

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SEPTEMBER 5, 2006**

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held September 5, 2006 the Haddam-Killingworth High School. Board of Education Chair Robert Baranoff called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Members present: Amy Jacques-Purdy, Jo Ferjak, Diane Stock, Robert Baranoff, Richard Cabral, Michael Trahan, Daniel Cronin, Mark Almeida and John O'Leary.

Members absent: Nancy Gorski and Douglas Stevenson.

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

**Audience of Citizens**

No one asked to speak.

**Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Almeida *MOVED* and Ms. Jacques-Purdy *SECONDED* that the minutes of the July 27, 2006, special Board of Education meeting be approved as presented. Motion passed. Aye: Amy Jacques-Purdy, Jo Ferjak, Robert Baranoff, Michael Trahan, Mark Almeida and John O'Leary. Abstentions: Diane Stock, Richard Cabral, and Daniel Cronin.

Mr. Almeida *MOVED* and Ms. Stock *SECONDED* that the minutes of the August 8, 2006, regular Board of Education meeting be approved as presented. Motion passed. Aye: Robert Baranoff, Michael Trahan, Daniel Cronin, Mark Almeida and John O'Leary. Abstentions: Amy Jacques-Purdy, Jo Ferjak, Diane Stock, and Richard Cabral.

**Board Committee Reports**

1. **Facilities and Transportation Subcommittee** – Mr. Almeida reported that the committee will be meeting within the next few weeks. The bid process for fuel oil and gas is finished and the bids were awarded at last week's Education Committee. A mandatory pre-bid meeting for the new middle school bus runs is being held tomorrow and the bids will be in two weeks after that. The bid will include to and from school transportation as well as pricing for late bus service, athletics and field trips, even though the district intends to operate those services itself.
2. **Building Subcommittee** – Ms. Stock reported that at their last meeting the Building Committee approved the technology bid and most of the furniture, fixtures, and equipment bid. There a few issues still to be resolved. The building is proceeding on schedule and due to open on January 3. The project is still under budget. Mr. Mala

noted that the Chair of the Building Committee contacted him looking for direction on the wording of the plaque. Mr. Mala will report back to the Board after speaking with the Chair.

3. **Education Subcommittee** – Ms. Ferjak reported that at the last meeting the committee was introduced to the new staff, discussed school year priorities and acted on Nichol's Transportation Service, furniture, fixtures, and equipment, technology and fuel oil contracts.
4. **Communications Subcommittee** – Ms. Ferjak reported that the committee met last week and had a demonstration on the newly designed web site. They committed to six publications of the Spotlight on 17. Mr. Mala reported that due to an error made by the district's printing company, some of the post cards announcing that the bus routes and the Spotlight on 17 could be found on the district's web site were blank.
5. **Finance Subcommittee** – Mr. Cronin reported that the committee met prior to the Board meeting. Mr. Gaskins has been bringing the committee some structure and process. He has streamlined the monthly budget report and will be sharing it with the Board at their next meeting. The committee will be re-launching their efficiency efforts in order to find money to redistribute. Mr. Gaskins reported that he introduced a new format for a long-term capital plan, which will be going before the Facilities and Transportation Committee for their approval on September 25.
6. **Policy Subcommittee** – Ms. Ferjak reported that a meeting has been scheduled for September 14.
7. **Negotiations Committee** – Mr. Baranoff said the negotiations with the Support Services Association has concluded and they are awaiting additional information before ratification.
8. **Prevention Council** – Ms. Stock noted the group has not met since the spring but there is a meeting planned for this month.
9. **LEARN** – Ms. Stock reported they will be meeting later in the month.
10. **Park and Recreation Rep.** – Mr. Trahan stated there was nothing to report.
11. **Haddam Board of Selectmen** – Ms. Jacques-Purdy stated that she did not attend the August meeting.
12. **Killingworth Board of Selectmen** – Mr. Cabral stated there was nothing to report.

### **Unfinished Business**

Mr. Mala reminded the Board that he is researching the library automation system for the new school.

### **Appointment of Associate Principal of H-K High School**

Mr. Mala stated that the interview for the finalist for the high school Associate Principal's position was held August 30, with five Board members present. It was necessary that the interview take place that evening. After the interview was conducted, the Board members present supported her hiring.

Mr. Cabral *MOVED* and Ms. Jacques-Purdy *SECONDED* that the Board reaffirm the Superintendent's hiring of Priscilla Luoma as the Associate Principal of Haddam-Killingworth High School, effective September 5, 2006. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Appointment of High School Department Heads, Middle School Team Leaders, Elementary Lead Teacher, Book Room Specialists and Building Technology Facilitators**

Mr. Cabral *MOVED* and Ms. Jacques-Purdy *SECONDED* that the Board appoint the 2006-07 leadership positions as listed and recommended by the Superintendent (see attached). Motion passed unanimously.

### **From the Chair**

A strategic planning meeting was scheduled for September 26, at 6:30 p.m., in Central Office.

### **From the Superintendent of Schools**

#### **1. Information, Proposals and Updates**

- A. **Review of School Year Opening** – Mr. Mala stated that it was a great opening. Mr. Baranoff, as well as the First Selectmen of each town, attended and spoke at the staff orientation meeting. Mr. Mala encouraged people to visit the newly designed web site. The teachers' deadline for having their site operational is October 1.
- B. **Review of Healthy Foods Certification** – Mr. Mala distributed a memo on healthy food certification that requires Board action by October 1. Districts must choose whether or not they want to comply with Section 3 of Public Act 06-63 by certifying that all food items sold to students separately from a reimbursable breakfast or lunch meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards, thereby receiving additional funding as

authorized by Section 4 of Public Act 06-63. Schools would be permitted to sell beverages not listed in this act if the sale is at an event after hours or on the weekend, the sale is at the location of the event, and the beverages are not sold from a vending machine or school store.

