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

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on December 1, 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 7:01 PM.

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

Members Absent: Also Present: *Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Holly Hageman, Director of Operations, John Mercier, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth High School, Donna Hayward, Student Representatives, Matthew Jennings and Hannah Laird-Hoover, and Interim Board Clerk, Pamela Hensel*

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/1VIRexbTzJ1YypQ1RCUSN8a8D_V1njTdQ/view?usp=sharing

Call to Order/Opening of Meeting: *Board of Education Chair, Suzanne Sack, called the meeting to order at 7:01 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.*

Report from Student Representatives
Matthew Jennings updated the Board noting that fall athletics has wrapped up with Soccer, Volleyball and Cross Country all having winning seasons. High School advisory students had a door decorating contest for Thanksgiving to show HK Spirit, creativity and gratitude.

Hannah Laird-Hoover updated the Board. Hannah spoke about suicide awareness training for staff and students. She noted that they are pairing grade level advisories to build connections throughout the school. The High School is having a Drama Production this Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m., it will be a Virtual Murder Mystery. There is a link on the High School website where you can purchase tickets and receive a link to the show.

Student Representatives, Matthews Jennings and Hannah Laird-Hoover, left the meeting at approximately 7:09 p.m. Principal Donna Hayward left the meeting at 7:09 p.m.

Board Chair Suzanne Sack announced Jamie Sciascia had a baby boy yesterday, his name is Antonino Sciascia, 11 lbs. 6 ounces. Both mom and baby are doing well. Congratulations Jamie!

Board Committee Reports

A. Facilities Subcommittee –*No report, Peter stated the next meeting is scheduled for December 7th.*

B. Finance Subcommittee – *No Report***,** *Eileen stated the committee is meeting on Thursday, December 3rd.*

C. Policy Subcommittee – *Joanne reported the committee met on November 10th and there are items on the agenda for first read and/or discussion.*

D. Communications Subcommittee – *Jennifer reported that the committee is somewhat stalled with articles for summer activities due to the fact that those activities are still ongoing and not completed. There is discussion regarding the BOE Chairperson doing an article updating the community on BOE activities.*

E. Personnel and Evaluation Subcommittee

Board Chair, Sack, updated the Board. She noted the meeting was cancelled however the committee is busy with union negotiations.

F. Strategic Planning Subcommittee

Prem Aithal updated the Board. He noted that the committee met to discuss Vision of the Graduate with the full Board on 11/17/20. The next meetings for the steering committee are scheduled for 12/10 and 12/14. The subcommittee will meet on 12/15 to discuss next steps. He reminded and encouraged all to participate in the Thoughtexchange tool which is available on the RSD 17 website. Prem expressed that everyone has a stake in our schools.

Board Liaison Reports

A. Healthy Communities – Healthy Kids Council

Shawna Goldfarb updated the Board. She spoke briefly about money raising activities such as Stuff a Cruiser for HKYFS. Chairman Sack noted that this is a tough time for fundraising and reminded all about Giving Tuesday, and invited all who can to please support our nonprofit organizations.

B. LEARN

Jennifer Favalora updated the Board. She noted that Coronavirus is taking away from many things that would be normally happening. LEARN is trying to provide programs to all districts.

C. Park & Recreation

No Report. Next meeting is Wednesday.

D. Haddam Board of Selectmen

No report.

E. Killingworth Board of Selectmen

Kathy Zandi reported that they met on 11/9 and 11/23 and she shared the Board of Selectman update, they were appreciative of the information.

Old Business:

A. Update on School Model/Operations During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Superintendent Dr. Hageman updated the Board. She spoke about working with area Superintendents and with local health officials, analyzing the 14-day average of cases

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within the communities. Dr. Hageman noted that the HKIS/MS was in remote learning due to the number of staff and students quarantining however staff and students have returned to in person learning as of yesterday. Dr. Hageman briefly spoke about snow days and at this time will allow the first 3 or 4 days to be snow days, stating that we value in-person instruction whenever possible and that making up the days at the end of the year would be better for students.

