Cronin.

Ms. Jacques-Purdy *MOVED* and Mr. Stevenson *SECONDED* that the Board approve the minutes of the March 1, 2006, special Board of Education meeting (6 p.m.) as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Jacques-Purdy *MOVED* and Mr. Cronin *SECONDED* that the Board approve the minutes of the March 1, 2006, special Board of Education meeting (7 p.m.) as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Jacques-Purdy *MOVED* and Mr. Stevenson *SECONDED* that the Board approve the minutes of the March 7, 2006, special Board of Education meeting as presented. Motion passed. Aye: Nancy Gorski, Amy Jacques-Purdy, Jo Ferjak, Robert Baranoff, Richard Cabral, Douglas Stevenson, and Michael Trahan. Abstention: Daniel Cronin.

Board Committee Reports

1. **Facilities and Transportation Subcommittee** – Ms. Ferjak reported that the next committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 16.
2. **Building Subcommittee** – Mr. Shettle alerted the Board to a special Building Committee meeting scheduled for April 5, at 7 p.m., in the high school lower Media Center, to review the furniture, fixtures, and equipment plans and specifications for the new intermediate school. This will be brought to the Board of Education for approval at their April 12 meeting. Board members discussed the bidding process for the furniture, fixtures and equipment.

(Diane Stock arrived)
3. **Education Subcommittee** – Ms. Ferjak reported that at the last meeting the committee heard a presentation about LEAP (formerly EXPLORE) from Mindy Otis, the Director of Pupil Services.
4. **Communications Subcommittee** – Mr. Ferjak reported that at the last meeting the committee discussed educational forums using H-K TV, communication initiatives, and the Executive Director of Youth and Family Services Cheryl Chandler answered questions about the Search Institute Survey they would like to give to high school students.
5. **Finance Subcommittee** – Mr. Cronin reported the normal Finance Committee subcommittee meeting was not held prior to this meeting because there have been numerous meetings to review the budget. Budget implications regarding class size, energy costs and the new school have been discussed.

6. **Policy Subcommittee** – Ms. Ferjak reported that the committee is still receiving comments on the 6000 series of Board policies and a meeting will be scheduled.
7. **Negotiations Subcommittee** - Mr. Baranoff reported that the committee met with the Support Services Association to establish ground rules.
8. **Prevention Council** - Mrs. Stock noted there was nothing to report.
9. **LEARN** - Mrs. Stock reported that LEARN is sponsoring a new magnet school for marine science which will open in 2007-08 in the Groton area. She also noted that Attorney General Richard Blumenthal attended the last meeting to discuss NCLB. He agreed to talk with the Board of Education regarding NCLB if the Board wished to invite him.
10. **Park and Recreation Representative** – No report.
11. **Haddam Board of Selectmen** – Ms. Jacques-Purdy reported that the meeting is tomorrow night.
12. **Killingworth Board of Selectmen** – Mr. Cabral reported that the Selectmen are happy to see the Board pursuing a warranty beyond one year in the event that the waste water treatment unit fails. They wondered if a bond would be in place to protect the district as far as the system is concerned. Mr. Cabral told them that every avenue is being pursued.

Search Institute Survey Requested by Youth and Family Services

Mr. Baranoff reported that he had spoken with the Superintendent in Old Saybrook regarding the Search Institute Survey that was given the students in that district. The Superintendent felt the survey created an opportunity for dialogue with students and the community and some of the information has been incorporated into the health curriculum. It was given to all middle and high school grade levels. He noted that some parents raised some objections to the survey, but meetings with parents were held and those parents did not keep their children from taking the survey.

Ms. Jacques-Purdy ***MOVED*** and Ms. Ferjak ***SECONDED*** that the Board support the Search Institute Survey and allow Youth and Family Services to give the survey to students in grades 7-12 during the school day. Prior to the survey being given, the Board would like a parent meeting to be held where they could see a copy of the survey and discuss it with Youth and Family Services. If possible the survey should be sent out ahead of time for parents to see.

Mr. Cabral raised his concern to the survey being given during instructional time, though he does support the survey. The Board discussed other ways of administering the survey. It was noted that Youth and Family Services has control over the data and the district would have access to it.

