

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

RSD 17 News

- Haddam Killingworth Middle School will be honored by the state at an awards ceremony on the morning of May 13th. The Middle School will be recognized as a State School of Distinction for Overall Student Achievement. This is the second year in a row HKMS has received this award and places them among the top middle schools in Connecticut.
- The Haddam Killingworth High School Moody's Mega Math Challenge advisor, Mrs. Wendy Adamczyk was recently notified that her senior team has advanced to the second round. Only 200 of the 1,152 teams nationwide that submitted viable solution papers were chosen to advance to the second round. The team remains a contender for a team prize of between \$1,000 and \$20,000.

Board of Education News

RSD 17 Budget Information

- The Board of Education (BOE) worked hard to offset financial challenges that impacted the 2014-15 school budget, balancing fiscal conservation while maintaining high quality education was the priority.
- The BOE saved the district \$968,280 with line item reductions, increasing revenue and switching health insurance carriers.
- The proposed budget supports many improvements including a new K-8 writing initiative, a new wireless network at HKHS to support Wi-Fi access for all students, an expansion of classroom and school library materials, additional mental health support, increased math instructional support, an additional college credit Horticulture course at HKHS through UCONN, and a new Track and Field program at HKMS created by reallocating funds.
- The proposed school budget for 2014-15 is \$40,028.42, or a 2.27% gross increase over last years budget.
- Factoring in loss of revenue, which includes State and Federal sources, along with the audited fund balance the budget increase is 3.07%, which is currently in-line with many CT towns.
- The BOE appreciates the help of the teachers' union (the Haddam-Killingworth Education Association) to implement an Early Retirement Plan. While it is sad to see our teachers retire, the plan saved the district about \$666,000 in salary costs and teacher reductions.
- Board of Education Chair, Sue Twachtman will be involved in the Educational Cost Sharing (ECS) forum in Haddam on May 4th. She was invited to serve on a panel along with First Selectman Melissa Schlag, Senator Art Linares, and State Representative Phil Miller. ECS is a grant from the State directly to each town to assist with the cost of education. This has a huge impact on the taxes we pay. The goal of the forum is to inform community members about the ECS grant and work towards improving the situation for residents.

New Principal Hired for the Haddam-Killingworth High School

The Board of Education is proud to announce the appointment of Donna Hayward as the new Principal of the Haddam-Killingworth High School. The BOE vote to accept the decision of the

selection committee was unanimous. The number and quality of the applicants was exceptional and speaks well for our school district. Donna Hayward has the experience of serving as a very successful high school principal. She was recognized in 2006 as the Assistant Principal of the Year. In her meeting with the full Board of Education she presented documentation of her progress regarding academic achievement and decreasing student discipline cases. She will officially begin in our district July 1st.

Board of Education Members Voluntary Service in the District

Your BOE members serve in numerous volunteer activities in the district towns. Most BOE members have children in our schools. A survey has indicated that many have served as room mothers, volunteered in classrooms and in various school activities. Many are coaches for their children's athletic teams. As we all know being a good parent is a full time job in itself. We have members in the Haddam Junior Women's Organization. We have members who were actively involved in the Community Conversations in STEM Education. There are additional activities: chairing a district conservation commission, serving on a state legislative commission, and of course, involvement with various BOE subcommittees that require time and additional responsibilities.

A BOE member was involved in the selection of three HK students for the HK Hall of Fame Student Civic Achievement Award. There were 18 applicants this year. The HK Hall of Fame subcommittee had the difficult responsibility of narrowing down this group to five finalists for personal interviews. What a difficult choice to make as all were so deserving of the \$500 award. The three selected were Casey Jackson, Angelo Signore, and Rachel Taylor. The HK Community Service Hours requirement is thirty hours to graduate. The finalists averaged almost 300 service hours each.

A BOE member was instrumental in initiating an Eagle Scout project to develop the Killingworth Elementary School Trail. The scouts and about 25 people completed the first stage April 26. Additional work days have been planned by the scouts in May.

Teacher Appreciation Day-May 6th

Regional School District #17 teachers and staff have worked exceptionally hard this year to incorporate many new academic changes in their classrooms. Many changes are mandates coming down from the State Department of Education and many are improvements for the district curriculum. Tuesday, May 6th, is the official Teacher Appreciation Day. May 5 through May 10 is designated nationally as Teacher Appreciation Week. Activities in RSD 17 schools are planned throughout this week.

The Board of Education is very grateful and appreciative of the accomplishments and efforts of our faculty this year. Thank you for all you do every day for the children of our district!

School Budget Referendum Vote

Tuesday, May 6th

Voting hours: 6 am-8 pm at your usual voting location

Your vote is important! Don't let someone else make your decisions!