REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING MINUTES
Date: February 25, 2025

The Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education meeting was in the Haddam-Killingworth High School Auditorium on February 25, 2025.

Board Member Attendance:

Board Member	Present	Absent	Board Member	Present	Absent
Joseph Centofanti	X		Dr. Nelson Rivera	X	
Sonja Charpentier	X		Corey Roberts		X
Lisa Connelly	X		Suzanne Sack	X	
Jennifer Favalora	X		Jennifer Voegtli	X	
Shawna Goldfarb	X		Dr. Kathleen Zandi	X	
Heather Pach	X				

Also Present Superintendent of Schools Jeffrey Wihbey, Assistant Superintendent Jennifer Miller, Director of Finance and Operations Alison Pierce, Director of Student Services Dr. Aaron Puzarne, Board Administrator Sarah Kaiser, Curriculum Coordinators Jennifer Beermuender and Heather Rigatti, Principal Brienne Whidden, Principal Dennis Reed, Principal Eric Larson, Principal Dorothy Ventura, Assistant Principal Heather Persson, Principal Donna Hayward, Assistant Principal Adam Apicella, Athletic Director Lynne Flint, Special Education Coordinator Tonya Gorgone, Elementary Coordinator Becky Templeton

Visitors: 5

Call to Order/Opening of Meeting

Board Chair Suzanne Sack called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Presentation of the Superintendent's Proposed Budget 2025-2026

Superintendent Wihbey discussed the budget development priorities and that the proposed budget represents what is needed to realize the RSD17 Strategic Operating Plan (SOP) so that the students and the staff can receive what is needed to achieve academic, social, and

emotional success. The Superintendent reviewed our core values, such as quality teaching being essential to learning and student success being a shared responsibility. He spoke about the district's four strategic priorities, the vision of the graduate, and the instructional vision, and he highlighted several district accomplishments within the past year. The Superintendent discussed the annual enrollment history and provided a 12-year net budget history. He also provided information on staffing adjustments related to program needs, enrollment, and the increase in district facility usage.

The Superintendent reviewed the variance changes in the following proposed budget areas:

- Salaries
- Health Insurance (Premiums)
- Transportation (of Students)
- SPED Tuition (Out of District Costs)
- Utilities (Electricity)

After the presentation, the board discussed and asked questions. The Superintendent provided detailed explanations, ensuring that all concerns were addressed. A summary of the budget meeting schedule was also provided and is available on the Board of Education website.

Adjournment

Board Chair Sack adjourned the meeting at 6:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Kaiser
Administrative Assistant to the Board of Education

Approval: _____Date:_____
Dr. Kathleen Zandi, Board Secretary