B. 5000 Series Policies Bullying and Sexual Harassment

The Board discussed the language and there was a brief question and answer period.

*Shawna Goldfarb **MOVED** and Kathy Zandi **SECONDED** a motion to accept the 5000 Series Policies Bullying and Sexual Harassment as recommended.*

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

Kathleen Zandi	YES_√_ NO____A___	Shawna Goldfarb	YES_√_ NO____A___
Peter Sonski	YES_√_ NO____A___	Jennifer Favalora	YES_√_ NO____A___
Dr. Nelson Rivera	YES_√_NO____A___	Joel D'Angelo	YES_√_ NO____A___
Eileen Blewett	YES_√_ NO____A___	Brenda Buzzi	YES_√_ NO____A___
Joanne Nesti	YES_√_ NO____ A___	Prem Aithal	YES_√_ NO____A___
		Suzanne Sack	YES_√_ NO____A___

C. BOE Bylaws (9000 Series) Conflict of Interest disclosure form

Joanne Nesti stated that this form will become part of the Boards records. There was discussion regarding the meaning of "vendor". Joanne will consult with the Board's attorney to look into whether another word would be more clarifying and come back and confirm the language. No formal motion was needed.

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There was unanimous Consent by a show of hands from all Board Members.

Consent Agenda - *Chairman Sack reminded Board members that the consent agenda has been expanded to include minutes, statute driven policies and the personnel and enrollment reports.*

A. Approval of Minutes
- a) Approval of Minutes from the November 10, 2020, Board of Education Meeting
- b) Approval of Minutes from the November 16, 2020, Special Meeting
- c) Approval of Minutes from the November 23, 2020, Special Meeting

B. 5000 Policy Series
- a. Policy Regarding Non-Discrimination (Students)
- b. Confidentiality and Access to Education Records
- c. Homeless Children and Youth
- d. Child Sexual Abuse and Assault Policy and Reporting Procedure
- e. Policy Regarding Student Use of the District's Computer Systems and Internet Safety

C. Personnel Report - *Superintendent Dr. Hageman advised that the Personnel Report has been provided in the BOE Packet.*

D. Enrollment Report- *Superintendent Dr. Hageman advised that the Enrollment Report has been*

provided in the BOE Packet.

*Joanne Nesti **MOVED** and Eileen Blewett **SECONDED** a motion to accept Item A-D listed on the Consent Agenda. Motion passed unanimously by a show of hands*

The minutes of November 16, 2020 are amended to read "potential violation of Article XII Section A" removing the number 3.

*Shawna Goldfarb **MOVED** and Prem Aithal **SECONDED** a motion to accept the minutes of November 16, 202 as amended.*

There was unanimous Consent by a show of hands from all Board Members.

New Business

A. 2021-2022 School Calendar Proposed Revision, First Read
B. 2022-2023 School Calendar Proposal, First Read

Superintendent Hageman noted that the 2021-2022 calendar was approved by the BOE on 12.18.19 based on 182 student days. It is proposed that the Board consider revising both the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 calendars to 180 student days as this school year would have been prior to COVID-19 and the Governor's Executive Order allowing 177 days.
In addition, this year 6 early release days were converted into 2 full Professional Development days. It is proposed and recommended that the Board consider revising both calendars to incorporate this change.

C. Non-Resident Tuition Policy Discussion/First Read
The Board discussed a possible policy change.

D. Board of Education Handbook Revisions, First Read
The Board discussed possible changes to the Handbook.

E. Electronic Participation Bylaws Language, First Read
The Board discussed Electronic Participation Bylaw language.

Board Discussion/News/Suggestions - *None.*

Adjournment
Board Chair, Suzanne Sack, called for the meeting to adjourn at 9:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Hensel
Interim Board Clerk

Approval: _____ Date: _____
Jennifer Favalora, Secretary

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