

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION
EDUCATION SESSION MEETING
September 15, 2020

A regular meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on September 15, 2020 in the Haddam-Killingworth High School Lower Media Center as well as via Google Hangouts Meet Video Conference (Live Stream). Board of Education Vice-Chair, Peter Sonski, called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

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

Members Absent: *Suzanne Sack*

Also Present: *Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Holly Hageman, Director of Finance, Ann Adriani, Director of Operations, John Mercier, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth High School, Donna Hayward, Director of Athletics, Lynne Flint, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth Middle School, Dolores Bates, Director of Food Services, Sharon Shettleworth, Hibbard and Rose Architect, Tom Hibbard, OWI Contractors, Robert Canela, Lead Maintenance for RSD17, Rob Albert, and Board Clerk, Jamie Sciascia*

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/1autRX3_JtAiIII4lpXKgstY6zjVzswYJ/view?usp=sharing

Call to Order/Opening of Meeting: *Board of Education Vice Chair, Peter Sonski, called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.*

Public Comment:

Jennifer Hanna of Higganum addressed the Board. She spoke about how she believes the schools need to reopen full time so that the students can receive a good educational experience as well as student social interaction.

Kristyn and Peter Morgan of Haddam addressed the Board. They spoke about how they would like the schools to reopen full time in October.

Nancy Ferguson of Higganum addressed the Board. She spoke about how she believes students need to go back to full time in-person learning which is important for their academic excellence and emotional stability.

Cary Chadwick of Higganum addressed the Board. She spoke about how she is upset that the resources that promoted equity and social justice placed on the RSD17 website were removed. She wondered when it would be put back in place.

Robin Duffield of Killingworth addressed the Board. She spoke about how she is concerned that there are no experienced educators in the Strategic Planning Objectives and would like them to be involved moving forward.

Joanne Nesti **MOVED** and Kathy Zandi **SECONDED** a motion to move Item 5A, School Operating Plans Beyond Initial Reopening Phase and Item 5B, HK Athletics: Middle School Athletics Proposal both set forth under Old Business up on the Agenda.

Motion passed unanimously by a Consensus from all Board Members.

Old Business:

A. School Operating Plans Beyond Initial Reopening Phase

Superintendent Dr. Holly Hageman spoke about a full reopening on September 29th for the K-8 Levels. The High School reopening plan is in progress and she will update the Community in the next week or so. Superintendent Dr. Hageman will send out a School Messenger tomorrow about the reopening plan details which will include a modified survey.

B. HK Athletics: Middle School Athletics Proposal

Principal Dolores Bates updated the Board. She spoke about holding Middle School Athletics and Clubs with a mix of both virtual and in-person activities.

Joanne Nesti **MOVED** and Joel D'Angelo **SECONDED** a motion to move Item 5C(a)(1), Report from Director of Operations/Facilities, Update on the Field House Project, 5C(b), Update on BES and KES Oil Tank Projects set forth under Old Business as well as 6A, Authorized Signature Change Approval for the Child Nutrition Program – Sharon Shettleworth and 6B, Federal Food Service Program set forth under New Business up on the Agenda.

Motion passed unanimously by a Consensus from all Board Members.

C. Report from Director of Operations/Facilities:

a. Update on the Field House Project

1. Consideration of a Change Order

Peter Sonski updated the Board. He spoke about the additional cost and time of the project and discussed the Change Order at length. Tom Hibbard spoke briefly on the Threshold and demo of the floor. John Mercier updated the Board on the new costs of the project. Further, the Board had discussion about fire extinguishers boxes, banners, bleachers, floor leveling and the impact of the new timeline for High School Athletics and Academics.

Joel D'Angelo **MOVED** and Joanne Nesti **SECONDED** a motion to amend the budget for this project from \$1,141,438 to \$1,300,000 to come from the Capital Projects Fund.

Motion passed 10-0-0 by the following Voice Votes:

Kathleen Zandi	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	Shawna Goldfarb	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Peter Sonski	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	Jennifer Favalora	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Nelson Rivera	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	Joel D'Angelo	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Eileen Blewett	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	Brenda Buzzi	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Joanne Nesti	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	Prem Aithal	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Suzanne Sack	Absent						

Principal Donna Hayward, Lynne Flint, Tom Hibbard and Bob Canella left the meeting.

b. Update on BES and KES Oil Tank Projects

John Mericier updated the Board. He spoke about how the Burr Oil Tank has been removed and

replaced and the KES Oil Tank removal and replacement is underway.

New Business:

A. Authorized Signature Change Approval for the Child Nutrition Program – Sharon Shettleworth

Sharon Shettleworth updated the Board. She spoke about how the Child Nutrition Program requires two authorized signers and she would like to remove John Mercier and add Ann Adriani.

*Brenda Buzzi **MOVED** and Joanne Nesti **SECONDED** a motion to remove John Mercier and add Ann Adriani on the Signature Change Order.*

Motion passed unanimously by a Consensus from all Board Members (Prem Aithal was not in attendance for the vote.)

B. Federal Food Service Program

Sharon Shettleworth updated the Board. She spoke about how the United States Department of Agriculture offered a waiver making all school meals free for students until December 31st or until funds run out. The waiver was applied for and approved. This will allow students in K-5 to receive both a free breakfast and lunch as well as any child within the District who isn't enrolled in the HK schools, and free lunch will be available to all students enrolled in grades 6-12. Superintendent Dr. Hageman will send out a School Messenger notifying parents of times and locations of food pickups.

Sharon Shettleworth left the meeting at 8:32 p.m.

Board Committee Reports and Future Meetings:

A. Policy Subcommittee

a. Revised Board By-Laws (First Read)

Joanne Nesti updated the Board. She briefly went over how the Committee reviewed specific Board By-Laws in length and provided them to the Board as a First Read.

B. Finance Subcommittee

a. YTD Covid Spending

Eileen Blewett updated the Board. She spoke about Covid-19 expenditures from the 2020 Budget. She also spoke about the current expenditures for 2021 being approximately \$222,000 for a variety of items like: Technology, Instructional supplies and PPE supplies. The savings for the District was in ESY since it was all remote. She spoke about PPE reimbursement, outsourcing Custodians, Rental Containers and watching Food Services.

C. Strategic Planning Subcommittee

Prem Aithal updated the Board. He spoke about the Strategic Planning Objectives and Timeline and went over the Members of the Subcommittee.

Public Comment:

Kim Baucom of Haddam addressed the Board. She spoke about how kids should be taught in-person and need social interaction. She supports the full time in person school reopening.

*Brenda Buzzi **MOVED** and Prem Aithal **SECONDED** a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing a pending legal matter and to invite Superintendent Dr. Hageman into the meeting.*

Motion passed unanimously by Consensus of all Board Members.

The Board went into Executive Session at approximately 8:45 p.m.

C. Pending Legal Matter*

Superintendent Hageman updated the Board.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:02 p.m.

Board Vice Chair, Peter Sonski, called for the meeting to adjourn at 9:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie Sciascia

Board Clerk

Approval: _____ Date: _____
Jennifer Favalora, Secretary