

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**SEPTEMBER 1, 2020**

*A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on September 1, 2020 via Haddam-Killingworth High School Lower Media Center and Google Hangouts Meet Video Conference (Live Stream) for public viewing. Board of Education Chair, Suzanne Sack, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.*

**Members Present:** *Brenda Buzzi, Peter Sonski, Joel D'Angelo, Dr. Nelson Rivera, Jennifer Favalora, Shawna Goldfarb, Eileen Blewett, Prem Aithal, Joanne Nesti, Kathleen Zandi (Arrived at 7:08 PM) and Suzanne Sack*

**Members Absent:** *None.*

**Also Present:** *Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Holly Hageman, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth High School, Donna Hayward, Director of Athletics, Lynne Flint, Director of Operations, John Mercier, 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/1gfCAZmsr4Ug4aUgrDJ\\_oJ8aSqPMIU2XL/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gfCAZmsr4Ug4aUgrDJ_oJ8aSqPMIU2XL/view?usp=sharing)

**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, 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:**

*Julie Bruno of Haddam addressed the Board. She spoke about how she would like to have sports played at the Middle School.*

*Carol Cavrell of Haddam addressed the Board. He spoke about how he believes that some Middle School sports can be played safely in the Fall and asked to reconsider cancelling all sports.*

*Melissa Cavrell of Haddam addressed the Board. She spoke about how she believes Middle School sports should be allowed to play and stressed the importance of them to her children and all children in the District.*

*Scott Perry of Killingworth of addressed the Board. He spoke about how he feels Killingworth High School Football should be played this year and children could suffer emotional, mental or even physical health if sports are taken away.*

*Helena Erskine of Killingworth addressed the Board. She spoke about how she feels that Middle School sports should be played this year since it provides an educational, developmental, and social avenue for children.*

*Linda and Todd Butler of Killingworth addressed the Board. They spoke about how they believe excluding Middle School sports this year would do more harm than good and could even hurt children's self-esteem.*

**Cougar Pride: Recognition of Amy Perry of Killingworth and the HK Community Mask-Makers:**  
*Superintendent Dr. Hageman updated the Board. She gave recognition to Amy Perry and the HK Community Mask-Makers for volunteering their time for each student within the District to be able to have one handmade blue and gold mask including all staff members. A second round of masks will follow shortly with a different design. The Mask-Makers are: Tracy Plumley, Ree Plumley, Suzie Cappucci, Jenny Law, Kathy Roelsfsen, Katy Sakash, Mary Carrellas, Joan Rand, Susan Gareis Zeidler, Ginny Murphy, Susan Lane, Ellen Caprio, Nancy Moran, Laura Roman, Pamela McManus, Claudette Lagasse, Evelyn Garrett, Terrie Shimoda, Lee Kozlowski, Nancy MacFarlane, Judith Goldfarb, Colleen Bell, Pat Mainetti, Carol Gwilliams, Ellen Faller, Heather Greenway, Shirley Simms, Kate Rizzo, Laurie, Mongello, Donna DiGregorio, Shelley Sprague, Yvonee Furth, JoAnne Poulsen, Mary Todzia, Lynne Lwanicki, Mary Aduskevich, Kathleen Zandi, Carol Martins, Linda Talbott, Kecia Hemphill & Valley Bible Church Ladies, Rebecca Peterson, Margaret Zarcone, Sami Pach, Scarlett Storm, Amanda Cassidy, Lauren Heath, Dustin & Rebecca Rist-Brown, Xan Sera Blair, Sharon Timek, Amy Perry and Jennifer Libero (ear cozies).*

*Amy Perry updated the Board. She spoke about how she started making masks in April, with her grandmother's sewing machine, and with the help of a group of volunteers and donations, on August 10th 2461 masks were delivered to the District with an additional 250 blue and gold set aside as spares, and 1900/2000 different design colored masks are in the process of being made and collected for a second set to the students.*

*Brenda Buzzi **MOVED** and Prem Aithal **SECONDED** a motion to move up on the Agenda Item 10A, and 10a Status/Update, Discussion, and Next Steps on Upcoming School Year, (a.) Presentation of HK Sports Programs and 10B, Update on Board Sub-Committee Membership, Reports and Structure set forth under New Business.*

*Motion passed unanimously by Consent from all Board Members.*

## **New Business:**

### **A. Status/Update, Discussion, and Next Steps on Upcoming School Year**

*Superintendent Dr. Hageman updated the Board. She briefly talked about how the Opening of School was successful, and how kids and teachers were extremely excited to come back together and see each other. She also spoke about Technology, Internet Band-Width and Transportation.*

*Superintendent Dr. Hageman shared a "Welcome Back to School Video" to the Board and Community viewers.*

#### **a. Presentation of HK Sports Programs**

*Lynne Flint updated the Board. She spoke about the DPH's recommendations and CIAC Guidelines regarding Fall sports. High School Fall Sports have started at a no contact level, 6ft apart with masks unless engaged in physical activity. DPH recommends Football change to a 7v7 game and Volleyball has to be played outdoors. She briefly went over the other areas of sports that they are comfortable to let students start with. Further information is expected by September 20<sup>th</sup> and the District is following the DPH Guidelines. She further touched on Safety Protocols, Locker Room Use, Transportation, and a self-monitoring system for Covid-19.*

**B. Update on Board Sub-Committee Membership, Reports and Structure**

*Board Chair, Sack, updated the Board. She spoke about Prem Aithal being the new member of the Finance Committee since she will be stepping away. She further recommended to the Board creating a Strategic Planning Committee, subcommittee as a whole of the Board. and chaired by Prem Aithal. A motion was brought to the table.*

*Shawna Goldfarb **MOVED** and Joanne Nesti **SECONDED** a motion to establish a Strategic Planning Committee, subcommittee as a whole of the Board of Education, chaired by Board Member, Prem Aithal.*

*Motion passed 11-0-0 by the following Votes:*

Kathleen Zandi	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u>   </u>	A <u>   </u>	Shawna Goldfarb	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u>   </u>	A <u>   </u>
Peter Sonski	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u>   </u>	A <u>   </u>	Jennifer Favalora	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u>   </u>	A <u>   </u>
Dr. Nelson Rivera	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u>   </u>	A <u>   </u>	Joel D'Angelo	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u>   </u>	A <u>   </u>
Eileen Blewett	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u>   </u>	A <u>   </u>	Brenda Buzzi	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u>   </u>	A <u>   </u>
Joanne Nesti	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>				

**Approval of Minutes:**

**A. Approval of Minutes from the August 18, 2020 Board of Education – Education Session Meeting**

*Joel D'Angelo **MOVED** and Joanne Nesti **SECONDED** a motion to approve Minutes A as presented.*

*Motion passed 10-0-1 by the following Votes:*

Kathleen Zandi	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u>   </u>	A <u>   </u>	Shawna Goldfarb	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u>   </u>	A <u>   </u>
Peter Sonski	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u>   </u>	A <u>   </u>	Jennifer Favalora	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u>   </u>	A <u>   </u>
Dr. Nelson Rivera	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u>   </u>	A <u>   </u>	Joel D'Angelo	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u>   </u>	A <u>   </u>
Eileen Blewett	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u>   </u>	A <u>   </u>	Brenda Buzzi	YES <u>   </u>	NO <u>   </u>	A <u>√</u>
Joanne Nesti	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>				

**Board Committee Reports and Future Meetings**

**A. Facilities Subcommittee**

*Board Vice Chair, Sonski, updated the Board. He spoke about the adjustments made to the school as far as cleaning protocols due to Covid-19. He touched on how The Public Building Committee is continuing renovations to the HK Field House Project, and also continuing the work with the removal and installation of the Underground Fuel Tanks at Burr and KES. He further spoke about a roof leak in the Art Room at Burr and some leaks at KES due to heating equipment. Lastly, Vice Chair, Sonski, spoke briefly about the removal of KES lower playground equipment due to safety concerns as well as the preschool playground at BES.*

**B. Finance Subcommittee**

*No Report. The next meeting of the Finance Subcommittee will be held Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m.*

**C. Policy Subcommittee**

*Joanne Nesti updated the Board. She spoke about the Committee's work with the Covid-19 Policy Addendum and continuing more work on Section 9000 Bylaws and Section 5000. A new timeline will be created for review of all policies.*

**D. Communications Subcommittee**

*Jennifer Favalora updated the Board. She spoke about the Article that was published about Distance Learning which was well received by the Community. Shawna Goldfarb will be putting together a piece about all the summer projects that have been completed. Jen stated that the monthly summaries submitted to both the Town of Killingworth and Town of Haddam were well received, the Facebook page that was created to bring communication and positive news to the Community now has 490 followers and also touched briefly on the Board Minute process changing from two sets to one full set and a link provided in the minutes to access the meeting video for further viewing.*

**E. Personnel and Evaluation Subcommittee**

*No Report. Board Chair, Sack, stated the Subcommittee is in the middle of Contract Negotiations with bargaining units and being held in a non-meeting.*

**Board Liaison Reports**

**A. Healthy Communities – Healthy Kids Council**

*Shawna Goldfarb updated the Board. She spoke on the HK Youth and Family Services dealing with the Covid-19 and bringing forth wellness to the Community, holding a lot of fundraising activities due to the reduction of funds like the free haircuts at the Firehouse, bake-sale, school supply donations as well as a Pumpkin Run scheduled in October. Next Saturday, September 12th Da Vinci in Haddam is holding a fundraiser for delivery.*

**B. LEARN**

*No Report.*

**B. Park & Recreation**

*Vice Chair, Sonski, updated the Board. He spoke about how the Park and Recreation Department continued their programs throughout the summer and will continue to provide them to families throughout the school year.*

**C. Haddam Board of Selectmen**

*No Report. Brenda Buzzi said the Communications Summary Report was well received by the Board of Selectmen. Brenda Buzzi will be stepping away from Liaisonship due to a new endeavor she is undertaking.*

**D. Killingworth Board of Selectmen**

*No Report. Kathleen Zandi said the Communications Summary Report was well received by the Board of Selectmen.*

**Consent Agenda**

*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 \$105.00 from Bright Funds to be deposited into the Student Activity Account. Submitted by Brienne Whidden, Principal of Burr District Elementary School.

Brenda Buzzi **MOVED** and Kathleen Zandi **SECONDED** a motion to accept Item A listed on the Consent Agenda with great appreciation.

Motion passed unanimously by Consent from all Board Members.

**Old Business**

**A. Report from Director of Operations/Facilities:**

**a. Update on the Field House Project**

**b. Update on BES and KES Oil Tank Projects**

*Vice Chair, Sonski, updated the Board above under Board Committee Reports and Future Meetings, Item A: Facilities Subcommittee*

**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. Superintendent Dr. Hageman spoke briefly on current Enrollment and an increase in students either moving out of town, attending private school or homeschooling.*

**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 9:09 PM.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Jamie Sciascia*

*Board Clerk*

Approval: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Jennifer Favalora, Secretary*