

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE  
SEPTEMBER 19, 2006**

The Education Subcommittee meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held September 19, 2006 at the Haddam-Killingworth Middle School. Education Subcommittee Chair Jo Ferjak called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m., and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Members present: Jo Ferjak, Nancy Gorski, Amy Jacques-Purdy, Diane Stock, Mark Almeida, Richard Cabral, and John O'Leary.

Members absent: Daniel Cronin, Robert Baranoff, Michael Trahan, and Douglas Stevenson.

Also present: Superintendent of Schools Gary S. Mala and Interim Director of Fiscal Operations James Gaskins.

**Youth and Family Services Survey Results**

Youth and Family Services Director Cheryl Chandler and prevention coordinator Amy Mueller reviewed the history of the survey and presented the results of the survey that had been given to students in grades 7-12 on May 26. Ms. Chandler stated that a passive consent notice was sent to parents of students in grades 7-12 on April 21. She also stated that the survey was done at the expense of Youth and Family Services. She noted that four informational meetings were held in Haddam and Killingworth to offer parents the opportunity to discuss the survey, but there were no attendees. The survey was available for parents to review at Youth and Family Services, the high school and middle school offices, Haddam and Killingworth Town Halls, the Brainerd Library and the Killingworth Library. Ms. Chandler noted that 838 students (or 79 percent of the student body) in grades 7-12 took the survey.

After reviewing the results of the survey, Ms. Chandler discussed the Youth and Family Services' initiatives they plan to put into action as a result of the survey results. She stated that they collaborated with Tri-Town Youth Services and East Haddam Youth Services to apply to the State Department of Mental Health Addiction Services for an underage drinking grant and they are awaiting the results.

Mr. Mala noted that at the time the Board agreed to allow that the survey be given to students, he was charged with the task of developing a district plan of action in response to the survey results.

**Library Automation System**

Mr. Mala noted that the Board had asked him to research library automation systems before they vote on it. He will report back to the Board when he has more information.

### **MMS Student Management Software**

Mr. Mala noted that the present student management software is obsolete and he had asked the Building Committee to consider funding a new system. The Building Committee has approved it and the purchase order has been prepared. Mr. Mala noted that staff training will be necessary.

### **Classroom Speech Amplification System**

Mr. Almeida *MOVED* and Mr. Cabral *SECONDED* that the Board award the contract for the speech amplification sound system at the new middle school to HB Communications for \$130,972. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Action on Healthy Foods Certification**

Mr. Cabral *MOVED* and Ms. Jacques-Purdy *SECONDED* that the Superintendent be authorized to pursue the reimbursement money connected with the Healthy Food and Beverage legislation. Motion passed unanimously.

### **CMT/CAPT Action Plans**

Elementary Principals Rita Peretto, Janice Gordon and Eric Larson presented their CMT results and reviewed their action plans and strategies for improvement. Ms. Peretto noted that the three elementary principals worked together to prepare their action plans. Each principal reviewed the activities that are occurring at their school.

Middle school Principal Mim Wagner and Instructional Specialist Patricia Muzzulin reviewed the middle school CMT results and their action plan for improvement. Ms. Wagner stated she was pleased that the elementary schools are showing so much growth but is concerned that the middle school scores are flat and has failed to make Adequate Yearly Progress in one of the sub-groups. She reviewed the math, reading and writing scores for grades 7 and 8. She noted that the staff worked very hard to increase CMT performance and were disappointed with the results.

High school Principal Charles Macunas distributed his action plans for the year as well as the summary scores on the CAPT test. He noted that the high school is one of five schools in Connecticut that showed an increase in all four areas of the CAPT. He credits the fact that the school instituted a ninth grade CAPT and a CAPT Academy.

Additional information regarding the above presentations, the CMTs and the action plans are available on the district's web site.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Cabral **MOVED** and Mr. Almeida **SECONDED** the meeting adjourn. Motion passed at 10:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Lang, Board Clerk

Approval:

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Amy Jacques-Purdy, Secretary

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Date