

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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September 2014

District News

New Administrators

The District is pleased to welcome three new Administrators to our District leadership team:

- Ms. Donna Hayward is the new Principal of Haddam Killingworth High School. Ms. Hayward comes to us with a deep leadership experience and skills having served very successfully as the Principal at Rocky Hill and Suffield High Schools.
- Mr. Bryan Kerachsky is the new Principal of Haddam Elementary School. Mr. Kerachsky has been the RSD 17 K-12 English Language Arts Coordinator for the last two years where he led the implementation of Readers Workshop in grades K-8.
- Ms. Sheila Ward is the new Assistant Principal at Haddam Killingworth High School. Ms. Ward has been the RSD 17 K-12 Math-Science Coordinator where she has led the implementation of the Connecticut Core Standards in mathematics.
- Ms. Tonya Gorgone is the new Pupil Services Coordinator. Ms. Gorgone comes to us with a rich special education experience as an Administrator at LEARN and a special education teacher in Griswold.

We are very fortunate to have these talented and experienced educators as leaders in our District and look forward to the great work they will accomplish on behalf of our children.

Academic Achievement

Region 17 is pleased to announce that HKHS has received the highest scores (#1) in our DRG (Demographic Reference Group) in science on the 2014 CAPT and the 16th highest scores in the state. Congratulations to our HKHS students, faculty and administration.

Teacher of the Year

The RSD 17 Teacher of the year for 2013-14 is Ms. Janet Nelson, science teacher at HKMS. Ms. Nelson will be representing Region 17 at the state ceremony at the Bushnell Auditorium in November where she will be recognized along with all of the teachers of the year from school districts across Connecticut. Congratulations to Ms. Nelson and thank you for all that you do for our students!

Summer Facilities Work

This summer saw a great deal of repair and improvement to our school facilities in anticipation of the opening of school. Among the work accomplished was the painting of corridor walls, retiling floors, painting gymnasiums, a new scoreboard in the HKHS Fieldhouse, sidewalk and driveway repairs and a new parking lot at Haddam Elementary School to address safety concerns at parent drop off and pick up time.

Board News

Convocation – Opening of School Ceremony

Board members attended this annual opening day ceremony held August 26 in the auditorium of the Haddam-Killingworth High School. Welcoming comments came from the Selectwomen of both towns and from Sue Twachtman, Board of Education Chair. An inspirational, humorous speech by Teacher of the Year, Janet Nelson (HKMS), encouraged our new teachers and returning staff members. Superintendent Thiery's video presentation highlighted the creativity of students in all of our district schools. The Board of Education sincerely wishes everyone a happy and successful school year.

Negotiations

The Board and its subcommittee, Personnel and Evaluation, have been involved with three contract negotiations this year: the Custodians, the Support Staff, and the Nurses. Beginning in September the Teachers' Contract negotiations will be undertaken. A special thank you to Board member Karen Perry (Killingworth) who chairs this subcommittee.

The Policy Work of the Board

The policies of a school board encompass numerous areas: Missions and Goals, Community Relations, Administration, Business & Non-Instructional Operations, Personnel-Certified & Non-Certified, Students, Instruction, New Construction, and Bylaws of the Board. Amy Jacques-Purdy (Haddam) chairs this subcommittee. At this time a revision of the 6000 Series-Instruction is underway. Board Policies can be viewed at the Central Office. Some can be found on the RSD 17 website.

The Curriculum Subcommittee

This group will oversee the curriculum in the district. This is a new subcommittee and Dan Chase (Haddam) will serve as chair. The Curriculum Council that meets monthly with administrators, teachers, board members, and community members will still continue in its supervisory role.

Accessing Information:

- Website-The site address is www.rsd17.org.
- Facebook: You can receive interesting news about the District on the Region 17 Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/HKSchools>.
- The RSD 17 app-mobile site can be accessed through your cell phone.
- 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 8:00 am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm and on Thursdays at 11:00 am, 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm.