

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**January 4, 2021**

*A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on January 4, 2021 in the Haddam-Killingworth Intermediate/Middle School Cafeteria and Live Streamed through the District's Website. Board of Education Chair, Suzanne Sack, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.*

**Members Present:** *Hamish MacPhail, Lisa Connelly, Corey Roberts, Jennifer Favalora, Kathleen Zandi (Arrived at 7:35 p.m.) Nelson Rivera, Shawna Goldfarb (Via Remote), Peter Sonski and Suzanne Sack*

**Members Absent:** *Joel D'Angelo and Brenda Buzzi*

**Also Present:** *Superintendent of Schools, Jeffrey Wihbey, Director of Operations, John Mercier, Director of Finance, Ann Adriani, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth High School, Donna Hayward, HKHS Music Teacher, Marcy Webster, HKHS Television Teacher, Kasha Topa Finberg, HKHS Student, Abby Jones, President of the HK Education Association, Robin Duffield, Student Representatives, Yumi Imai and Ben Williams, Secure Energy Representative, John Muro, and Board Clerk, Jamie Sciascia (Via Remote)*

**In-Person Visitors:** *Approximately 1*

**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/16oaSwSgDWJXuvHy58LfGmIurukJcLwx7/view?usp=sharing\\_eil\\_m&ts=61d74058](https://drive.google.com/file/d/16oaSwSgDWJXuvHy58LfGmIurukJcLwx7/view?usp=sharing_eil_m&ts=61d74058)**

**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*

**Public Comment:**

*Board Chair, Sack, went over the Public Comment process.*

*Robin Duffield from Killingworth addressed the Board. She spoke about her request that the Board consider and reinstate the posting of Board materials to the RSD17 Website.*

*Jessica Gersz from Killingworth addressed the Board. She spoke about her concerns with the Middle School Health Curriculum regarding Transgender identity, and pronouns as well offering a Transgender Club to students. She feels like they are pushing this on students and asked the Board to take a closer look at it.*

**Superintendent's Report**

**A. Cougar Pride - HKHS Holiday Show**

*Kasha Topa Finberg, Marcy Webster and Abby Jones updated the Board.*

*They spoke about the HKHS Holiday Show raising \$12,974.90 for the Connecticut Cancer Foundation which is a Non-Profit Organization that funds Cancer research, founded by John and Jane Ellis. A brief clip of the Holiday Show was presented to the Board and Community.*

*Kasha Topa Finberg and Abby Jones left the meeting at approximately 7:32 p.m.*

## B. School Updates:

Superintendent Wihbey updated the Board. He spoke about the changes that came from the State Level, and briefly spoke about how the District doesn't have control over the removal of masks at this time. He spoke about the amount of Quarantine time being reduced from 10 days to 5, Screen and Stay being on Pause, and the removal of Contract Tracing. Further, Superintendent Wihbey spoke about the spreading of the Omicron variant, and spoke about how the school is a safest place to be due to the mitigation strategies that are in place. Lastly, he spoke about how the District received Covid Kits and Masks.

## Report from Student Representatives:

They spoke about Winter Sports being in full swing, HKHS holding School Safety Assemblies, Next Monday they are holding incoming Freshman Class Orientation, Names can Really Hurt Assembly sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League funded by Youth and Family Services scheduled for March 2022.

Student Representatives, Yumi Iami and Ben Williams, left the meeting at approximately 7:28 p.m.

## Board Committee Reports and Future Meetings

### A. Facilities Subcommittee

#### • Lighting Proposal

Peter Sonski updated the Board. He spoke about how the Facilities Subcommittee and Finance Subcommittee met last evening proposing a replacement for all of the lighting in the Intermediate/Middle School Building due to the age of the lights and not being energy efficient. Peter went over the Project Plan, Project Cost and Project Savings. Representative John Muro, from Secure Energy, went over the Project details in length as well as Eversource Incentives/Savings of the Project, Project Plan, Start Date and Completion Date.

Peter Sonski **MOVED** and Hamish MacPhail **SECONDED** a motion to have RSD17, pending legal review, approve the Letter of Agreement with EverSource to complete an LED replacement of all of the light fixtures in the Haddam-Killingworth Intermediate/Middle School.

