

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION – EDUCATION SESSION
MEETING
September 21, 2021

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on September 21, 2021 in the Haddam-Killingworth High School Conference Room and via Google Hangouts Meet Video Conference (Live Stream). Board of Education Chair, Suzanne Sack, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Members Present: *Joanne Nesti, Prem Aithal (Arrived Via Remote 7:20 p.m.), Joel D'Angelo, Jennifer Favalora, Eileen Blewett (Arrived 7:13 p.m.), Kathleen Zandi, Brenda Buzzi, Peter Sonski and Suzanne Sack*

Members Absent: *Dr. Nelson Rivera and Shawna Goldfarb*

Also Present: *Interim Superintendent of Schools, JeanAnn Paddyfote, Director of Finance, Ann Adriani, Director of Operations, John Mercier*

Online Visitors: *40*

The Board meetings are videotaped and posted on the RSD17 Website under Board of Education, BOE Meeting Schedules & Minutes for public viewing.

<http://reflect-hktv.cablecast.tv/CablecastPublicSite/show/931?channel=1>

Call to Order/Opening of Meeting:

Board of Education Chair, Suzanne Sack, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited

Report from Chairman about new BOE Meeting Format and Process Under the Governor's Order:

Board Chair, Sack, went over the Governor's Order regarding Board meetings to be held in-person and also remotely. Board meeting is not a public meeting.

Public Comment:

Kimberley Barris from Killingworth addressed the Board. She spoke about the District's Quarantine Process and would like to have it reduced when a student has a negative covid test or has an option for remote learning during that time.

Board Secretary, Jennifer Favalora, briefly went over the Public Comment email process.

Interim Superintendent, Dr. JeanAnn Paddyfote, spoke on the Quarantining Process.

Board Committee Reports and Future Meetings

A. Facilities Subcommittee

Peter Sonski updated the Board. He spoke about some of the schools needing emergency repairs/expenses, pit cover at the Field House has been repaired, District Facilities Assessment has been done onsite and the report will be presented to the Board on October 18th.

B. Finance Subcommittee

Eileen Blewett updated the Board. She spoke on HK Cubs Programs, Unaffiliated Contracts, Covid Expenses, Grants, Lunch Program Funds, ARP ESSER Funds and Health Insurance Funds from Staff not returning for the 21-22 School year.

C. Policy Subcommittee

Joanne Nesti updated the Board. She spoke about how the Committee met and is working on the 6000 Series. She advised that some policies that are in place will be deleted and some will be kept.

D. Communications Subcommittee

No Report.

E. Personnel and Evaluation Subcommittee

No Report.

F. Curriculum Subcommittee

Kathy Zandi updated the Board. She spoke about how the Committee discussed Curriculum work that happened during the summer, Summer School Programs and continuing some of those post-Covid, and Update on Equity Work.

G. Strategic Planning Subcommittee

Prem Aithal updated the Board. He spoke about the September 27-29th Focus Groups, and the November Community Survey.

. Board Liaison Reports:

A. Healthy Communities – Healthy Kids Council

Jen Favalora updated the Board. She spoke about the Executive Director's resignation, gave an update on the Pumpkin Run and the agency working on a new website and a Strategic Plan.

B. LEARN

Jen Favalora updated the Board. She said the LEARN is looking at a new rebrand so Community members understand what resources they can offer to the Communities. Also, she spoke on their app they created to collect vaccination cards, and Opening of Schools update.

C. Park & Recreation

No Report.

D. Haddam Board of Selectmen

Jennifer Favalora updated the Board. She spoke about how Brainerd Library Reopened, Health District is encouraging Flu-Shots this year, tracking covid numbers and Bridge will be undergoing construction causing delays/traffic.

E. Killingworth Board of Selectmen

Kathy Zandi updated the Board. She spoke about Selectmen discussing Town Business and discussed some questions that the First Selectman raised at the meeting.

Superintendent's Report

A. Schools and Student Transportation

Dr. JeanAnn Paddyfote updated the Board. She spoke about holding Curriculum Night virtually, District Covid Dashboard and gave an update on Student Bus Transportation.

B. Professional Development and Evaluation Committee (PDEC)

Dr. JeanAnn Paddyfote updated the Board. The Committee decided to adopt the PDEC and she will bring it back to the Board on October 5th. This would be an amendment to the original document.

C. Legislative Update

Dr. JeanAnn Paddyfote updated the Board. She spoke on Executive Orders: 13D, 13F and 13G, and number of District staff vaccinated and the process of the others who decide not to get vaccinated.

