

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION
JUNE 13, 2006

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held June 13, 2006, in the Haddam-Killingworth High School auditorium. 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, Robert Baranoff, Richard Cabral, Mark Almeida, and Michael Trahan. Nancy Gorski arrived at 8:18 p.m.

Members absent: Diane Stock, Daniel Cronin, and Douglas Stevenson.

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

Mr. Almeida *MOVED* and Ms. Jacques-Purdy *SECONDED* that item #7, Recognition of Community Service Award, be moved to item # 4 on the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Recognition of Class S Co-State Championship Field Hockey Team

High School Principal Charles Macunas presented field hockey coach Patricia Kamercia and the field hockey team with certificates of achievement for being named the Class S Co-State Championship Field Hockey Team. He noted that Arlene Salvati, assistant coach, was unable to attend. In addition a sign noting their accomplishment was presented to the team. The sign will be placed on the field hockey fence at the field.

Recognition of the Superintendent's Achievement Award

Mr. Mala recognized Megan Piscopiello and Kate Wargo for receiving the Superintendent's Achievement Award, which was presented to them in the fall at a Middlesex School Superintendents Association luncheon. He noted this award is made annually to a junior and a senior who exemplify excellence as an all-around student.

Recognition of Community Service Award

Mr. Mala presented Victor Marek, Jr., with a certificate of achievement for his community service to the district. Mr. Marek has been cutting out newspaper articles on the district and putting them in albums for historical purposes.

Recognition of the Top 10 Students of the Class of 2006

Mr. Macunas announced the top ten students of the class of 2006 and presented them with a certificate of achievement. They are: Jeff Chambers (1), Chelsea Anderson (2), Curtis Meyer (3), Perry Pratt (4), Jessica Fox (5), Katherine Deane (6), Cameron Regan (7), Katelyn Deimel (8), Andrew Granucci (9), and Candice Rountree (10).

(Nancy Gorski arrived)

Recognition of the Outstanding Teachers of the Year

High School Principal Charles Macunas presented Charles Lewis as the high school's Outstanding Teacher of the Year; Middle School Principal Mim Wagner and Assistant Principal Michael Susi presented Matthew Espinosa as the middle school's Outstanding Teacher of the Year; Burr Elementary Principal Eric Larson presented Deborah White as Burr Elementary School's Outstanding Teacher of the Year; Haddam Elementary Principal Janice Gordon presented Julie Coogan as Haddam Elementary School's Outstanding Teacher of the Year; and Killingworth Elementary School Principal Rita Peretto presented Donna Galuardi as Killingworth Elementary School's Outstanding Teacher of the Year. Each was presented with a certificate of achievement.

Recognition of Outstanding Staff Members of the Year

High School Principal Charles Macunas presented April Griswold as the high school's Outstanding Staff Member of the Year; Middle School Principal Mim Wagner and Assistant Principal Michael Susi presented Winifred Burr as the middle school's Outstanding Staff Member of the Year; Burr Elementary Principal Eric Larson presented Theresa Shimoda as Burr Elementary School's Outstanding Staff Member of the Year; Haddam Elementary Principal Janice Gordon presented Carol Zanelli as Haddam Elementary School's Outstanding Staff Member of the Year; and Killingworth Elementary School Principal Rita Peretto presented Lourdes Hosking as Killingworth Elementary School's Outstanding Staff Member of the Year. Each was presented with a certificate of achievement.

Mr. Mala congratulated everyone who was honored and also recognized the district's administrators (Gary Shettle, Michael Distefano, Michael Zanelli, Carol Dupuis, Charles Macunas, Connie Bombaci, Jill MacDiarmid, Mim Wagner, Michael Susi, Janice Gordon, Eric Larson, Rita Peretto, and Karen Ockasi) for driving the efforts of the district.

Recognition of Unsung Hero Award

Middletown Police Officer Daniel Petrusis presented a certificate of appreciation to former bus driver Fred Riedinger for having saved his life when he was a district student riding on Mr. Riedinger's bus. Mr. Riedinger performed the Heimlich Maneuver on Officer Petrusis, who was choking on a piece of food.

A recess and reception was held from 8:55-9:07 p.m. Mr. Baranoff reconvened the meeting.

Audience of Citizens

No one asked to speak.

Report from Student Representatives

Student representatives were not present. Mr. Cabral suggested that the procedure for selecting student representatives to the Board be changed for next year to include interviewing of the students and letting them know their role and responsibility as student representatives to the Board.

