

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
November 10, 2020

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on November 10, 2020 in the Haddam-Killingworth Intermediate/Middle School Cafeteria and via Google Hangouts Meet Video Conference (Live Stream) for public viewing. Board of Education Chair, Suzanne Sack, called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

Members Present: *Brenda Buzzi (Via Remote), Peter Sonski, Dr. Nelson Rivera, Jennifer Favalora, Eileen Blewett, Shawna Goldfarb (Via Remote-Arrived at 7:04 PM), Prem Aithal, Joanne Nesti, Kathleen Zandi and Suzanne Sack*

Members Absent: *Joel D'Angelo*

Also Present: *Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Holly Hageman, Director of Finance, Ann Adriani, Director of Operations, John Mercier, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth High School, Donna Hayward, Assistant Principal of Haddam-Killingworth High School, Adam Apicella, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth Middle School, Dolores Bates, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth Intermediate School, Eric Larson, Principal of Burr District Elementary School, Brienne Whidden, Principal of Killingworth Elementary School, Dennis Reed, Curriculum Coordinators, Heather Rigati and Jennifer Beermuender, Student Representatives, Matthew Jennings and Hannah Laird-Hoover, and Board Clerk, Jamie Sciascia*

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

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1VIRexbTzJIYypQIRCUSN8a8D_V1njTdQ/view?usp=sharing

Call to Order/Opening of Meeting: *Board of Education Chair, Suzanne Sack, called the meeting to order at 7:03 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, updated the Board. She briefly went over the BOE Meeting Format under the Governor's Order which are now being held in-person and remotely.

Public Comment: *None.*

Approval of Minutes

- A.** Approval of Minutes from the October 6, 2020 Board of Education Meeting
- B.** Approval of Minutes from the October 6-16, 2020 Board of Education – Special Meeting
- C.** Approval of Minutes from the October 20, 2020 Board of Education – Education Session Meeting

*Prem Aithal **MOVED** and Dr. Nelson Rivera **SECONDED** a motion to accept Minutes A- C as presented.*

Motion passed unanimously by Consent from all Board Members.

Report from Student Representatives

Matthew Jennings updated the Board. He spoke about High School sports: Volleyball, Girls and Boys Soccer and Cross Country.

Hannah Laird-Hoover updated the Board. She spoke about Mental Health Awareness at the High School and resources available regarding the same.

Student Representative, Matthews Jennings, left the meeting at approximately 7:15 p.m.

*Eileen Blewett **MOVED** and Joanne Nesti **SECONDED** a motion to add an item to the agenda relating to Nursing Staff.*

*Motion was **WITHDRAWN** by Eileen Blewett and Joanne Nesti. Board Chair, Sack, stated the item will be discussed under the Personnel and Evaluation Report set forth below.*

*Eileen Blewett **MOVED** and Prem Aithal **SECONDED** a motion to move up on the Agenda 10A, School Continuous Improvement Plans (CIPs): 2020-21 Presentations set forth under New Business.*

Motion passed unanimously by Consent from all Board Members

New Business:

A. School Continuous Improvement Plans (CIPs): 2020-21 Presentations

Jennifer Beermuender and Heather Rigatti presented an overview of early fall student data and action steps to adjust and accelerate instruction and learning.

Principal Brienne Whidden presented the 2020-2021 Continuous Improvement Plan for Burr District Elementary School.

Principal Dennis Reed presented the 2020-2021 Continuous Improvement-Plan for Killingworth Elementary School.

Principal Eric Larson presented the 2020-2021 Continuous Improvement Plan for Haddam-Killingworth Intermediate School.

Principal Dolores Bates presented the 2020-2021 Continuous Improvement Plan for Haddam-Killingworth Middle School.

Principal Donna Hayward and Assistant Principal Adam Apicella presented the 2020-2021 Continuous Improvement Plan for Haddam-Killingworth High School

A detailed presentation for each school will be uploaded to the RSD 17 website later on this evening for public viewing.

The Curriculum Coordinators as well as District Principals, and Student Representative, Hannah Laird-Hoover, left the meeting.

Board Committee Reports

A. Personnel and Evaluation Subcommittee

Board Chair, Sack, updated the Board. She spoke briefly about how it is the Personnel and Evaluation Subcommittee's recommendation to hire a full time LPN to replace the current .5 nurse position in the Intermediate/Middle School Levels. No formal motion was needed.

There was unanimous Consent from all Board Members.

B. Strategic Planning Subcommittee

Prem Aithal updated the Board. He spoke about recently holding A Vision of the Graduate Kickoff, on November 17th holding a Committee meeting with the entire Board and a scheduled retreat on December 10th to discuss the Committee's findings.

Board Liaison Reports

A. Healthy Communities – Healthy Kids Council

Shawna Goldfarb updated the Board. She spoke about how much HKY&FS and the District have been coordinating on wellness in the Community. The Pumpkin Run was a huge success and raised over \$7,000.

Director of Finance, Ann Adriani Left the Meeting

B. LEARN

Jennifer Favalora updated the Board. She spoke about the Teacher Residency Program expanding with more diverse backgrounds across the District starting in the Spring of 2021, and the challenges that districts are facing due to the pandemic with substitute teachers.

C. Park & Recreation

No Report.

D. Haddam Board of Selectmen

Jennifer Favalora updated the Board. She spoke about the Voter Turnout in the Haddam Community, Covid cases rising in Haddam in October and briefly went over Covid testing sites and flu shot centers in the area for the Community. The BOS is interested in the District's Special Education Budget, Covid related expenses for the District's Budget and expressed their appreciation to all teachers, staff and administrators for all their hard work and for going above and beyond.

E. Killingworth Board of Selectmen

No Report.

Old Business:

A. Update on School Model/Operations

Superintendent Dr. Hageman updated the Board. She spoke about operating in a full in-person module at the K-8 Levels and a Hybrid Module at the High School Levels. She also touched on the Covid cases on the rise in the Community.

B. BOE Bylaws (9000 Series)

Joanne Nesti updated the Board. She briefly spoke about some changes that were brought to her attention by Attorney Floyd Dugas and went over same with the Board.

*Joanne Nesti **MOVED** and Eileen Blewett **SECONDED** a motion to amend the 9000 Series Bylaws as recommended.*

Motion passed unanimously 10-0-0 by the following Votes:

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

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

Approval of Minutes:

The donations on the Consent Agenda are made to the school system as a whole, and the Superintendent may direct any monies to specific schools or programs at her discretion.

- A. Acceptance of a donation of 2500 Masks from the Rotary Club of Southern Connecticut a/k/a Nutmeg Rotary and will become part of the supply to distribute to the students and staff of RSD17.
- B. 5000 Series Policies: Bullying and Sexual Harassment
- C. Update from the Director of Operations: Fieldhouse Project and BES/KES Oil Tanks

*Peter Sonski **MOVED** and Prem Aithal **SECONDED** a motion to accept Item A-C listed on the Consent Agenda with great appreciation.*

Motion passed unanimously 10-0-0 by the following Votes:

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

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

New Business

B. Personnel Matter

Board Chair, Sack, updated the Board. She spoke about a third level grievance brought forth on a potential contract violation of the HKEA Contract.

Board Chair, Sack, asked for the Board's consent to delegate to the Personnel and Evaluation Committee to work on the grievance and set up a date and ruling and come back to update the Board accordingly.

There was unanimous Consent of the Board.

From the Superintendent:

A. Legislative Update: *No Report.*

B. Personnel Report

Superintendent Dr. Hageman advised that the Personnel Report has been provided in the BOE Packet. She stated if anyone has any questions on the report, please feel free to contact her directly.

C. Enrollment Report

Superintendent Dr. Hageman advised that the Enrollment Report has been provided in the BOE Packet. She stated if anyone has any questions on the report, please feel free to contact her directly.

The Board briefly discussed sharing the District's ADM with respective Towns so they can plan accordingly. Also, Remote Learning in the District is holding around 11%.

From the Director of Fiscal Operations

A. Budget Transfers: *None.*

Board Discussion/News/Suggestions: *None.*

Board Chair, Suzanne Sack, called for the meeting to adjourn at 9:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jamie Sciascia
Board Clerk*

Approval: _____ Date: _____
Jennifer Favalora, Secretary