

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION – EDUCATION SESSION**  
**September 16, 2014**

*A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on September 16, 2014 in the Haddam-Killingworth Middle School Media Center. Board of Education Chair, Sue Twachtman, called the meeting to order at 7:36 PM.*

***Members Present:** Susan Dean, Kathy Brown, Becky Valenti, Dan Chase, Karen Perry, Amy Jacques-Purdy (arrived at 8:14 PM), and Sue Twachtman*

***Members Absent:** Joel D'Angelo, Jeannie Young, Michele Amendola and Brian Gamache*

***Also Present:** Superintendent of Schools, Howard Thiery and Board Clerk, Larissa Johnson*

***Visitors:** 11*

**Call to Order/Opening of Meeting**

*Board of Education Chair, Sue Twachtman called the meeting to order at 7:36 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.*

*Superintendent Thiery asked for a moment of silence to honor Judy Merola, a teacher at Haddam-Killingworth Middle School who passed away on September 14, 2014.*

*Superintendent Thiery also thanked Earl Decker for sharing his participation, stating that he met with Mr. Decker a few days after the previous Board of Education meeting to address some of the items brought up at that meeting by some of the visitors in attendance. Mr. Thiery said that he is always happy to hear from the community.*

**Board Liaison Reports**

**A. Curriculum Council Update**

*Sue Twachtman reported that the Curriculum Council meeting was cancelled.*

**B. Curriculum Subcommittee**

*Dan Chase updated the Board. The Curriculum Subcommittee met on September 8, 2014 and heard presentations from Bryan Kerachsky and Sheila Ward about the education plan in the District and where it is going. He said they reported that the District still has some areas of development and that they presented the Subcommittee with some materials that the Subcommittee members are still reviewing.*

**Old Business**

*None*

## New Business

### A. STN Video Field Trip to San Diego, CA, April 1-4, 2015

*Haddam-Killingworth Teacher, Chuck Lewis presented the STN Video Field Trip to the Board. This will be the 4th annual STN Video Competition. Mr. Lewis expects to take between 15-20 students, as this year, the competition coincides with Easter and Passover. The field trip is offered to Honors students. Last year, HK students took second place in the silent film competition. The students attending this year will need to miss three days of school, and Mr. Lewis requires that they have a minimum of a C in all classes in order to attend. He expects to take two chaperones in addition to himself. Riley Fitzgibbons, a student also spoke to the Board about her excitement to go on the trip. The cost is approximately \$1000 per student, and after fundraising, students typically pay about \$450-500 out-of-pocket to attend.*

*Karen Perry **MOVED** and Susan Dean **SECONDED** a motion to approve the STN Video Field Trip to San Diego, CA from April 1 through April 4, 2015. Motion passed 7-0-0 by the following votes:*

Michele Amendola	Absent	Amy Jacques-Purdy	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Kathy Brown	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Karen Perry	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Dan Chase	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Becky Valenti	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Joel D'Angelo	Absent	Jeannie Young	Absent
Susan Dean	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Sue Twachtman	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Brian Gamache	Absent		

### B. Annual Student Achievement Presentation

*Superintendent Thiery presented the Regional School District No. 17 Student Achievement 2013-2014 report. This year, students did not take the regular CAPT or CMT exams, thus the Administration had to find different criteria upon which to gauge student growth and achievement.*

*At the Elementary and Middle School levels, Mr. Thiery presented a chart displaying the "Percentage of Students Meeting Grade Level Reading Standards (DRP/TC)," in grades K-12, highlighting third and eighth grade, where 84% in third grade and 89% in eighth grade read at grade level in 2013 and 85% in third grade and 90% in eighth grade read at grade level in 2014. The overall range in students reading at grade level was between 76% and 91%.*

