

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MAY 9, 2006

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held May 9, 2006, at Killingworth Elementary School. Board of Education Robert Baranoff called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Members present: Jo Ferjak, Diane Stock, Nancy Gorski, Mark Almeida, Robert Baranoff, Michael Trahan, and Richard Cabral.

Members absent: Amy Jacques-Purdy, Mary Withington, Douglas Stevenson, and Daniel Cronin.

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

Mr. Baranoff asked for a few moments of silence to honor Sharon Ledoux, a teacher from Burr Elementary School who had retired at the end of last year and passed away over the weekend.

Audience of Citizens

Mr. Baranoff stated that he knew a number of people were at the meeting because the girls' basketball coach had resigned his position. He reviewed what had occurred at the April 11 meeting, noting that rather than accepting Mr. Cappello's resignation as girls' basketball coach, the Board invited him to meet with them in a closed executive session along with his legal representative, the Athletic Director, the high school Principal, (*correction: remove "or anyone whom he chose to bring to the meeting,"*) and the Superintendent. Mr. Mala conveyed that message and the conditions of the meeting to Mr. Cappello, (*change "who declined to meet" to "who said he would come with a large contingent of parents and supporters".*) As a result, the Board then met on April 18 to rescind the invitation to meet and accepted Mr. Cappello's letter of resignation as submitted. They asked Mr. Mala to look into the process to make sure the situation was handled correctly. Mr. Baranoff noted there is a great deal of misinformation out in the community, and he took the opportunity to correct some of the misperceptions that had come to his attention. Before opening it up to the general public, he stated that according to Board policy, audience members (*correct "would be" to read "are"*) allowed five minutes to speak, with a total of 20 minutes to be spent on one topic. He said that he would waive the 20 minute time limit ini (*change to "in"*) light of the large turnout.

Todd Peterson noted that he had attending (*change to "attended"*) the April 11 Board meeting and brought the issue of Mr. Cappello's resignation to the Board's attention. He stated the coach was asked to resign without the opportunity to refute what was being said. He noted that he was told by the high school Principal that two Board members had been involved in the decision and that the Principal had been told by the administration to take care of the situation. Mr. Peterson distributed information he stated was taken from the coaches' handbook entitled, "Student Athlete and Parent Protocol", showing the steps to take for conflict resolution. He stated the protocol was not followed by the administration that adopted it. He noted his main

reason for speaking at this meeting was to determine why the protocol was breached and to ask the Board to look into the matter.

Minutes May 9, 2006

2

High School junior Jenna Loos stated that as captain she should have had more knowledge of what had happened, but she also felt that the coach had not acted inappropriately during any of the practices. When she spoke to Mr. Cappello he had indicated that he felt he was being forced to resign and that if he did not resign he would never get another coaching job.

Mary Filian, whose daughter is on the team and had stepped forward on this issue, stated that the team is divided over the situation, and she hopes that when this is resolved the team will come together again.

There being no one else wishing to speak on that matter, Arlene Stannard thanked the Board for considering the request to name the track in honor of Coach Dick Dupuis. She noted that many people are in the audience to show their support to the man who gave so much to H-K over the years.

The following people spoke in support of the request to name the track after Mr. Dupuis: Gail Hanson, Rosemay Vitali, Katelyn Deimel, Jake Corbett, Corey Weiss, Kevin Bailey, James Schuster, Frank Stoner, and Matt Diglio.

A recess was held at 8:16 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 8:20 p.m. with Mr. Baranoff presiding.

Report from Student Representatives

Student representatives were not present.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Cabral **MOVED** and Ms. Stock **SECONDED** that the Board approve the minutes of the March 14, 2006, regular Board of Education meeting as presented. Motion passed. Aye: Jo Ferjak, Diane Stock, Nancy Gorski, Robert Baranoff, Michael Trahan, and Richard Cabral. Abstention: Mark Almeida.

Mr. Almeida **MOVED** and Ms. Stock **SECONDED** that Board approve the minutes of the March 28, 2006, special Board of Education meeting as presented. Motion passed. Aye: Jo Ferjak, Diane Stock, Nancy Gorski, Robert Baranoff, Michael Trahan, and Mark Almeida. Abstention: Richard Cabral.