Honoring Staff Members

Mr. Baranoff suggested that next year the Board and district also honor staff who travel between buildings.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Cabral **MOVED** and Ms. Jacques-Purdy **SECONDED** that the Board approve the minutes of the May 9, 2006, regular Board of Education meeting as amended. Corrections as follows: Under Audience of Citizens after *legal representative* it should read, "*the Athletic Director, the high school principal, and the Superintendent. Mr. Mala conveyed the message and the conditions of the meeting to Mr. Cappello, who said he would come with a large contingent of parents and supporters.*" In the second to last sentence of the first paragraph, the word "*would*" should be changed to "*are*". In the last sentence of the first paragraph the word "*ini*" should be changed to "*in*". In the second paragraph under Audience of Citizens the word "*attending*" should be changed to "*attended*". Motion passed unanimously.

Board Committee Reports

1. **Facilities and Transportation Subcommittee** – Mr. Almeida reported that the committee met May 18 and received a report from Michael Distefano on summer projects and had an update on the Burr Elementary School well project, which has been approved by the State. In addition, he noted that baseball coach Mark Brookes and some of his students helped to redo the baseball infield. The committee also had an update from Michael Zanelli on the preliminary bus routes for the new school and they reviewed the bid specifications for transportation services for the new school. He also noted he met with Pete DeJoya regarding lighting of the track rather than the football field in order to increase use of the track area for other activities. Once test holes have been dug, approval from Haddam will be sought for the project.
2. **Building Subcommittee** – Mr. Almeida reported that the committee will meet tomorrow night. There will be a tour of the new school prior to the meeting. Future Building Subcommittee meetings will probably be held at the new site.
3. **Education Subcommittee** – Ms. Ferjak reported that a brief meeting was held on May 23 where the committee heard a presentation from several students groups requesting use of breathalyzers at school dances. In addition, there was a Senior Projects

presentation by Logan MacLennan, who has established a high school foundation and alumni association.

4. **Finance Subcommittee** – Mr. Cabral reported that most of the 2005-06 budget has been spent. At this time, there is an unencumbered amount of \$39,379.
5. **Policy Subcommittee** – Ms. Jacques-Purdy *MOVED* and Ms. Ferjak *SECONDED* that the Board approve parts one and two of the 6000 policy series (6000-6153.1), policy 4116 (Athletic Coaches), and policy 5118.1 (Tuition for Faculty Children) as the first reading. Motion passed unanimously. The policies will be put in each school office and Central Office for review.
6. **Negotiations Subcommittee**– Mr. Baranoff reported that negotiations with the Support Services Association are progressing.
7. **Prevention Council** – No report.
8. **LEARN** – No report.
9. **Park & Recreation** – Mr. Trahan stated that he will begin attending the Park and Recreation Authority meetings as the Board of Education liaison next month.
10. **Haddam Board of Selectmen** – Ms. Jacques-Purdy noted that she will be attending next week's Selectmen's meeting.
11. **Killingworth Board of Selectmen** – Mr. Cabral reported that the First Selectmen's meeting is tonight. There will be a town meeting on Monday at 8 p.m. at Killingworth Elementary School to fill the Board of Education vacancy. Presently there is only one candidate, but nominations can be made from the floor.

Approval of District Technology Plan

Mr. Mala recognized Marcia Catalano for her work on the technology plan. Mr. Almeida *MOVED* and Ms. Jacques-Purdy *SECONDED* that the Board approve the District Technology Plan for July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2009 for submission to the State. Motion passed unanimously.

From the Chair

The Board scheduled the following dates in July and August: July 11 and August 8 will be regular Board meetings and August 29 will be an Education Subcommittee meeting. The July 25 Education Subcommittee meeting was cancelled. Discussion was held regarding the locations for the meetings and changing the meeting dates to the first and third Tuesdays of the month so that Mr. Cabral would be able to attend the Killingworth Selectmen's meetings. The

Board agreed to make the change to the first and third Tuesdays starting in September for the 2006-07 year. The regular Board of Education meeting will be held every month at Burr Elementary School. The Education Subcommittee meetings will rotate among the schools in the district. In addition, beginning in September, both the regular Board of Education meetings and the Education Subcommittee meetings will be videotaped.