*For the Elementary School level, he presented a chart of "2nd Grade DRP Scores Since the Implementation of Reading Workshop," which showed the percentage of students reading at grade level at 64% in 2011 increasing each year to 83% in 2014. He also showed charts of Fact Fluency in both Addition and Subtraction in Grades 1 and 2, which showed growth, particularly in Grade 2 between 2013 and 2014, from 27% to 71% in addition and 11% to 43% in subtraction. He also showed charts of Fact Fluency in Multiplication and Division in Grades 3 and 4, and both charts showed growth in each grade level between 2013 and 2014. He then presented information on Elementary Writing based on the Pilot Teachers' College Writing Assessment, which showed 78% of students Grade Levels 1-4 writing at or above grade level in the area of Narrative Writing, 82% of students writing at or above grade level in the area of Expository Writing, and 75% of students writing at or above grade level in the area of Opinion/Persuasive Writing. A survey was conducted among elementary school parents which showed very high levels of satisfaction with the elementary schools in the area of safety, professionalism, the learning environment, the schools' academic performance, and communication.*

*For the Middle School level, students did take the Science CMT. At the Fifth Grade level, 96.1% of students performed at a level of proficiency or higher in 2014, ranking HKMS 14th in the state. At the Eighth Grade level 94.6% of students performed at level of proficiency or higher, ranking HKMS 23rd in*

the state. For literacy in Middle School, the goal set was that all 8th grade students will read on grade level. In 2013, 89% of eighth graders read at grade level and in 2014, 90% read at grade level. For writing, students displayed a high level of competencies, which each grade level (5th-8th) meeting each Writing Power Standard at 81%-96%. For mathematics, at the Fifth Grade level, students showed only 54% and 63% of students meeting the Power Standards for that grade. At the Sixth Grade level, 72% of students met the Power Standards and at 92% and 95% of students met the two Power Standards set for grade level. At the eighth grade level, for each grade level standard set for Pre-Algebra, 68%-73% of students met the standards and for Algebra, 89%-95% met the standards. For Student Activities, 54% of the student body participated in interscholastic sport and 75% of students participated in an afterschool activity. The Select Choir was awarded First Place and Best Overall for Music in the Parks Competition in 2014, and the Stage Band was awarded First Place and Best Overall for Music in the Parks Competition as well.

At the High School level, Superintendent Thiery shared the CAPT Science results for 2014. 94.5% of students performed at or above proficiency and 74.7% of students performed at or above goal in science in 2014, continuing a trend of increasing achievement in Science since 2011. HKMS was ranked 16th in the state for science on CAPT exam. Superintendent Thiery also presented information on students receiving post-graduate experience while attending HKHS. The percentage has been steadily increasing starting from 58% in 2012 to 94% in 2015, based on current enrollment. He also presented information on what types of post-graduate experiences students in the Class of 2014 participated in. He also presented AP Course Summary Data from 2011-2014, which showed 83.2% of students scoring a 3 or better on AP exams. He also reported on some of the new AP Courses being offered and the achievements made by students on some of the individual AP exams offered at HKHS.

Superintendent Thiery also presented on the post-secondary process at HKHS. He shared average SAT and ACT scores for 2011-2014. He also reported on Career and Technical Information, providing information on some of the other career-oriented course offerings at HKHS. He also provided information college applications, acceptances and attendance. For the Class of 2014, 11.17% of applications were made to colleges ranked most competitive and 6.46% of total acceptances were in the same category.

In the "Celebrations" portion of his presentation, Superintendent Thiery said that 90% of the students went onto a 2- or 4-year school, 49% of students were accepted to colleges rated between Very Competitive and Most Competitive, 94% of the Class of 2015 will have college or career experience before graduating, 40+ students completed internships in 2013-2014, and 42% of HKHS students enrolled in at least one fine arts class in 2014-2015. He also had numerous points for celebration in the areas of Numeracy and Literacy, including #1 in the DRG and #16 in the State of Connecticut for CAPT Science scores, and in the implementation year of AP Human Geography, 81% of students enrolled earned an 81% or more. He also shared several achievements in the area of the arts. For Internal and External Community Celebrations, Superintendent Thiery said that the class of 2014 completed 13,601.25 community service hours and in 2013, the Holiday Telethon raised \$15,000 for Camp Rising Sun. He also said that the Field Hockey Team and Girls' Indoor and Outdoor Track won the Shoreline Championship, the District had two Class S State Champion Wrestlers, the Boys' Cross Country team were state champions, and twenty-six athletes received All State Honors.