Motion unanimously passed by Way of Voice 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> |
| Lisa Connelly  | YES <u>√</u> | NO <u>  </u> | A <u>  </u> | Dr. Nelson Rivera | YES <u>√</u> | NO <u>  </u> | A <u>  </u> |
| Joel D'Angelo  | Absent       |              |             | Hamish MacPhail   | YES <u>√</u> | NO <u>  </u> | A <u>  </u> |
| Brenda Buzzi   | Absent       |              |             | Corey Roberts     | YES <u>√</u> | NO <u>  </u> | A <u>  </u> |
|                |              |              |             | Suzanne Sack      | YES <u>√</u> | NO <u>  </u> | A <u>  </u> |

### B. Strategic Planning Subcommittee

#### • Upcoming Board Workshops for Strategic Planning District Mission

Board Vice-Chair, Favalora, updated the Board. She spoke about the Strategic Workshop that will be held on Saturday, January 8, 2022 and what it entails. Board Chair, Sack, gave a reminder to Board Members to review the materials once received prior to the Workshop.

## Board Liaison Reports:

### A. Haddam Board of Selectmen (if applicable)

No Report.

### B. Killingworth Board of Selectmen (if applicable)

*No Report.*

**Consent Agenda:**

- A. Approval of Minutes for the December 7, 2021 Board of Education Meeting**
- B. Approval of Minutes for the December 21, 2021 Board of Education – Education Session Meeting**
- C. Approval of a donation in the amount of \$500.00 from the Killingworth Senior Club to be deposited into our Student Activity Account. Submitted by Dennis Reed, Principal of Killingworth Elementary School**
- D. Personnel Report**
- E. Enrollment Report**

*Board Chair, Sack, stated that the Personnel and Enrollment Report is now appearing under the Consent Agenda when Superintendent Wihbey doesn't have anything further to update on either report.*

*Peter Sonski **MOVED** and Nelson Rivera **SECONDED** a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented with gratitude.*

*Motion unanimously passed by Way of Voice 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> |
| Lisa Connelly  | YES <u>√</u> | NO <u>   </u> | A <u>   </u> | Dr. Nelson Rivera | YES <u>√</u> | NO <u>   </u> | A <u>   </u> |
| Joel D'Angelo  | Absent       |               |              | Hamish MacPhail   | YES <u>√</u> | NO <u>   </u> | A <u>   </u> |
| Brenda Buzzi   | Absent       |               |              | Corey Roberts     | YES <u>√</u> | NO <u>   </u> | A <u>   </u> |
|                |              |               |              | Suzanne Sack      | YES <u>√</u> | NO <u>   </u> | A <u>   </u> |

**New Business:**

**A. Proposal for HKHS Overnight Music Trip to Boston 4/21/2023 - 4/22/2023**

*Marcy Webster updated the Board. She outlined the Trips Details, Date of Trip, Use of Perkins Travel Company and Percentage Rate of Students Attending. The Trip will be held in April of 2023.*

*Kathy Zandi **MOVED** and Lisa Connelly **SECONDED** a motion to approve the HKHS Overnight Music Trip to Boston from April 21, 2023 returning April 22, 2023 as presented.*

*Motion unanimously passed by Way of Voice 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> |
| Lisa Connelly  | YES <u>√</u> | NO <u>   </u> | A <u>   </u> | Dr. Nelson Rivera | YES <u>√</u> | NO <u>   </u> | A <u>   </u> |
| Joel D'Angelo  | Absent       |               |              | Hamish MacPhail   | YES <u>√</u> | NO <u>   </u> | A <u>   </u> |
| Brenda Buzzi   | Absent       |               |              | Corey Roberts     | YES <u>√</u> | NO <u>   </u> | A <u>   </u> |
|                |              |               |              | Suzanne Sack      | YES <u>√</u> | NO <u>   </u> | A <u>   </u> |

*Principal Donna Hayward and Marcy Webster left the meeting at approximately 8:18 p.m.*

*Peter Sonki **MOVED** and Kathy Zandi **SECONDED** a motion to enter into Executive Session regarding a Personnel matter and to invite Superintendent Wihbey into the meeting.*

*The motion unanimously passed by Way of Show of Hands from All Board Members.*

*The Board took a short recess at 8:20 p.m.*

*Shawna Goldfarb and Jamie Sciascia left the meeting at approximately 8:20 p.m.*

***The Board went into Executive Session to discuss a Personnel Matter at 8:21 p.m.***

**B. Superintendent's Mid-Year Review Discussion\***

*The Board discussed a Personnel Matter.*

*Superintendent Wihbey left the meeting at approximately 8:56 p.m.*

***The Board left Executive Session at 9:07 p.m.***

**Adjournment:**

*Board Chair, Sack, called for the meeting to adjourn at 9:07 PM.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Jamie Sciascia*

*Board Clerk*

Approval: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Joel D'Angelo, Secretary*