From the Superintendent

1. **Enrollment Report as of June 8, 2006** – Included in Board packets.
2. **New School Transition Planning Update** – There is a 20-member transition team working with the middle school administration to fine tune scheduling and programming for the new school.
3. **Summer Professional Development** - The summer professional development workshops schedule was distributed.
4. **Alternative Energies Task Force** – Mr. Mala reported that an alternative energies task force has been formed to study alternative energy sources. The committee will include two high school students from the Applied Education Department and two students from the Science Department.
5. **Summary of Curriculum Council Accomplishments** – Mr. Mala distributed minutes for the Curriculum Council's 2005-06 meetings and commended the members of the council for their work during the year.
6. **Correspondence** – Mr. Mala distributed a letter from CCR Pyramid and noted that the Building Committee will be discussing this at tomorrow night's meeting. This deals with the technology connection of the new school.

Mr. Baranoff noted that naming the new school was not on the agenda. Mr. Almeida noted that at its last meeting the Building Committee voted to recommend that the new school remain Haddam-Killingworth Middle School. Mr. Trahan stated that he had spoken with the executive director of the Haddam Historical Society for a recommendation of some names that would appeal to both towns. He also called the Killingworth Historical Society but had not heard from them. Mr. Baranoff recommended that Mr. Trahan and Mr. Mala pursue additional names and present them at the June 27 Education Subcommittee meeting.

7. **Acceptance of Classified Staff Resignations**

Mr. Cabral **MOVED** and Ms. Jacques-Purdy **SECONDED** that the Board accept with regret bus driver Arlene Alger's resignation effective May 12. Motion passed unanimously.

8. **Acknowledgment of Resignation of Gary J. Shettle, Director of Finance and Operations**

Mr. Cabral *MOVED* and Ms. Jacques-Purdy *SECONDED* that the Board accept with regret Gary J. Shettle's resignation effective August 4, thank him for 26 years of service to Region 17, and wish him well in his new position. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Baranoff also thanked Mr. Shettle for his help with the Negotiations Subcommittee.

9. **Acknowledgment of Classified Staff Retirement** – Mr. Cabral *MOVED* and Ms. Jacques-Purdy *SECONDED* the Board accept with regret the retirement of Burr Elementary School custodian Angelo Raccio effective June 20. Motion passed unanimously.

From the Director of Finance and Operations

Mr. Cabral *MOVED* and Ms. Jacques-Purdy *SECONDED* that the Board approve the assessment and payment to the towns of Haddam and Killingworth based on the 2006-07 approved budget as presented by Gary Shettle. Motion passed unanimously.

Health Insurance Buy-Back Approvals

Ms. Jacques-Purdy *MOVED* to grant the request to all those who asked for the health insurance buy-back. There was no second. Discussion ensued regarding the number of people requesting the buy-back. It was noted that 51 people were granted the buy-back in 2005-06 and there are 57 requests for 2006-07. Ms. Jacques-Purdy *MOVED* and Ms. Ferjak *SECONDED* that the Board grant the request of all those who have applied for the insurance buy-back program. Motion passed. Aye: Amy Jacques-Purdy, Jo Ferjak, Robert Baranoff, Michael Trahan, and Richard Cabral. Nay: Nancy Gorski and Mark Almeida.

Technology Lease/Purchase Option for 2006-07

Mr. Almeida *MOVED* and Mr. Cabral *SECONDED* that the Board enter into a lease agreement with the Bank of America for a technology lease/purchase option for 2006-07 for three years for \$100,000 worth of capital equipment. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Almeida suggested talking to the towns about waiving the property tax. Mr. Shettle noted he had approached them many years ago and they would not waive the property tax. Mr. Almeida noted the town of Haddam waives property tax for other things.

Future Meetings

Discussed earlier.

Executive Session

Mr. Cabral *MOVED* and Ms. Jacques-Purdy *SECONDED* the Board enter executive session to discuss personnel and legal matters. Motion passed unanimously at 10:35 p.m.

Mr. Cabral **MOVED** and Ms. Jacques-Purdy **SECONDED** the Board move out of executive session. Motion passed unanimously at 10:45 p.m.

Adjournment

Mr. Cabral **MOVED** and Ms. Jacques-Purdy **SECONDED** the meeting adjourn. Motion passed unanimously at 10:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Lang, Board Clerk

Approval:

Amy Jacques-Purdy, Secretary

Date

Approved as presented at the July 11, 2006 Board of Education meeting.