REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION – EDUCATION SESSION MEETING
October 19, 2021

REVISED II

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on October 19, 2021 in the Haddam-Killingworth Intermediate/Middle School Cafeteria and via District Live Stream. Board of Education Chair, Suzanne Sack, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Members Present: *Joanne Nesti, Prem Aithal, Jennifer Favalora, Eileen Blewett, Kathleen Zandi, Brenda Buzzi, Dr. Nelson Rivera, Peter Sonski and Suzanne Sack*

Members Absent: *Shawna Goldfarb and Joel D'Angelo*

Also Present: *Superintendent of Schools, Jeffrey Wihbey, Transition Administrator, Dr. JeanAnn Paddyfote, Director of Finance, Ann Adriani, Director of Operations, John Mercier, and Board Clerk, Jamie Sciascia (Via Remote)*

Remote Visitors: *Approximately 53*

In-Person Visitors: *None.*

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/993?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.

*Kathy Zandi **MOVED** and Joanne Nesti **SECONDED** a motion to add Recognition as Item #2A under Public Comment, and also add under Item 4, Board Committee Reports and Future Meetings, a Curriculum Subcommittee Report to be placed as Item 4A.*

Motion unanimously passed by Way of Show of Hands from all Board Members.

Board Chair, Sack, stated that Board meetings are back to being held in-person and are open to the public for attendance and comments. The Board also continues to receive public comments via email.

Public Comment:
Kathleen Zandi from Killingworth addressed the Board. She thanked the District for live-streaming Sports matches; specifically, Volleyball, a sport of which her daughter plays at the Haddam-Killingworth High School.

Steve Bayley from Higgnaum addressed the Board. He welcomed Superintendent Wihbey and thanked the Board for their hard work the past 19 months. He asked what the District is doing for Teacher and Staff

Wellness in terms of programs due to the stress of the pandemic and also inquired what resources are available to the Junior and Senior Class if they pursue college.

Hamish MacPhail from Higganum addressed the Board. He spoke about the District receiving Covid Funding (i.e. ESSR Funds) and asked that the Board update the public with the budget-to-actuals for all active grants on the RSD7 website so there is complete transparency with the Community.

Robin Duffield, President of the Haddam Killingworth Education Association addressed the Board. She spoke about the Insurance Reserve Fund.

Recognition: *Board Chair, Sack, welcomed Jeffrey Wihbey who recently joined the District as the new Superintendent of Schools for RSD17. She also recognized Dr. JeanAnn Paddyfote who retired as the Interim Superintendent of Schools and expressed the Board's gratitude for all her hard work that she has provided to the District. She was presented with a beautiful bouquet of flowers.*

Superintendent's Report: *Superintendent Wihbey spoke about including a Cougar Pride presentation at the beginning of every Board meeting going forward to celebrate student's excellence – accomplishing great things across the District. He updated the Board on his Entry Plan which included Entry Purpose, Entry Work for the first week and first few months. At the completion of his Entry Plan, Superintendent Wihbey will provide his Observations, the Data Analysis and Stakeholder Feedback to the Faculty and PTO and then outline Strategic Planning Goals for the District. Superintendent Wihbey thanked Dr. Paddyfote for her hard work.*

Board Committee Reports and Future Meetings:

A. Curriculum Subcommittee:

Kathy Zandi updated the Board. She spoke about how the Committee met and Reviewed/Approved AP Biology Textbook with associated costs, World History Textbook, gave a brief update on the status of the Black and Latino Elective Course Curriculum.

*Brenda Buzzi **MOVED** and Eileen Blewett **SECONDED** a motion to approve the new Textbook for AP Biology called Biology in Focus.*

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

Kathleen Zandi	YES_√_ NO____A___	Shawna Goldfarb	Absent
Peter Sonski	YES_√_ NO____A___	Jennifer Favalora	YES_√_ NO____ A___
Dr. Nelson Rivera	YES_√_ NO____A___	Joel D'Angelo	Absent
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___

B. Facilities Subcommittee

Board Vice Chair, Sonski, updated the Board. The Committee met and discussed the draft Facilities Assessment Report; Tecton gave a highlighted overview at the meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for the first week of November and Peter will bring the completed Report to the Board as soon as possible.

C. Finance Subcommittee

Eileen Blewett updated the Board. The Committee met and discussed Covid Related Expenses, Audited Fund Balance, Expense Projections for 21-22, Allocation of ESSR Funds and Bus Contracts.

C. Policy Subcommittee

Joanne Nesti updated the Board. The Committee met and discussed moving into Policy 4000 Series.

D. Communications Subcommittee

Jennifer Favalora updated the Board. The Committee reported that Community Members are now able to sign up for RSD17 Updates to be sent to their email. Townspeople can register through the Town of Haddam or Killingworth's Website. The Committee will also look at the Board Calendar to become more efficient, what are the objectives and responsibilities of the Board each month and the Committee will look into streamlining the process

The Consensus of the Board is to move forward with the Communications Subcommittee plan as outlined in the Report.

E. Personnel and Evaluation Subcommittee

Board Chair, Sack, updated the Board. She clarified the discussion held at the last meeting regarding the procedures and processes of Central Office and providing the staff with the necessary resources needed to efficiently do their job with the ability to cross train. She also spoke briefly on the Organization Chart.

