

# REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

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**May 2015**

### **Board News:**

#### Looking to the Future

The Board of Education has chosen CREC (Capital Region Education Council) as project manager of several anticipated capital improvement projects. The District is in the process of considering roofing, solar panels, electrical and heating system upgrades. CREC has experience with assisting schools in program managing of major capital projects and have a proven track record in the state. The Facilities Subcommittee has worked arduously over the past year investigating various companies to secure the best record of performance at the most reasonable cost.

A subcommittee of the Board of Education and Administration opened up a competitive bidding process in January 2015 in order to select a transportation provider for the next five years. Five vendors submitted proposals in response to the District's RFP. A comparable analysis framework was developed to analyze all factors in each vendor's response. After a thorough review of the materials along with discussion with two of the responding vendors the committee made their recommendation, which was approved by the Board. STA (Student Transport of America) presented the best proposal at the lowest cost and was awarded the contract, which will run July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2020.

The Policy subcommittee has continued to work through the 6000 series that deals with Student Instruction. Policies regarding graduation requirements, athletics, field trips, and more have been updated. With the completion of this policy section and with Board approval, this revision will be included in the Board of Education Policy Manual, and will be available for public viewing.

The Board has worked diligently for months on the School District Budget. The three major drivers of the budget (insurance, electricity, and special education) had very large cost increases. Without these three major increases the 2015-2016 budget would have come in at a zero increase. The Board is looking at each of these areas to see what adjustments can be made for the future. The Board is excited about the innovative aspects of the budget, including the Makerspace Initiative K-12, restructuring of the World Language program, and additional arts and music enrichment opportunities, to name just a few.

The Communications Subcommittee has completed the Board of Education Handbook. Meetings have been held with each Town Clerk to be sure of the accuracy of the Handbook contents. Editing sessions have been numerous. This is to be a document to facilitate the introduction period for new Board members and to familiarize residents with some of the responsibilities of the elected Board of Education members. Copies will

be available at the Central Office, the Town Halls, and on the District 17 website [www.rsd17.org](http://www.rsd17.org).

Board of Education members, along with the Assistant Superintendent, attended the Haddam-Killingworth Hall of Fame recognition ceremony May 7 to celebrate the seven town resident volunteers who have contributed much to our communities for many years. Three seniors from the Haddam Killingworth High School were recognized for their exemplary community service. David Baird, Matthew Blewett, and Cora Marica were this year's honorees. A School Board member was active in the interviewing and selection of all candidates in both categories. This annual program is supported by Regional School District 17 and many of its employees contributed to its success.

### For District Residents

Our School Board of Education meetings are open to the public. At the beginning of each meeting there is time for public input, "Citizen Audience". The first Tuesday of each month is the business meeting-7:30 pm at the Central Office. The third Tuesday of each month is the education meeting-7:30 pm in the Media Center at the Middle School in Killingworth. However, our Superintendent Howard Thiery is available for phone calls, emails, and visits any time to answer questions or listen to concerns. These Board meetings are videotaped for HKTU, channel 18. The meeting schedule can be located on the district website [www.rsd17.org](http://www.rsd17.org) menu item Community then dropping down to the HKTU link.

### The Regional School District 17 Website

[www.rsd17.org](http://www.rsd17.org) is the school website address. Board of Education agendas, minutes, and updates can be found there. District and individual school calendars, contact information for the schools and the central office are available. Browse the various drop down menus and links. They can be very informative and helpful.

### School Budget Vote, Tuesday, June 2, from 6 am to 8 pm

A second annual school budget hearing will be held Monday, June 1 at 7 pm in the auditorium at the HK High School to approve the legal call of the meeting to adjourn to a yes/no referendum vote to be held on Tuesday June 2 from 6 am to 8 pm at the regular polling locations in Haddam and Killingworth.