Mr. Cronin **MOVED** and Ms. Stock **SECONDED** an amendment to the motion stating that Youth and Family Services must obtain approval from the Board of Education prior to dissemination of the data outside of the district beyond their current grant sources. Vote on amendment passed. Aye: Nancy Gorski, Diane Stock, Robert Baranoff, Daniel Cronin, Douglas Stevenson, Michael Trahan and Richard Cabral. Nay: Jo Ferjak. Abstention: Amy Jacques-Purdy.

Further discussion was held regarding parental notification and it was decided that Board policy 6151 should be rewritten.

Vote on motion as amended passed. Aye: Nancy Gorski, Diane Stock, Robert Baranoff, Douglas Stevenson, and Michael Trahan. Nay: Jo Ferjak, Amy Jacques-Purdy, and Daniel Cronin. Abstention: Richard Cabral.

Student Intern to the Board

The Board discussed having a student intern from the high school on the Board of Education to actively participate with the Board to learn about how boards of education operate and provide information to the Board.

Mr. Cabral **MOVED** and Ms. Jacques-Purdy **SECONDED** that the Board send this topic to the Finance Committee for discussion. Motion passed unanimously. The committee would like Board input prior to their meeting.

Approval of High School Field Hockey Team Trip to Danbury High School September 1-2, 2006

Based on Mr. Mala's recommendation, Ms. Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Ms. Stock **SECONDED** the Board approve a field trip by the high school field hockey team to Danbury High School September 1-2, 2006. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Donation to Burr Elementary School of \$100 from Haddam Junior Woman's Club

Mr. Stevenson **MOVED** and Ms. Jacques-Purdy **SECONDED** that the Board accept a \$100 donation from the Haddam Junior Woman's Club to be deposited into the student activity fund at HES. Motion passed unanimously

Voluntary Retirement Incentive Plan

Ms. Stock **MOVED** and Ms. Jacques-Purdy **SECONDED** that the Board of Education accept with deep regret the applications of the following teachers submitted under the Voluntary Retirement Incentive Plan offered by the Board of Education: Applications

submitted under the VRIP TRB Plan of Nancy Cassidy, Stephanie Drucker, Philip Devlin, John Edmondson, Madeleine Gay Fialko, Geraldine Haesche, Neil Kayes, Marine Khorramzadeh, Linda Sue McCormack, Nancy Murphy, Lucy Petrella, Carol Robbins, James Rogers, Mary Rozwadowski, Cathy Wardwell, and Geraldine Wozniak, and applications submitted under the VRIP Health Benefit Plan of Richard Dupuis, Enid Healey, Linda Kiaffas, Richard Langer, Diane Morin, James O'Meara, James Scory, and Nancy Walts. Motion passed unanimously. The Board thanked these individuals for their years of service to the students of the district.

Approval of K-12 English Language Arts Curriculum as Revised

Ms. Jacques-Purdy *MOVED* and Mr. Stevenson *SECONDED* that the Board approve the English Language Arts Curriculum as revised. Mr. Cabral *MOVED* and Ms. Ferjak *SECONDED* to table approval to the Education Committee meeting. Motion to table passed. Aye: Amy Jacques-Purdy, Jo Ferjak, Nancy Gorski, Daniel Cronin, Douglas Stevenson, Michael Trahan, and Richard Cabral. Nay: Diane Stock. Abstention: Robert Baranoff.

Approval of the K-12 Music Curriculum as Revised

Mr. Cabral *MOVED* and Ms. Jacques-Purdy *SECONDED* the Board table approval of the K-12 music curriculum as revised. Motion to table passed. Aye: Amy Jacques-Purdy, Jo Ferjak, Nancy Gorski, Daniel Cronin, Douglas Stevenson, Michael Trahan, and Richard Cabral. Nay: Diane Stock. Abstention: Robert Baranoff.

From the Chair

No report.

