

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION
AUGUST 8, 2006**

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held August 8, 2006, in the Haddam-Killingworth High School lower Media Center. Board of Education Chair Robert Baranoff called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Members present: Nancy Gorski, Robert Baranoff, Daniel Cronin, Michael Trahan, Mark Almeida and John O'Leary.

Members absent: Diane Stock, Amy Jacques-Purdy, Jo Ferjak, Richard Cabral, and Douglas Stevenson.

Also present: Superintendent of Schools Gary S. Mala, Interim Director of Fiscal Operations James Gaskins, and Board Clerk Ann Lang.

Mr. Baranoff introduced James Gaskins as the Interim Director of Fiscal Operations.

Audience of Citizens

None.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Cronin *MOVED* and Mr. Trahan *SECONDED* that the Board approve the minutes of the July 11, 2006, Board of Education meeting as presented. Motion passed. Aye: Robert Baranoff, Daniel Cronin, Michael Trahan, and John O'Leary. Abstentions: Nancy Gorski and Mark Almeida.

Board Committee Reports

1. **Facilities and Transportation Subcommittee** – Mr. Almeida reported that the committee will be going out to bid for fuel oil in the next week or so. The committee is continuing its work on the bus routes for the new school and will go to bid next week to contract the runs for the new school. He also reported that the summer work is progressing well. The committee will start looking at more long-term capital improvement. The next meeting will be held August 21 and monthly meetings will be held in the future.
2. **Building Subcommittee** – Mr. Almeida reported that the committee met the last week in July and the architects and consultants presented the FF&E for the new school bids as well as the technology bids. The committee approved the wireless connection between Killingworth Elementary School and the new middle school and the bid for the library/Media Center furniture. They are still reviewing other portions of the bid. The next meeting will be August 16.

3. **Education Subcommittee** – Mr. Baranoff noted that the committee did not meet in July.
4. **Communications Committee** – Mr. Baranoff noted that the committee did not meet in July.
5. **Finance Subcommittee** – Mr. Cronin reported the committee met prior to this meeting and discussed the oil bid and cafeteria and food services issues. They will be looking at ways to improve reporting to the Board and the community.
6. **Policy Subcommittee** – Mr. Baranoff noted that the committee did not meet in July. Mr. Mala will contact Ms. Ferjak to schedule a meeting.
7. **Prevention Council** – No report.
8. **LEARN** – No report.
9. **Park and Recreation** – Mr. Trahan reported that he had attended the Park and Recreation Authority meeting last month and they voiced their appreciation for the Board's support. He noted there are some issues they would like to have resolved and he will have an update at the next meeting.
10. **Haddam Board of Selectmen** – No report.
11. **Killingworth Board of Selectmen** – No report.

Update on Girls' Soccer Team Trip to Vermont to Participate in a Soccer Jamboree August 25 and 26

Mr. Mala referenced a letter in the Board packets from the girls' soccer coach stating that the trip does not violate CIAC rules because the team does not participate in any soccer activities until August 26, which is the opening day for authorized pre-season practice.

Approval of Board of Education Policies, 6000 Series: Part I (6000-6141.322[b]) and Part II (6141.323[a]-6153.1); Athletic Coach (4116); and Tuition for Faculty Children (5118.1)

Mr. Almeida *MOVED* and Ms. Gorski *SECONDED* that the Board approve Board of Education Policies, 6000 Series part I (6000-6141.322[b]) and part II (6141.323[a]-6153.1); Athletic Coach (4116); and Tuition for Faculty Children (5118.1). Motion passed unanimously.

Strategic Plan Update

A meeting will be scheduled in September to continue discussion on the strategic plan.

Approval of BES Trip to Sturbridge Village June 7, 2007

Mr. Mala recommended approving the annual trip of fifth grade students at Burr Elementary School to Sturbridge Village. He noted that all chaperones are subject to background checks and fingerprinting. Mr. Cronin asked if there is a cost for the students. Mr. Almeida questioned how the student will compare this trip with a trip to Mystic when this trip is not scheduled until June 7, shortly before school ends. Mr. Mala will return to the Board with answers to these questions prior to Board action. In addition, Mr. Cronin asked that trip requests be standardized throughout the district, for ease of Board review.

Discussion and Appropriate Action on Board Policy #3160, Transfer of Funds Between Categories Amendments

Mr. Mala noted that this policy was not in the Board's policy book and needs to be in place in order to comply with Connecticut General Statutes 10-222. He recommended this policy be reviewed by the Policy Committee and asked Mr. Gaskins to take part in the review.

Approval of K-12 P.E./Health Curriculum and Approval of K-12 Science Curriculum

Mr. Almeida *MOVED* and Ms. Gorski *SECONDED* that the Board approve the K-12 P.E./Health curriculum and the K-12 Science curriculum. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. O'Leary suggested that the Guidance Department be included in the health curriculum process because of the overlap between health and guidance.