Director of Fiscal Operations A. Budget Transfers

Ann Adriani updated the Board. She spoke about the one Budget Transfer and a motion was brought to the table.

*Brenda Buzzi **MOVED** and Eileen Blewett **SECONDED** a motion to approve the Budget Transfer of \$33,250 from Professional Services OT-PT to COTA Special Education Salary.*

Motion passed unanimously 9-0-0 by the following Votes:

Kathleen Zandi	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>
Peter Sonski	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>
Dr. Nelson Rivera	Absent		
Eileen Blewett	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>
Joanne Nesti	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>

Shawna Goldfarb	Absent		
Jennifer Favalora	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>
Joel D'Angelo	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>
Brenda Buzzi	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>
Prem Aithal	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>
Suzanne Sack	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>

Old Business:

Joanne updated the Board. She went through each policy and spoke briefly on the informational items under B.

A. Policies for Second Read and Approval

1. 5160/3541 Transportation

2. 5131.911 Bullying Prevention and Intervention

3. 5125 Non-Discrimination (Students)

4. 5145 Student Privacy

5. 5145.5 Policy Regarding Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972- Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Students)

B. Items of Information

1. Administrative Regulation Regarding Discrimination Complaints (Students)

2. Safe School Climate Plan

3. Administrative Regulation Regarding Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972- Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Students)

4. Immunizations

5. Health Assessments

Joel D'Angelo **MOVED** and Kathleen Zandi **SECONDED** a motion to approve Transportation Policy #5160/3541, Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy #5131.911, Non-Discrimination (Students) Policy #5152, Student Privacy Policy #5145 with an amendment to remove "At the Beginning of the School Year" under Section II, B, 2.b. and Policy #5145.5 Regarding Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972-Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Students)

Motion passed unanimously 9-0-0 by the following Votes:

Kathleen Zandi	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	Shawna Goldfarb	Absent
Peter Sonski	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	Jennifer Favalora	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Nelson Rivera	Absent			Joel D'Angelo	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Eileen Blewett	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	Brenda Buzzi	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Joanne Nesti	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	Prem Aithal	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
				Suzanne Sack	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>

New Business:

A. Board By-Law 9311 for First Read and Approval of Three Policies

B. First Read and Approval of Policies

1. 6116 Parent-Teacher Communication

2. 6172.6 Credit for Online Courses and Remote Learning

3. 9325 Meeting Conduct

C. Item of Information

1. Administrative Procedure: Limited Exemptions from In-Person School and Eligibility for and Provision for Continued Educational Opportunities During the 2021-2022 School Year

Joanne Nesti **MOVED** and Brenda Buzzi **SECONDED** a motion to suspend By-Law 9311 for this meeting.

Motion passed unanimously 9-0-0 by the following Votes:

Kathleen Zandi	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	Shawna Goldfarb	Absent
Peter Sonski	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	Jennifer Favalora	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Nelson Rivera	Absent			Joel D'Angelo	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Eileen Blewett	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	Brenda Buzzi	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Joanne Nesti	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	Prem Aithal	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
				Suzanne Sack	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>

Joanne Nesti **MOVED** and Kathleen Zandi **SECONDED** a motion to approve Parent-Teacher Communication Policy #6116, Credit for Online Courses and Remote Learning Policy #6172.6 and Meeting Conduct Bylaw #9325.

Motion passed unanimously 9-0-0 by the following Votes:

Kathleen Zandi	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	Shawna Goldfarb	Absent
Peter Sonski	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	Jennifer Favalora	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Nelson Rivera	Absent			Joel D'Angelo	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Eileen Blewett	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	Brenda Buzzi	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Joanne Nesti	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	Prem Aithal	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
				Suzanne Sack	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>

D. New Superintendent

Board Chair, Suzanne Sack, updated Board. The New Superintendent of Schools, Jeffrey Whibey, will be joining the District on Oct 12th. She spoke about coming up with a transition plan together with possibly delegating it to the Personnel and Evaluation Subcommittee. The Board had discussion in length regarding same.

The Consensus of the Board is to delegate to the Personnel and Evaluation Subcommittee to create a transition plan of the interim and new Superintendent and bring it back to the Board for approval.

Board Discussion: *The Board discussed plans for in-person meetings with public attendance.*

Adjournment:

Board Chair, Sack, called for the meeting to adjourn at 8:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie Sciascia

Board Clerk

Approval: _____ Date: _____
Jennifer Favalora, Secretary