From the Superintendent

1. **Enrollment Report as of March 1, 2006** – Mr. Mala noted the district's enrollment numbers continue to remain fairly consistent at approximately 2,500 students.
2. **New School Transition Planning Update** – Mr. Mala reported that the transition plan is well underway. Ms. Wagner and he are working on the building schedule and staffing. Mr. Shettle reminded Board members of the upcoming Building Committee meeting where the furniture, fixtures, and equipment for the building will be discussed. Another meeting will be held on the 24th to review the technology that will go into the building. At present, the building is on time and under budget.
3. **District Career Fair Summary** – Mr. Mala reported that 366 people attended the Career Fair. Feedback has been positive and participants were impressed that people took the time to speak to them. He distributed a survey of the number of people in each category who had attended and thanked the staff members who helped that day. Mr. Baranoff complimented Mr. Mala for planning the Career Fair and congratulated everyone who worked at the Fair for a great job.

4. **District Plan to Fill Vacancies** – Mr. Mala hopes to fill all vacancies by May 1. He noted that although all positions are subject to appropriation there are some positions that must be filled.
5. **Strategic Planning Update** – Mr. Mala will be providing the Board with a draft of the strategic plan electronically. Next week's meeting will look at the draft in general terms.
6. **Non-Resident Student Policy** – Mr. Mala reported that he had received a request from a staff member to have their child educated in the district. In the past staff were allowed to pay tuition. The current policy does not allow for this and he recommended referring this issue to the Policy Committee for review.
7. **Honeywell Communication System** – Mr. Mala reported that there was a training session last Friday for administrators regarding the Honeywell Communication System. Within the week notification will go home to families telling them of the benefits of the system. It allows families to register five locations to receive direct communications from the school district.
8. **Correspondence** – Mr. Mala reported that the high school is the third place winner of the Michaels Achievement Award.

From the Director of Finance and Operations

No report.

Future Meetings

1. Negotiations Subcommittee – March 15, 7:30 p.m., Haddam Elementary School
2. Facilities and Transportation Subcommittee – March 16, 7 p.m., Central Office
3. Special Board of Education for strategic planning – March 21, 7 p.m., Central Office
4. Budget Subcommittee – March 22, 6:30 p.m., lower Media Center
5. Policy Subcommittee – March 27, 7 p.m., Central Office
6. Finance Subcommittee – March 28, 6 p.m., Burr Elementary School
7. Education Subcommittee – March 28, 7 p.m., Burr Elementary School
8. Special Board of Education meeting with Boards of Selectmen and Finance – March 29, 7 p.m., lower Media Center

Mr. Stevenson congratulated Geoffrey Korper and the wrestling team. Jimmy Haring placed fifth in the Class S Tournament and received the first wrestling medal in the history of H-K.

Pending Litigation and Confidential Student Matter

Ms. Jacques-Purdy *MOVED* and Ms. Ferjak *SECONDED* that the Board enter executive session to discuss pending litigation and a confidential student matter. Motion passed unanimously at 9:29 p.m.

Members present: Amy Jacques-Purdy, Jo Ferjak, Nancy Gorski, Diane Stock, Robert Baranoff, Daniel Cronin, Douglas Stevenson, Richard Cabral, and Michael Trahan. Diane Stock left executive session at 10:05 p.m.

Members absent: Mary Withington and Mark Almeida.

Also present: Superintendent of Schools Gary S. Mala

Mr. Cronin **MOVED** and Ms. Jacques-Purdy **SECONDED** the Board move out of executive session. Motion passed unanimously at 10:32 p.m.

Ms. Ferjak **MOVED** and Ms. Jacques-Purdy **SECONDED** the Board respectively decline the offer submitted by Mrs. Joanne Hine, 439 Route 81, and Mr. and Mrs. Golombosky, 441 Route 81, to purchase their property adjacent to the new school facility. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Ms. Ferjak **SECONDED** that the Board grant non-residency without tuition through June 30, 2006, as presented in a letter received by Chairman Robert Baranoff on February 21, 2006. Motion passed. Aye: Amy Jacques-Purdy, Jo Ferjak, Nancy Gorski, Robert Baranoff, Daniel Cronin, Richard Cabral, and Michael Trahan. Nay: Douglas Stevenson.

Adjournment

Mr. Baranoff **MOVED** and Mr. Cronin **SECONDED** the meeting adjourn. Motion passed unanimously at 10:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Lang, Board Clerk

Approval:

Amy Jacques-Purdy, Secretary

Date

Approved as presented at the May 9, 2006 Board of Education meeting.