

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17

BOARD OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 568, LITTLE CITY ROAD
HIGGANUM, CONNECTICUT 06441
TEL. (860) 345-4534 / FAX (860) 345-2817

Board of Education Update-February 2014

The Board of Education is pleased to provide you with the following District News Board Items, and Involvement Tip:

District News:

- The RSD 17 Mobile website was recently completed. Please feel free to access this new tool on your mobile device at www.rsd17.org.
- Congratulations goes out to seven HKHS students whose work is currently on display at the 2014 Connecticut Scholastic Art Awards. Their work was judged and selected by a jury comprised of artists and university faculty for the competition. Three of the seven students received Gold level recognition and their work will be submitted to the 2014 National Scholastic Art Awards.
- Thirty-one high school students received CAPT Scholar Recognition Letters from the Commissioner of Education Stephan Pryor. Each student achieved at the Advanced Level on all CAPT subtests. Haddam Killingworth Middle School was named a State School of Distinction for Overall Student Achievement. This honor is given to the highest performing schools in the state. This is the second consecutive year that HKMS has received this recognition.
- Haddam-Killingworth High School was recognized for the second year in a row by the CIAC as a Michael's Cup recipient. The Michael's Cup is given to schools with "exemplary" athletic participation, academic success, equitable opportunities, trained and professional personnel, chemical free programs and environment, athletic achievement, and a clear sense of sportsmanship marked by high ethical and moral standards.
- On Thursday, January 8, five 8th grade students attended the Unified Sports Leadership Conference at Wesleyan University. Students were chosen to participate based on the merits of their essays written to articulate the impact of Unified Sorts in our school their lives.
- RSD 17 Superintendent Howard Thiery was recently chosen by the University of Connecticut School of Education to teach a one week Educational Leadership Course in Amman, Jordan as part of UCONN's new International Principal Preparation Program.
- Information about the new Smarter Balance state assessment system as well as the Common Core Standards can be found on the District website at <http://www.rsd17.org/parents4.shtml>

Board News:

Your Board of Education

There are eleven elected board members-six are from Haddam and five from Killingworth. That ratio is based on town population.

The Haddam members are:

Sue Twachtman, Chair
Becky Valenti, Secretary
Kathy Brown
Dan Chase
Brian Gamache
Amy Jacques-Purdy

The Killingworth members are:

Susan Dean, Vice-Chair
Joel D'Angelo, Treasurer
Michele Amendola
Karen Perry
Jeannie Young

- A special thank you to Jamie Lehane who had to resign from the Board due to a job relocation out of state. Jamie served as chair of the Facilities and Transportation subcommittee. He was a key member of the Board and will be greatly missed. A special town meeting in Killingworth was held on January 28 to elect Jamie's replacement. Congratulations to Jeannie Young who will be rejoining the Board.
- The Board has many responsibilities as elected officials. The BOE has its business meeting on the first Tuesday of each month. An education meeting is held on the third Tuesday of the month. These sessions are open to the public. The entire Board is involved in the annual budget process with its many meetings. On www.rsd17.org under District heading, go to Board of Education where Board subcommittees are listed along BOE liaison groups. A schedule for all BOE meetings and subcommittee sessions along with related agendas and minutes can be found here as well.

New Health Insurance Broker

In December the BOE approved a new Health Insurance Broker. Willis was selected unanimously by Board members after undergoing a competitive RFP (Request for Proposal) process. In a time of rapidly changing health care law, the Board determined that Willis best fit the needs of RSD 17. The BOE remains committed to improving the level of service and efficiency by undergoing the competitive bidding process as needed. We are very pleased to begin partnering with Willis.

Involvement Tip:

The Superintendent's proposed budget will be posted on the District's website after March 4th, and copies will be available at the Central Office, and the Town Halls. The Board welcomes community involvement in the budget process. The first budget meeting for community input will be held in March. That date will be announced in the March Board Update and posted on the RSD 17 website. Any ideas or input, however, may be collectively emailed to the Board at boe@rsd17.org or to individual Board member's email addresses and numbers, which are listed on the District's website.