Mr. Cabral **MOVED** and Mr. Almeida **SECONDED** that the Board approve the minutes of the April 11, 2006, special Board of Education meeting as presented. Motion passed. Aye: Jo Ferjak, Nancy Gorski, Robert Baranoff, Richard Cabral, Michael Trahan, and Mark Almeida. Abstention: Diane Stock.

Mr. Cabral **MOVED** and Mr. Almeida **SECONDED** that the Board approve the minutes of the April 11, 2006, regular Board of Education meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Almeida **MOVED** and Ms. Stock **SECONDED** that the Board approve the minutes of the April 12, 2006, special Board of Education meeting as presented. Motion passed. Aye: Jo Ferjak, Robert Baranoff, Michael Trahan, and Mark Almeida. Abstentions: Diane Stock, Nancy Gorski, and Richard Cabral.

Mr. Cabral **MOVED** and Mr. Almeida **SECONDED** that the Board approve the minutes of the April 13, 2006, special Board of Education meeting (annual budget hearing) as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Cabral **MOVED** and Mr. Almeida **SECONDED** that the Board approve the minutes of the April 13, 2006, special Board of Education meeting as corrected. Corrections are: First paragraph and paragraph under "Approval of 2006-07 Budget" should say "to adopt" instead of "to approve". Mr. Cabral should have been listed as a nay vote under "Approval of 2006-07 Budget". Motion to approve as corrected passed unanimously.

Mr. Cabral **MOVED** and Mr. Almeida **SECONDED** that the Board approve the minutes of the April 18, 2006, special Board of Education meeting as presented. Motion passed. Aye: Jo Ferjak, Diane Stock, Robert Baranoff, Richard Cabral, Michael Trahan, and Mark Almeida. Abstention: Nancy Gorski.

Mr. Almeida **MOVED** and Ms. Stock **SECONDED** that the Board approve the minutes of the April 19, 2006, special Board of Education meeting as presented. Motion passed. Aye: Jo Ferjak, Robert Baranoff, Michael Trahan, and Mark Almeida. Abstention: Nancy Gorski, Diane Stock, and Richard Cabral.

Mr. Almeida **MOVED** and Ms. Stock **SECONDED** that the Board approve the minutes of the April 24, 2006, 8 a.m. special Board of Education meeting as presented. Motion passed. Aye: Nancy Gorski, Diane Stock, Robert Baranoff, Michael Trahan, and Mark Almeida. Abstention: Jo Ferjak and Richard Cabral.

Mr. Almeida **MOVED** and Ms. Stock **SECONDED** that the Board approve the minutes of the April 24, 2006, 5 p.m. special Board of Education meeting as presented. Motion passed. Aye: Mark Almeida and Robert Baranoff. Abstentions: Diane Stock, Jo Ferjak, Nancy Gorski, Richard Cabral, Mike Trahan.

Mr. Almeida **MOVED** and Ms. Stock **SECONDED** that the Board approve the minutes of the May 1, 2006, District Annual Meeting as presented. Motion passed. Aye: Nancy Gorski, Jo Ferjak, Diane Stock, Robert Baranoff, Michael Trahan, and Mark Almeida. Abstention: Richard Cabral.

Board Committee Reports

1. **Facilities and Transportation Subcommittee**– Mr. Almeida reported the committee will meet on May 18. They are working on bid specifications for transportation for the new school. He will give an update on summer projects at the next Board meeting.
2. **Building Subcommittee** – Mr. Almeida reported the committee will meet tomorrow night. The interior work of the new school is almost complete and the windows are being installed.
3. **Education Subcommittee** – Ms. Ferjak reported that at the April 25 meeting, the committee heard reports on summer programming, kindergarten screening, strategic planning, had the first reading of part 1 of the 6000 policy series and discussed the Ariba Procurement Services.
4. **Communications Subcommittee** – Ms. Ferjak noted that at the last meeting the committee discussed the budget presentation.
5. **Finance Subcommittee** – Mr. Cabral reported that the latest economic efficiency is getting rid of an active telephone line that has not been used for approximately five years. He also noted the Superintendent saved approximately \$25,000 by negotiating a price for the new Scott Foresman/Addison Wesley math materials.
6. **Policy Committee** – Ms. Ferjak reported that the committee is continuing to review the 6000 policy series.
7. **Negotiations Subcommittee** – Mr. Baranoff reported that negotiations are continuing with the Support Services Association. He will provide an update in executive session.
8. **Prevention Council** – Ms. Stock reported that the council sent a letter to parents regarding the Search Institute Survey, which will be given at the end of May.
9. **LEARN** – Ms. Stock reported she was unable to attend the last meeting.
10. **Park and Recreation** – Mr. Mala requested the Board assign another Board representative to act as the Park and Recreation representative.
11. **Haddam Board of Selectmen** – No report.
12. **Killingworth Board of Selectmen** – Mr. Cabral reported that the Selectmen congratulated the Board on the passing of the school budget.

