

# REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

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### **Board of Education Update – Opening of the 2013-2014 School Year**

The Board of Education welcomes the students, parents, and community members to the start of the 2013-2014 school year. We wish to communicate the following items to you:

#### **District Achievement:**

The District has received its results from the statewide standardized testing and the District's 5<sup>th</sup> grade science scores on the Connecticut Mastery Test are the highest in the State. Superintendent Howard Thiery will present a complete analysis of the District's performance at the Board of Education meeting on September 17 at 7:00 p.m. at the Middle School. The community is invited to attend this presentation.

#### **District News:**

- **Security:** Over the summer, the majority of the security upgrades recommended by the District Security Review Committee have been completed. These upgrades will improve security technology and procedures throughout the District.
- **Power School:** The District has completed the switchover to a new Student Information System called Power School. Parents of students in the Middle School and High School will be receiving information early in the year on how to access their student grade book from home.
- **Minimum Standards for Communication:** The District has developed standard expectations for teacher-parent communication. These standards are distinct for the elementary, middle, and high school levels, and will be posted on every school website and will be sent home at the beginning of the year.
- **Facilities:** Over the summer, maintenance and improvement projects were completed at all the schools including playground repairs and improvements, repaving, repainting and heating system maintenance and upgrades. In addition, new technology upgrades were completed at the technology laboratory at the Middle School and in the chemistry laboratory at the High School, such that students will be able to collect experimental data directly onto a computer for subsequent analysis. The schools are in excellent shape for the return of students.

#### **Accessing Information:**

- **Website:** The District has a completely new website layout, which includes a calendar feature that is downloadable to a personal Google calendar. The site address is [www.rsd17.org](http://www.rsd17.org). In the coming year, the District's IT department will develop a mobile site and RSD 17 app for your phone.
- **Facebook:** You can receive interesting news about the District on the Region 17 Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/HKSchools>.
- **Television:** The meeting schedule for the Board of Education is on the website and the public is welcome. The meetings are televised on Channel 18: HKTU every Tuesday at 8:00am, 2:00pm, 7:00pm and on Thursdays at 11:00 am, 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm.