

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**APRIL 11, 2006**

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held April 11, 2006, at Haddam Elementary School. Board of Education Chairman Robert Baranoff called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Members present: Amy Jacques-Purdy, Jo Ferjak, Nancy Gorski, Robert Baranoff, Richard Cabral, Daniel Cronin, Mark Almeida, and Michael Trahan. Diane Stock arrived at 8:18 p.m.

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**

Todd Peterson stated that he was upset to hear about Tom Cappello's resignation as the girls' basketball coach, noting that Mr. Cappello was forced to resign. He said the Athletic Director told Mr. Cappello that it was the Board's directive that he resign. He asked the Board not to make a decision on the resignation until their next meeting so that more parents could attend to voice their opinions.

**Report from Student Representatives**

Student representatives were not present.

**Elementary Mathematics Curriculum**

Mr. Almeida **MOVED** and Ms. Jacques-Purdy **SECONDED** that the discussion of the elementary mathematics curriculum be moved up on the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Mala complimented Jane Dion and Patty Muzzulin in leading the selection process of materials to correlate with the revised math curriculum. He noted they are leading the curriculum efforts at the elementary level.

Jane Dion explained that the Math Committee reviewed four programs and have recommended the Scott Foresman/Addison Wesley joint program with Investigations. She explained that it is more of a traditional math program than the Everyday Math program and is aligned with the CT Frameworks and CMTs. The Scott Foresman/Addition Wesley program will be introduced to teachers first and the Investigations program will be introduced in January. There will be ongoing professional development. She noted that the teachers are very impressed with the amount of resources that are available in this new program.

Mr. Mala noted that this is a tool to implement the curriculum. He also noted that two full days of professional development will take place on June 21 and 22.

(Diane Stock arrived)

### **Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Mr. Almeida **SECONDED** that the Board approve the minutes of the January 24, 2006, special Board of Education meeting (Education Subcommittee) as presented. Motion passed. Aye: Amy Jacques-Purdy, Jo Ferjak, Diane Stock, Nancy Gorski, Robert Baranoff, Richard Cabral, Mark Almeida, and Michael Trahan. Abstentions: Daniel Cronin.

Ms. Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Mr. Cronin **SECONDED** that the Board approve the minutes of the February 9, 2006, special Board of Education meeting as presented. Motion passed. Aye: Jo Ferjak, Nancy Gorski, Robert Baranoff, Daniel Cronin, Mark Almeida, and Michael Trahan. Abstentions: Diane Stock, Amy Jacques-Purdy, and Richard Cabral.

Ms. Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Mr. Almeida **SECONDED** that the Board approve the minutes of the March 6, 2006, special Board of Education meeting as corrected. Paragraph 6 (second motion) - Mr. Trahan seconded the motion, not Ms. Stock. Last paragraph (fourth motion) - Mr. Trahan made the motion, not Ms. Jacques-Purdy. Motion passed. Aye: Diane Stock, Amy Jacques-Purdy, Robert Baranoff, Mark Almeida, and Michael Trahan. Abstentions: Nancy Gorski, Jo Ferjak, and Richard Cabral and Daniel Cronin.

Mr. Almeida **MOVED** and Ms. Jacques-Purdy **SECONDED** that the minutes of March 29, 2006, special Board of Education meeting be added to the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Mr. Cronin **SECONDED** the Board approve the minutes of the March 29, 2006, special Board of Education meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Ms. Stock **SECONDED** the Board approve the minutes of the March 31, 2006, special Board of Education meeting as presented. Motion passed. Aye: Nancy Gorski, Diane Stock, Robert Baranoff, Mark Almeida, Daniel Cronin, and Michael Trahan. Abstentions: Jo Ferjak, Amy Jacques-Purdy, and Richard Cabral.