Mr. Mala also noted that the Board can choose to pursue applying for a \$.10 per meal reimbursement using last year's information. A payment would be received in the spring of 2007. He noted that if the Board approves this, the district would be prohibited from selling any items that do not conform with the State Nutrition Standards. Mr. Baranoff questioned the cost to comply. Ms. Stock noted that presently the Board policy is more restrictive than the state's policy. Mr. Mala noted that the district is presently in compliance, but the Board must take formal action on whether or not they want to seek the reimbursement. He noted the anticipated \$10,000 could be used to offset some of the food service program losses. He also noted that fund raisers occurring during the school day would also have to comply with the State Nutrition Standards. Mr. Mala asked the Board to review the information in their packets and contact him with questions. The topic will be included on the September 19 Education Committee agenda.

Ms. Stock stated that she would like to see the after-school program comply with the policy. Board members noted that the district does not run the program and, therefore, cannot control it. Mr. Mala offered to send a letter to the Park and Recreation Department.

Mr. Cronin voiced his concern about the implications the district might incur in the future regarding this program.

Mr. O'Leary asked Mr. Mala to check into the vending machine issue. He wondered if the vending machine company might remove the vending machines from the property if there are restrictions placed on them relative to what can be sold in them.

Mr. Almeida asked for information on the number of lunches sold over the last few years. Mr. Mala will prepare information for the Board's review.

- C. **Review of Student Assessment Information** – Mr. Mala distributed information on student assessment and stated that building principals will attend the September 19 Education Committee to discuss their school's progress.
- D. **Enrollment and Class Size Report** – Mr. Mala distributed a class size report and an attendance report from each school in the district as of August 31, 2006.

- E. **September Education Committee Agenda** – Mr. Mala asked Board members to contact him regarding items they would like to see on the agenda.
  
- F. **Correspondence** – Mr. Mala noted various correspondence in Board members’ packets, including (1) the CAFE July 2006 Education Law Summaries, (2) a letter dated August 23 from the town of Haddam Registrar of Voters, expressing their pleasure with the facilities and the staff during the August 8 primary held at Burr Elementary School; (3) a memo he had written to the elementary principals entitled *Content Area Instructional Times Grades 1-6*; (4) a letter from the State Department of Education Department of Certification stating that the district is in full compliance with the 2005-06 school year Certification Verification Survey, (5) a memo from Mr. Mala to the Board of Education regarding the library management system for the Media Center at the new school, and (6) a description of internship in school psychology.
  
- G. **Acknowledgment of Classified Staff Resignations** – Mr. Cabral **MOVED** and Mr. Cronin **SECONDED** that the Board accept with regret the resignation of Matthew Girosky, special education teacher assistant at Burr Elementary School. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Cabral **MOVED** and Ms. Jacques-Purdy **SECONDED** that the Board accept with regret the resignation of Patricia Testa, special education teacher assistant at Killingworth Elementary School. Motion passed unanimously.

- H. **Acknowledgment of Certified Staff Resignations** – Mr. Cabral **MOVED** and Ms. Jacques-Purdy **SECONDED** that the Board accept with regret the resignation of Steven Colonis, special education teacher at the high school. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Cabral **MOVED** and Mr. Cronin **SECONDED** that the Board accept with regret the resignation of Kristen Colella, speech and language pathologist at Killingworth Elementary School. Motion passed unanimously.

**From the Interim Director of Fiscal Operations**

- 1. **Information, Proposals and Updates**
  - A. Mr. Gaskins reported that the 2005-06 fiscal year is closed and awaiting audit review.
  
  - B. Mr. Mala noted that the Alternative Energies Task Force toured Mohegan Sun and bio-diesel fuel was discussed. Mohegan Sun has agreed to make available

containers of grease, which is the primary product needed to produce fuel. An agreement to pilot a program is being discussed at this time. Mohegan Sun will get a tax credit for giving the grease to the school district.

- C. **Discussion and Awarding of Possible Contracts for New Middle School** – No discussion was held and no action was taken.

**Future Meetings**

- 1. Board meetings – First Tuesday of each month at the Media Center; third Tuesday of the month, Education Subcommittee, at different schools in the district.
- 2. Building Subcommittee – September 13, Media Center.
- 3. Policy Subcommittee – September 14, Central Office.

**Executive Session**

Mr. Cabral **MOVED** and Mr. Almeida **SECONDED** that the Board enter executive to discuss negotiations, personnel and legal matters. Motion passed unanimously at 9:06 p.m.

Members present: Amy Jacques-Purdy, Jo Ferjak, Diane Stock, Robert Baranoff, Richard Cabral, Michael Trahan, Daniel Cronin, Mark Almeida and John O’Leary.

Members absent: Nancy Gorski and Douglas Stevenson.

Also present: Superintendent of Schools Gary S. Mala.

Mr. Cabral **MOVED** and Ms. Jacques-Purdy **SECONDED** that the Board move out of executive session. Motion passed unanimously at 9:25 p.m.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Cabral **MOVED** and Mr. Cronin **SECONDED** that the meeting adjourn. Motion passed unanimously at 9:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approval:

Ann Lang, Board Clerk

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Amy Jacques-Purdy, Secretary      Date

**Approved as presented at the October 3, 2006 Board of Education meeting.**