Superintendent Wihbey spoke briefly about Dr. Paddyfote working on the Organization Chart, Employee Handbook, Employee Tenure List, compiling a job description of all Central Office Employees, and Overseeing Covid Standards. She will also continue to work on Policy and compiling a list of all the State and Federal Reports.

F. Curriculum Subcommittee

No Report.

G. Strategic Planning Subcommittee

Prem Aithal updated the Board. The Committee rescheduled their meeting to next Tuesday, October 26, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. He also stated that they are continuing working on Focus Groups.

Board Liaison Reports

A. Healthy Communities

No Report.

B. LEARN

Jennifer Favalora updated. The Committee met and discussed an increase in resignations for some of their lower paying staff and the Deputy Executive Director gave a presentation on Gender Identity.

C. Park & Recreation

No Report.

D. Haddam Board of Selectmen

Prem Aithal updated the Board. He spoke about Linda Talbott giving a presentation on Composting via her role on the Sustainability Committee and how a food scrap pilot received some financial

support from the Town.

E. Killingworth Board of Selectmen

Kathy Zandi updated the Board. The Board discussed whether an individual can hold two elected offices.

Consent Agenda:

A. Policies 6000 Series - (First Read of deletions and approvals)

*Joanne Nesti **MOVED** and Dr. Nelson Rivera **SECONDED** a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.*

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

Kathleen Zandi	YES_√_ NO____A___	Shawna Goldfarb	Absent
Peter Sonski	YES_√_ NO____A___	Jennifer Favalora	YES_√_ NO____ A___
Dr. Nelson Rivera	YES_√_ NO____A___	Joel D'Angelo	Absent
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___

Old Business:

A. 2021-22 BOE Meeting Scheduled (Second Read and Approval)

*Brenda Buzzi **MOVED** and Kathy Zandi **SECONDED** a motion to **TABLE** Agenda Item 7A, 2021-22 BOE Meeting Schedule (Second Read and Approval) set forth under Old Business.*

The Board gave unanimous Consent by Way of Show of Hands.

B. Second read policies for deletion in the 6000 series as noted on Exhibit A., dated 10.19.21
C. Second read policies for approval in the 1000 series as noted on Exhibit A., dated 10.19.21
D. Second read policies for approval in the 4000 series as noted on Exhibit A., dated 10.19.21
E. Items of Information--Administrative Regulations, 4000 series as noted on Exhibit A., dated 10.19

*Joanne Nesti **MOVED** and Prem Aithal **SECONDED** a motion to approve as presented in Consent Agenda Item B, Second Read Policies for deletion in the 6000 Series as noted in Exhibit A, dated October 19, 2021.*

To view Exhibit A -
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1F2M6uJIq-DTkbIMTsbXc8xveV8irdEba/edit?usp=sharing_eil_m&rtpof=true&sd=true&ts=6169cbd4

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

Kathleen Zandi	YES_√_ NO____A___	Shawna Goldfarb	Absent
Peter Sonski	YES_√_ NO____A___	Jennifer Favalora	YES_√_ NO____ A___
Dr. Nelson Rivera	YES_√_ NO____A___	Joel D'Angelo	Absent
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___

*Dr. Nelson Rivera **MOVED** and Kathleen Zandi **SECONDED** a motion to approve as presented in Consent Agenda Item C, Second Read Policies for approval in the 1000 Series as noted in Exhibit A, dated October 19, 2021.*

To view Exhibit A -
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1F2M6uJIq-DTkbIMTsbXc8xveV8irdEba/edit?usp=sharing_eil_m&rtpof=true&sd=true&ts=6169cbd4

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

Kathleen Zandi	YES_√__ NO____A___	Shawna Goldfarb	Absent
Peter Sonski	YES_√__ NO____A___	Jennifer Favalora	YES_√__ NO____ A___
Dr. Nelson Rivera	YES_√__ NO____A___	Joel D'Angelo	Absent
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___

*Joanne Nesti **MOVED** and Peter Sonski **SECONDED** a motion to approve as presented in Consent Agenda Item D, Second Read Policies for approval in the 4000 Series as noted in Exhibit A, dated October 19, 2021.*

To view Exhibit A -
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1F2M6uJIq-DTkbIMTsbXc8xveV8irdEba/edit?usp=sharing_eil_m&rtpof=true&sd=true&ts=6169cbd4

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

Kathleen Zandi	YES_√__ NO____A___	Shawna Goldfarb	Absent
Peter Sonski	YES_√__ NO____A___	Jennifer Favalora	YES_√__ NO____ A___
Dr. Nelson Rivera	YES_√__ NO____A___	Joel D'Angelo	Absent
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___

Board Member, Joanne Nesti, stated Consent Agenda Item E, Items of Information--Administrative Regulations, 4000 series as noted on Exhibit A., dated October 19, 2021 is strictly in the Board packet for reference.

New Business: *No Report.*

Adjournment:
Board Chair, Sack, called for the meeting to adjourn at 8:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie Sciascia
Board Clerk

Approval: _____ *Date:* _____
Jennifer Favalora, Secretary