Ms. Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Mr. Cronin **SECONDED** the Board approve the minutes of the April 4, 2006, special Board of Education meeting as corrected. Robert Baranoff was listed as being absent twice. Daniel Cronin should have been listed as absent. Motion passed. Aye: Amy Jacques-Purdy, Nancy Gorski, Diane Stock, Robert Baranoff, Mark Almeida, and Michael Trahan. Abstention: Jo Ferjak, Richard Cabral, and Daniel Cronin.

### **Board Committee Reports**

1. **Facilities and Transportation Subcommittee** – Mr. Almeida reported that at the last meeting the committee heard updates on the new intermediate middle school relative to transportation, summer projects being planned, and capital improvements. The

committee asked Mr. Distefano to begin assembling a 1-, 3-, 5-, and 10-year capital projects plan.

2. **Building Subcommittee** – Mr. Almeida reported that the committee will meet tomorrow and hear a presentation on technology and the furniture, fixture, and equipment for the new building.
3. **Education Subcommittee** – Ms. Ferjak noted the most recent meeting was cancelled.
4. **Communications Subcommittee** – Ms. Ferjak reported that at the last meeting the committee discussed ways of communicating the budget to the public.
5. **Finance Subcommittee** – Mr. Cronin reported that the Board and the Finance Committee have been working on the budget. The budget has been reduced to 7.85 percent and it will be presented Thursday at the annual hearing.
6. **Policy Subcommittee** – Ms. Ferjak reported the committee has been working on the 6000 series.
7. **Negotiations Subcommittee** – Mr. Almeida reported the committee met last evening with the Support Services Association.
8. **Prevention Council** – Ms. Stock reported that she has been unable to attend the meetings due to a time change for the council meetings.
9. **LEARN** – Ms. Stock reported that the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday.
10. **Park & Recreation** – No report.
11. **Haddam Board of Selectmen** – Ms. Jacques-Purdy attended the last meeting and presented a brief summary of the Superintendent's budget.
12. **Killingworth Board of Selectmen** – No report.

### **English Language Arts Curriculum, K-12**

Mr. Cabral **MOVED** and Mr. Almeida **SECONDED** that the English Language Arts curriculum be taken off the table and discussed. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Cabral **MOVED** to amend the motion and Ms. Stock **SECONDED** the amendment to add that every effort be given to establish consistency in the area of strands on when they are going to be taught between K-8 and 7-12 and also that the CMT be listed as an evaluative device in the appropriate areas. Motion passed unanimously.

Vote on the motion to approve the K-12 English Language Arts curriculum as amended passed unanimously.

**Approval of the Music Curriculum, K-12**

Mr. Cabral *MOVED* and Ms. Jacques-Purdy *SECONDED* that approval of the music curriculum be taken off the table. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Cabral *MOVED* and Ms. Stock *SECONDED* that the Board approve the K-12 music curriculum as presented to the Board of Education. Motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of High School Calculus Class Trip to Boston Science Museum June 5, 2006**

No action was taken pending receipt of more information.

**Acceptance of Foreign Exchange Student at the High School for the Rest of the 2005-06 School Year**

Ms. Jacques-Purdy *MOVED* and Mr. Almeida *SECONDED* the Board accept a foreign exchange student at the high school for the balance of the 2005-06 school year. Motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Plans, Specifications, and Professional Cost Estimates for the Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment at the New Intermediate School**

Ms. Jacques-Purdy *MOVED* and Ms. Ferjak *SECONDED* that the Board approve the final plans and specifications for the furniture, fixtures, and equipment, including technology equipment, dated April 5, 2006, and the professional cost estimates for the furniture, fixtures, and equipment, including technology equipment, dated April 5, 2006, for the new intermediate/middle school, State of Connecticut project number 217-0040 N of phase 2 of 2. Discussion was held. Board members did not want to vote on the final plans and specifications as they presently exist because they wanted to be able to make changes to the plans and specifications as they became finalized. Mr. Baranoff asked Mr. Mala to contact Jeter, Cook, and Jepson to get more detailed information on the items, particularly the technology items. They will vote on the motion at the Thursday meeting. Ms. Jacques-Purdy withdrew her *MOTION* and Ms. Ferjak withdrew her *SECOND*.