Dedication of Facilities Policy - 1170

Mr. Cabral **MOVED** and Ms. Gorski **SECONDED** that “Dedication of Facilities Policy – 1170” be moved up on the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.
Minutes May 9, 2006 5

Mr. Baranoff read the current Dedication of Facilities policy. Ms. Mala noted he had met with Linda Scanlon and Arlene Stannard, who represent a large number of people who support naming the high school track in honor of long-time coach Richard Dupuis and would like to affix a sign to the storage area. He asked the Board to consider waiving the policy for this instance and name the track after Mr. Dupuis.

Exception to Policy 1170, Dedication of Facilities

Mr. Almeida **MOVED** and Mr. Cabral **SECONDED** that the Board add to the agenda “Exception to Policy 1170, Dedication of Facilities”. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Cabral **MOVED** and Ms. Stock **SECONDED** that the Board make an exception to the Dedication of Facilities policy - 1170 and allow the track to be named after Dick Dupuis of Haddam-Killingworth High School. This is a one-time waiver and is not intended as a policy change, to be cited as past practice, or be precedent-setting. Motion passed unanimously.

Board of Education Policies – 6000 Series – Second Reading

Mr. Mala asked the Board to review the 6000 series and send him their suggestions. Mr. Almeida suggested adding a statement to policy 6141.322 stating that students’ pictures will not be put on the web site. Mr. Mala will draft an amendment to the policy.

Tuition for Faculty Children (5118.1)

Mr. Mala stated that there was a request from a faculty member to pay tuition to the district so that her child could attend the district’s schools. Mr. Cabral suggested sending this to the Policy Subcommittee for review and then bringing it to the next Education Subcommittee meeting.

Wellness Policy

Mr. Shettle stated that under federal legislation boards of education must have a wellness policy in place not later than the first day of the start of the 2006-07 school year. The Wellness Committee, comprised of nurses, administrators, Board member Diane Stock, parents, and health teachers, developed the policy, which is included in Board members’ packets. He noted the Board of Education must make a decision relative to the number of minutes per week that elementary and middle school students will receive physical education.

The Board thanked the Wellness Committee for their work and turned the policy over to the Policy Subcommittee for review.

Naming of New School Facility

Mr. Almeida asked the Board to start thinking about a name for the new school and noted it will be on the agenda next month. Mr. Mala will provide some suggested names.
Minutes May 9, 2006 6

Approval of the Contract Between the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education and Gary S. Mala, Superintendent of Schools, for the Time Period July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2009, and Compensation for the Time Period July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2007

Mr. Baranoff noted that negotiations with the Superintendent were completed awhile ago. He stated this adds a third year at the end of the contract and increases the Superintendent's compensation for the 2006-007 fiscal year to \$145,000, of which \$134,500 is salary and \$10,500 is an annuity. The Superintendent will be contributing 17 percent of his health insurance premium in 2006-07 and 18 percent in each of the subsequent two years.

Mr. Cabral *MOVED* and Mr. Almeida *SECONDED* that the Board approve the contract between the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education and Gary S. Mala, Superintendent of Schools, for the period July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2009, and compensation of \$145,000 for the time period July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Payment of a Performance Bonus for the 2005-06 School Year in the Amount of \$1,500 to Gary S. Mala, Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Cabral *MOVED* and Ms. Stock *SECONDED* that the Board approve the payment of a performance bonus for the 2005-06 school year in the amount of \$1,500 to Gary S. Mala, Superintendent of Schools. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Baranoff asked that the bonus be taken out of 2005-06 funds if possible.