Mr. Mala noted the curricula will be put on CDs and will be available on the district's web site, the Town Halls, the libraries, the Principal's office of each building, and the Central Office.

Approval of 2006-07 Staff Hires

Mr. Mala distributed a revised list of staff hired as of August 8. He noted the new hires will be invited to the August 29 Education Committee meeting.

Mr. Cronin *MOVED* and Mr. Almeida *SECONDED* that the Board approve the new staff hire list dated August 8, 2006. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Mala recognized the efforts of the building and department leaders in the hiring process.

Approval of Kristine Cropper-Alt as a School Psychologist Intern for the 2006-07 School Year

Based on Mr. Mala's recommendation, Mr. Cronin *MOVED* and Mr. Almeida *SECONDED* the Board approve Kristine Cropper-Alt as a school psychologist intern for the

2006-07 school year. Motion passed unanimously. There is no cost to the district. Ms. Cropper-Alt will work four days per week at the elementary level. Mr. Cronin asked that her schedule be made available to the Board. He stated that he would like to see the district use more interns. Mr. Mala noted that there will be no research conducted in the district without the Board's approval.

Approval of Food Services Consulting Agreement with Pavilion Catering of Middletown, Connecticut, for the 2006-07 school year

Mr. Mala referenced the proposal from Pavilion Catering in the Board packet and noted that legal counsel had reviewed it. Based on Mr. Mala's recommendation, Mr. Almeida **MOVED** and Ms. Gorski **SECONDED** that the Board approve the agreement with Food Service Solutions contract with Pavilion Catering of Middletown, for the 2006-07 school year. Pavilion Catering will assume additional bookkeeping and financial management services for an additional \$11,000. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Mala and Mr. Gaskins will work with Mr. Jennings to see if the district is eligible to receive grants.

From the Chair

No report.

From the Superintendent

1. **Opening Activities for the 2006-07 School Year** – Mr. Mala distributed information on the meetings he has planned for new staff orientation, substitute personnel, emergency personnel, and town officials.
2. **District Web site** – Mr. Mala noted the web site is being redesigned by Peg Scofield and is a work in progress. He asked the Board to let him know what they would like to have on the site regarding the Board of Education.
3. **Director of Fiscal Operations Search Update** – Mr. Mala reported that the search for a Director of Fiscal Operations has begun. Fourteen candidates will be interviewed on August 18.
4. **District Technology Purchasing Update** – Mr. Mala reported that Mr. Gaskins is working with Mr. Goetz and Mr. Macunas regarding a three-year technology purchasing plan for the high school. This is being done so that the technology at the high school will be ready for the students coming from the new middle school, where technology will be state-of-the-art.
5. **Facility Utilization Plan – Current H-K Middle School** – Mr. Mala reported that he will be meeting within the next few weeks to discuss ways to use the current middle

school once the new middle school opens and the current middle school is vacated. Mr. Baranoff remarked on the importance of the decision and the potential for the current middle school. Mr. Mala expects to make a presentation to the Facilities and Transportation Committee in September.

4. **Correspondence** – Mr. Mala circulated “thank you” notes from two retirees.

5. **Acceptance of Classified Staff Resignation**

Mr. Almeida **MOVED** and Mr. Cronin **SECONDED** that the Board accept with regret the resignation of Pupil Services secretary Maria Bergan. Motion passed unanimously.

From the Interim Director of Fiscal Operations

Mr. Gaskins said that he has received a tremendous welcome from staff and the community. His focus during the transition is on process and procedure.

Future Meetings

Mr. Baranoff noted that beginning in September, the regular Board of Education meeting has been changed to meet the first Tuesday of the month and the Education Committee will meet the third Tuesday of the month, instead of the meetings being held the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. The regular Board meeting on the first Tuesday of each month will be held in the lower level of the high school Media Center. The Education Committee meetings will meet in a different district school each month.

Executive Session

Mr. Almeida **MOVED** and Mr. Cronin **SECONDED** the Board enter executive session to discuss personnel. Motion passed unanimously at 9:10 p.m.

Members present: Nancy Gorski, Robert Baranoff, Daniel Cronin, Michael Trahan, Mark Almeida and John O’Leary.

Members absent: Diane Stock, Amy Jacques-Purdy, Jo Ferjak, Richard Cabral, and Douglas Stevenson.

Invited into executive were Superintendent of Schools Gary S. Mala and Interim Director of Fiscal Operations James Gaskins.

Ms. Gorski, Mr. Cronin and Mr. Trahan left during executive session.

Mr. Almeida **MOVED** and Mr. O’Leary **SECONDED** the Board move out of executive session. Motion passed unanimously at 10:30 p.m.

Adjournment

Mr. Almeida **MOVED** and Mr. O’Leary **SECONDED** the meeting adjourn. Motion passed unanimously at 10:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Lang, Board Clerk

Approval:

Amy Jacques-Purdy, Secretary

Date

Approved as presented at the September 5, 2006 Board of Education meeting.