**Approval of Plans, Specifications, and Professional Cost Estimates for the Second Well at Burr Elementary School**

Mr. Almeida explained that this project was approved at the last Facilities and Transportation Subcommittee and will be going out to bid. He *MOVED* and Mr. Cronin *SECONDED* that the Board of Education approve the final plans and specifications for the second well at Burr District Elementary School dated March 2006, and the professional cost

estimates for the second well at Burr District Elementary School dated January 26, 2006, State of Connecticut project number 217-0048 CV of phase 1 of 1. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Approval of Mathematics Curriculum, K-12**

Ms. Jacques-Purdy *MOVED* and Ms. Stock *SECONDED* that the Board approve the mathematics program, K-12, as presented. Mr. Cabral *MOVED* to amend the motion and Ms. Stock *SECONDED* the amendment to add that every effort be given to establish consistency in the area of strands on when they are going to be taught between K-8 and 7-12 and also that the CMT be listed as an evaluative device in the appropriate areas. Vote on amendment passed unanimously. Vote to approve the motion as amended passed unanimously.

### **Approval of Applied Education Curriculum, 7-12**

Ms. Jacques-Purdy *MOVED* and Mr. Cronin *SECONDED* the Board approve the Applied Education Curriculum, 7-12. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Mala noted that he will seek re-approval once the new school opens because there will be changes.

### **Approval of Donations to HES of \$200 from AT&T for HES Loves to Read and \$100 from Haddam Junior Woman's Club for the Activity Account**

Mr. Cabral *MOVED* and Ms. Stock *SECONDED* that the Board accept a \$200 donation from AT&T for the HES Love to Read program and \$100 from the Haddam Junior Woman's Club for the activity account. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Approval of Scott Foresman/Addison Wesley Math Program**

Mr. Cabral *MOVED* and Ms. Jacques-Purdy *SECONDED* that Approval of Scott Foresman/Addison Wesley Math Program be added to the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Cabral *MOVED* and Mr. Almeida *SECONDED* that the Board approve the Scott Foresman/Addison Wesley math program with joint usage to be used with Investigations for grades K-6. Motion passed unanimously.

### **From the Superintendent**

1. **Enrollment Report as of April 1, 2006** – Included in Board packets.
2. **Youth and Family Services Memorandum of Understanding** – Mr. Mala asked if they had specified active or passive consent in the letters going home to parents regarding the survey Youth and Family Services is requesting grades 7-12 students take. The Board noted their decision was for passive consent. Mr. Mala recommended removing item #2 from the Memorandum of Understanding. Mr. Almeida noted his concern that the letter scheduled to be sent to parents is worded to indicate that the

Board is administering the survey, when, in fact, Youth and Family Services is responsible for the survey.

3. **Correspondence** – Mr. Mala noted that National School Nurse Day is May 10. He also noted he met with the middle school staff to discuss their concerns as a result of the letter they wrote to him regarding the budget.

4. **Acceptance of Certified Staff Resignations**

Based on Mr. Mala's recommendations, Ms. Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Mr. Almeida **SECONDED** that the Board accept with regret high school Spanish teacher William Bartholomew's resignation effective at the end of the 2005-06 school year. Motion passed unanimously.

Based on Mr. Mala's recommendation, Ms. Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Ms. Stock **SECONDED** that the Board accept with regret Athletic Director Lori Susi's resignation effective when a replacement is found. Motion passed unanimously.

5. **Acceptance of Certified Staff Retirements**

Based on Mr. Mala's recommendation, Ms. Stock **MOVED** and Mr. Cronin **SECONDED** that the Board accept with regret Killingworth Elementary School second grade teacher Doreen Messier's retirement effective at the end of the 2005-06 school year. Motion passed unanimously.

