

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**April 3, 2014**

*A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on April 3, 2014 in the Central Office Board Room. Board of Education Chair, Sue Twachtman, called the meeting to order at 6:36 PM.*

**Members Present:** Michele Amendola (arrived at 6:39), Susan Dean, Kathy Brown, Becky Valenti, Karen Perry, Dan Chase, Brian Gamache, Joel D'Angelo, Amy Jacques-Purdy, Jeannie Young, and Sue Twachtman

**Members Absent:** None

**Also Present:** Superintendent of Schools, Howard Thiery and Director of Fiscal Operations, Martha Vaughn, and Interim Board Clerk Dawn MacLeod

**Visitors:** 7

**Call to Order/Opening of Meeting**

*Board of Education Chair, Sue Twachtman called the meeting to order at 6:36 PM.*

**Discussion of the Superintendent's Proposed 2014-2015 Budget**

*The Board discussed the Superintendent's Proposed 2014-2015 budget at length. Joe Regan from Willis presented the results of the insurance renewal market study with the Board. The Board discussed the differences between responses provided by Anthem and CIGNA at length, including the overall coverage of health care providers in the different networks, the difference in service fees, stop loss premiums, and expected claims. The total cost comparison report presented by Willis showed a savings of \$781,000 switching carriers from Anthem to CIGNA with over \$200,000 of that difference being a decrease in administrative fees. The Board asked if CIGNA's network would be the same as Anthems. Mr. Regan stated that CIGNA's network would likely match Anthem's network by approximately 98%. He stated that the prescription drug tiers would change from carrier to carrier. He also stated that a disruption analysis was being worked on. Mr. Regan discussed how CIGNA has changed their business practices and is striving to be a leader in municipal health care service. The Board suggested contacting other school districts who recently changed to CIGNA and ask them if the transition went well and if they were saving the amount that was estimated for them to save. Mr. Regan also discussed various options for stop loss protection. Willis put stop loss insurance out to market study as well and Munich Re-Insurance had come back with a more competitive plan for independent and aggregate stop loss protection. The Board discussed the insurance renewals at length.*

*Amy Jacques-Purdy **MOVED** and Kathy Brown **SECONDED** a motion to change the health care carrier from Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield to Cigna beginning July 1, 2014 with Munich reinsurance. Motion passed 10-0-1 by the following votes:*

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

*The Board discussed at length about the World Language program at the elementary schools and whether to invest or divest in the program. The Board talked about the sense of the community in approval of the elementary Spanish program. Conversation will be discussed for future budgetary purposes pertaining to the Elementary Schools and Middle School World Language program.*

*The Board talked about the classroom structure of the upcoming fifth and sixth grades for the school year 2014-2015. Middle School principal Mim Wagner stated that moving the fifth grade teacher to the sixth grade would stabilize the sixth grade Teams.*

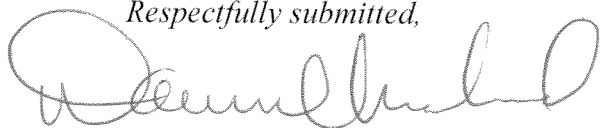
*The Board discussed at length the salary increase for the Head Nurse/Supervisor of the district. Superintendent Thiery provided the Board with a cost analysis of the Head Nurse position to align the salary with other Head Nurses in the surrounding school districts. The Head Nurse works as an elementary school nurse and supervises four nurses throughout the district.*

*The Board talked about the fiscal responsibilities of the Board and the proposed changes to the Superintendents proposed budget to reduce the budget. Board Chair, Sue Twachtman stated that the Board has done good work to get the budget to a responsible number.*

### **Adjournment**

*Board Chair, Sue Twachtman called for the meeting to adjourn at 9:55 PM.*

*Respectfully submitted,*



Dawn MacLeod  
Interim Board Clerk

Approval: Becky Valenti Date: 6-3-2014  
Becky Valenti, Secretary