From the Chair

No report.

From the Superintendent

1. Mr. Mala thanked the Board for extending his contract and approving his bonus.
2. **Enrollment Report as of May 1, 2006** – Mr. Mala stated there were not noticeable differences from the April 1 report.
3. **Board Recognition of Retiring Staff** – Mr. Mala stated that a special Board meeting will be held on June 15 at the high school to recognize the district's retiring staff.
4. **Student Recognition by Board of Education** – Mr. Mala noted that the district's top ten students will be recognized at the June 13 Board meeting. Also being recognized that evening will be the teachers and staff members of the year, Class S co-

championship State field hockey team, a Haddam senior citizen for his community service and a retired bus driver for an heroic act while employed as a bus driver for the

Minutes May 9, 2006

7

district. Senior Project students will be invited to the next Education Subcommittee meeting.

5. **Summer Professional Development** – Grant funds will be used again this summer for professional development on June 21, 22 and 24, and a couple of days in July. A full report will be available at the Education Subcommittee meeting.
6. **Policy Subcommittee Agenda** – The next meeting will be held May 16 at 7 p.m. in Central Office. Policies 6141.322, 5118.1, 6142.101, 4116, and part two of the 6000 series will be reviewed.
7. **Correspondence** - Mr. Mala distributed information on high school parking, municipal aid distribution for FY 2006-07 and State Board of Education information.
8. **Acceptance of Certified Staff Resignation** – Mr. Cabral **MOVED** and Ms. Gorski **SECONDED** that the Board accept with regret the resignation of Heather Rigatti, half-time math support teacher at Burr Elementary School. Motion passed unanimously.
9. **Acceptance of Certified Staff Retirements** – Mr. Cabral **MOVED** and Ms. Gorski **SECONDED** that the Board accept with regret the retirement of Diane Fleming, fourth grade teacher at Burr Elementary School. Motion passed unanimously.
10. **Acceptance of Classified Staff Retirement** – Mr. Cabral **MOVED** and Ms. Gorski **SECONDED** that the Board accept with regret the retirement of Winifred Burr, middle school guidance secretary. Motion passed unanimously.

From the Director of Finance and Operations

Mr. Shettle distributed a handout of State legislation regarding ‘reserve fund for capital and non-recurring expenditures’ and ‘reserve fund for accrued liabilities for employee sick leave and severance benefits’.

Future Meetings

1. Building Committee – May 10, 7 p.m., lower Media Center.
2. Negotiations Subcommittee – May 15 and 22, 7 p.m., Central Office.
3. Facilities and Transportation Subcommittee – May 18, 6:30 p.m., Central Office
4. Policy Subcommittee – May 16, 7 p.m., Central Office
5. Communications Subcommittee – May 23, 6 p.m., Killingworth Elementary School
6. Education Subcommittee – May 23, 7 p.m., Killingworth Elementary School

Executive Session

Mr. Cabral **MOVED** and Mr. Almeida **SECONDED** the Board enter executive to discuss negotiations and for a legal update. Motion passed unanimously at 10 p.m.

Members present: Jo Ferjak, Diane Stock, Nancy Gorski, Mark Almeida, Robert Baranoff, Michael Trahan, and Richard Cabral.

Members absent: Amy Jacques-Purdy, Mary Withington, Douglas Stevenson, and Daniel Cronin.

Also present: Superintendent of Schools Gary S. Mala and Director of Finance and Operations Gary J. Shettle.

Mr. Cabral **MOVED** and Ms. Gorski **SECONDED** that the Board move out of executive session. Motion passed unanimously at 10:50 p.m.

Adjournment

Mr. Cabral **MOVED** and Ms. Gorski **SECONDED** that the meeting adjourn. Motion passed unanimously at 10:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Lang, Board Clerk

Approval:

Amy Jacques-Purdy, Secretary

Date

Approved as corrected at the June 13, 2006 Board of Education meeting.