Based on Mr. Mala's recommendation Ms. Stock **MOVED** and Ms. Jacques-Purdy **SECONDED** the Board accept with regret the retirement of Thomas Cappello as P.E. teacher at Killingworth Elementary School at the end of the 2005-06 school year. Ms. Stock, with the agreement of Ms. Jacques-Purdy, revised her motion to state that Mr. Cappello's resignation be accepted under the Voluntary Retirement Incentive Plan, option 2. Motion passed unanimously.

Based on Mr. Mala's recommendation, Ms. Stock **MOVED** and Ms. Jacques-Purdy **SECONDED** the Board accept with regret the resignation of Tom Cappello as girls' basketball coach at the high school.

In response to a procedural question, it was noted that if a coach has not been notified within 90 days of the end of a season that he will not be rehired for the next year, the coach is automatically reinstated for the following year. If the coach has been in the position for more than three years, he is entitled to a hearing.

Vote on motion. Aye: Daniel Cronin, Richard Cabral, Amy Jacques-Purdy. Nay: Jo Ferjak, Mark Almeida, Michael Trahan, Robert Baranoff. Abstentions: Diane Stock and Nancy Gorski.

Ms. Ferjak **MOVED** and Mr. Almeida **SECONDED** that the Board offer to meet with all relevant parties, including the individual, his representative, the high school administration, district legal counsel and the Athletic Director, for clarification and the Board will then vote again. Motion passed. Aye: Jo Ferjak, Nancy Gorski, Diane Stock, Mark Almeida, Robert Baranoff, Michael Trahan, and Richard Cabral. Abstention: Amy Jacques-Purdy and Daniel Cronin. The Board decided that if Mr. Cappello declines to meet, the Board will vote.

6. **Acceptance of Classified Staff Resignations**

Based on Mr. Mala's recommendation, Ms. Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Ms. Gorski **SECONDED** the Board accept Valerie McDonald's resignation as bus driver, effective April 3. Motion passed unanimously.

Based on Mr. Mala's recommendation, Ms. Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Ms. Gorski **SECONDED** the Board accept Michelle Knockwood's resignation as purchasing clerk at Central Office, effective March 16. Motion passed unanimously.

Based on Mr. Mala's recommendation, Ms. Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Ms. Gorski **SECONDED** the Board accept Robin Shaw's resignation as paraprofessional at Killingworth Elementary School, effective April 28. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Cabral thanked her for her 32 years of service as a paraprofessional in the district.

June 15 has been tentatively set as a special Board of Education meeting at which the district's retirees will be recognized.

The KES PTO has indicated some interest in sponsoring an internet safety program with Youth and Family Services.

A meeting on NCLB will be held at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Cromwell on June 16.

**From the Director of Finance and Operations**

Mr. Almeida **MOVED** and Mr. Cronin **SECONDED** that Weston and Sampson Services be awarded the contract as waste water treatment plant operator as the lowest qualified bidder provided the State Department of Environmental Protection agrees that it can be a class III operator. Motion passed unanimously.

**Future Meetings**

1. Building Committee – April 12, 7 p.m., lower Media Center
2. Annual Budget Hearing – April 13, 7 p.m., Burr Elementary School
3. Negotiating Subcommittee – April 19, 24 and May 3, 7 p.m., Central Office
4. Communications Subcommittee – April 25, 6 p.m., Haddam Elementary School
5. Education Subcommittee – April 25, 7 p.m., Haddam Elementary School

6. Annual Meeting – May 1, 7 p.m., High School Auditorium

**Executive Session**

Mr. Almeida **MOVED** and Mr. Cronin **SECONDED** the Board enter executive session to discuss legal matters. Motion passed unanimously at 10:45 p.m.

Mr. Almeida **MOVED** and Ms. Stock **SECONDED** the Board move out of executive session. Motion passed unanimously at 11:58 p.m.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Baranoff **MOVED** and Mr. Almeida **SECONDED** the meeting adjourn. Motion passed unanimously at 11:59 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 May 9, 2006 Board of Education meeting.**