



An informational update from the Superintendent to the RSD 17 Board.

August 2024

Superintendent's Report, Jeffrey S. Wihbey, Superintendent of Schools



Message from the Superintendent

Dear Members of the Board of Education,

I hope this message finds you well. As we prepare to embark on another exciting academic year, I would like to extend a warm invitation for you to join me at the upcoming convocation ceremony and my welcome back school visits.

The convocation ceremony, which marks the official start of the new school year, is scheduled for **Tuesday, 8/27, at 7:30**. This event serves as a wonderful opportunity for us to come together as a community, celebrate our shared commitment to education, and set the tone for the year ahead. I have included the comprehensive schedules below.

Following the convocation, I will conduct my annual welcome-back school visits during the first week of school. These visits provide a chance for us to welcome back our students, teachers, and staff and witness firsthand the incredible work happening in our schools.

Your presence at these events would not only be greatly appreciated, but it would also send a strong message of support and unity to our school community.

Please let me know if you are able to attend. I look forward to kicking off the school year with you by my side.

Best regards,

Jeff



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Convocation

- Date: August 27, 2024
- Time: 7:30a-10:30a
- Location: HKMS

Back to school-first day/week schedule

<u>Wednesday, August 28, 2024</u> (Student's First Day Back) Visit all Schools starting at 7:25 AM HK High School HK Middle School Burr Elementary Killingworth Elementary HK Intermediate	<u>Thursday, August 29, 2024</u> 8:00-9:30 AM HK Middle School HK Intermediate School
<u>Friday, August 30, 2024</u> 8:30-9:30 AM Burr Elementary	<u>Tuesday, September 3, 2024</u> 8:30-9:30 AM Killingworth Elementary
<u>Wednesday, September 4, 2024</u> 7:25-8:30 AM HK High School	

Department Updates

Finance

- The preliminary on-site meetings for the FY24 Audit were successfully completed with RSD17. Upon request, the finance department will continue to provide additional information or supporting documentation for review.
- Working collaboratively, RSD17 and LEARN continue to review and update mutually agreed-upon protocols and procedures, as well as identifying primary and secondary personnel within the finance department for the transaction process.



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Operations

- Summer Projects Status Report 8/2024.
- The Town Recreation Camp was held at HKHS all summer.
- EVSE Project Semi-Annual Report submitted to DEEP. Information will be brought for discussion at the next Fin-Fac Sub-Committee meeting.

Student Services

- The extended school year was successfully completed for the 23-24 school year.
- Training is happening around the district to roll out a state grant that supports academic growth in the area of math for students who have an identified disability.

Food Services

- Welcome Back letter sent to families with updated pricing. [Note](#) from the Food Service Director.

Talent, Accountability, & Human Resources

- Summer hiring was a focus for the month. We expect certified positions to be fully staffed.
- New Teacher Orientation is August 21 and 22. During this time, educators learn about the district, meet the administrative team, receive laptops and system access, and receive support to start the year well.
- The all-employee handbook was updated and shared with the associations. It will be distributed during the August in-service days.

Curriculum Office

- Curriculum Coordinators have been working with RSD17 teachers on curriculum writing and revisions for various courses, including social studies, world language, and personal finance. In addition, middle school courses are being adjusted to match the new master schedule, particularly in art, music, wellness, practical arts, tech ed, science, and social studies.
- Summer programs for incoming kindergarten and 6th graders were well attended and enjoyed by students and staff.



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Social Media Posts:

Regional School District 17
July 15 at 1:44 PM · 🌐

Dear Haddam and Killingworth Community Members,

- Date: Tuesday, July 16th, 2024
- Time: 6:30 PM
- Location: HKHS Community Room

The Regional School District 17 Board of Education is approaching the culmination of an intensive year-and-a-half-long process to develop a Long Term Capital Plan for our district's schools.

Throughout this time, we have evaluated 13 options, including six alternatives specifically for HK High School, all aimed at identifying an affordable solution for our aging infrastructure.

In our commitment to transparency and community involvement, we have held four community conversations, conducted two comprehensive community surveys, hosted public meetings with town leaders, and provided tours of each school to keep you informed every step of the way.

We are now at a pivotal decision point and warmly invite you to attend the presentation of final options by Superintendent Jeffrey Wihbey and Jack Butkus of Arcadis, the district's owner representative.

The Board will receive detailed information on two potential building options for Haddam-Killingworth High School:

1. A building for grades 9-12
2. A building to house both a 7th and 8th grade middle school and a 9th-12th grade high school.

These options will include potential downstream plans and their impact on other schools within the district.

Agenda:

1. Presentation of Long Term Capital Plan options
2. Board discussion of recommendations and implementation strategies
3. Public comment session.

While this meeting will not be broadcast live, it will be recorded and re-aired on HKTV.

The RSD17 Board of Education highly values the input of its community members and encourages you to participate in shaping the long-term future of our district's schools.

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July 22 at 4:01 PM · 🌐

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July 23 at 1:04 PM · 🌐

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