He also presented feedback from the Student/Parent Survey give to high school parents and students. Seventy-four percent of parents felt there were high levels of communication early in the school year. Students agree that counselors are helpful with post-secondary planning, and students feel that the community is welcoming to newcomers and is a safe school community.

The Board discussed the presentation and asked questions of the Superintendent and some of the administrators present about the material presented and the presentation was discussed at some length.

**C. Middle School Guidance Counselor**

Board Chair Sue Twachtman introduced the proposal that an additional 0.5 FTE guidance counselor be added to the Middle School. Haddam-Killingworth Middle School Principal Mim Wagner and Director of Pupil Services Tracy Whaples were present to discuss the needs for an additional guidance counselor at the Middle School. The Board discussed this proposal at some length. The proposal had been brought to the Board during budget season including discussing the current counselor caseloads at each grade level at the Middle School, and comparing overall caseload averages at other districts. Several Board member expressed concern that students at the Middle School may not be getting the time with the counselors they need due to overwhelming case-loads and also that it was an important part of the District’s overall response to the safety concerns raised last year in response to the Sandy Hook tragedy. Board Chair Twachtman stated that the Board did a lot with regards to security, but that a huge component is mental health and that she is not sure the Board has done enough with regard to mental health. Karen Perry said that the need for an additional guidance counselor at the Middle School has been there for a long time and that members of the community have been expressing that there is a need in this area as well. Dan Chase asked that the Board consider the financial ramifications long-term carefully. Becky Valenti also expressed concern that the school’s overall population will be decreasing over time. The Board further discussed the necessity of additional guidance, based on the increasing needs students have.

Karen Perry **MOVED** and Amy Jacques-Purdy **SECONDED** a motion to increase the guidance counselor position at Haddam-Killingworth Middle School from 0.5 to 1.0 full-time equivalency. Motion passed 6-1-0 by the following votes:

Michele Amendola	Absent	Amy Jacques-Purdy	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Kathy Brown	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Karen Perry	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Dan Chase	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Becky Valenti	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Joel D’Angelo	Absent	Jeannie Young	Absent
Susan Dean	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Sue Twachtman	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Brian Gamache	Absent		

Karen Perry **MOVED** and Amy Jacques-Purdy **SECONDED** a motion to add an agenda item to New Business: Emergency Capital Request. Motion passed 7-0-0 by the following votes:

Michele Amendola	Absent	Amy Jacques-Purdy	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Kathy Brown	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Karen Perry	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Dan Chase	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Becky Valenti	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Joel D’Angelo	Absent	Jeannie Young	Absent
Susan Dean	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Sue Twachtman	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Brian Gamache	Absent		

**D. Emergency Capital Request**

Superintendent Thiery presented a request to purchase a new Condensate Tank Boiler Return Feed System for Haddam Elementary School out of the Capital Fund. It is a necessary part of the heating system and the existing part at the elementary school is no longer repairable. The item will take about three weeks to be delivered and installed. The cost to replace this part is estimated at \$10,940.

Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Becky Valenti **SECONDED** a motion to purchase a Condensate Tank Boiler Return Feed System for Haddam Elementary School at a cost not to exceed \$10,940. Motion passed 7-0-0 by the following votes:

Michele Amendola	Absent	Amy Jacques-Purdy	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Kathy Brown	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Karen Perry	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Dan Chase	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Becky Valenti	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Joel D'Angelo	Absent	Jeannie Young	Absent
Susan Dean	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Sue Twachtman	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Brian Gamache	Absent		

### Adjournment

Dan Chase **MOVED** and Amy Jacques-Purdy **SECONDED** a motion to adjourn. Motion passed 7-0-0 by the following votes:

Michele Amendola	Absent	Amy Jacques-Purdy	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Kathy Brown	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Karen Perry	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Dan Chase	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Becky Valenti	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Joel D'Angelo	Absent	Jeannie Young	Absent
Susan Dean	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Sue Twachtman	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Brian Gamache	Absent		

The meeting adjourned at 10:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Larissa B. Johnson  
Board Clerk

Approval: Becky Valenti Date: OCT 7<sup>th</sup> 2014  
Becky Valenti, Secretary