

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION
EDUCATION SESSION MEETING
August 18, 2020

A regular meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on August 18, 2020 via Google Hangouts Meet Video Conference (Live Stream). Board of Education Chair, Suzanne Sack, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Members Present: *Peter Sonski, Dr. Nelson Rivera, Jennifer Favalora, Shawna Goldfarb, Eileen Blewett, Joanne Nesti, Prem Aithal, Kathleen Zandi (Joined at 7:09 PM) and Suzanne Sack*

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

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, Assistant Principal of Haddam-Killingworth High School, Adam Apicella, Director of Student Services, Dr. Kris Lindsay, Student Services Coordinator, Tonya Gorgone, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth Middle School, Dolores Bates, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth Intermediate School, Eric Larson, Principal of Burr Elementary School, Brienne Whidden, Principal of Killingworth Elementary School, Dennis Reed, Curriculum Coordinators, Heather Rigatti and Jennifer Beermuender, 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/1GGYJwuDos02h_kC75A5fjIWKleDCfUGY/view?usp=sharing

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.*

Report from Chairman about new BOE Meeting Format and Process Under the Governor's Order:

Board Chair, Sack, updated the Board. She briefly went over the Executive Order issued by the Governor and stated that since school will be in session, the Board will now move to hold their meetings in-person and virtual starting in September.

Public Comment:

Peter Baird of Higganum addressed the Board. He spoke about the traveling restrictions for the high exposure states that pose a risk to Connecticut, and wondered how the District would monitor the 14-day quarantine rule for students that travel to those specific areas.

Superintendent Dr. Hageman spoke briefly about the Governor passing a new Executive order that if students travel to those listed states, they won't be allowed to attend school for 14 days even with having a negative COVID-19 test.

Jane Baird of Higganum addressed the Board. She spoke about the storage of masks when students take them off to eat at lunch and the possibility of storing them in a paper bag.

Superintendent Dr. Hageman stated that the storing of masks in a paper bag at lunch will be implemented.

Peter Baird from Higganum addressed the Board. He spoke about transmission of the COVID-19 virus in children and the evidence behind same. Also, he spoke about starting the school year with a hybrid approach to better control the spread of virus.

Jessica Abramski of Haddam addressed the Board. She spoke about how she believed children should be attending school mask free with increasing handwashing protocols, and staying home when sick, etc. She briefly spoke about the group of parents that filed an appeal in State court challenging the student mask requirement.

Laurie Gammons from Higganum addressed the Board. She spoke about how she is concerned with Opening of Schools in a hybrid module due to the number of working families in the Community.

Maura Wallin from Haddam addressed the Board. She spoke about how she felt if it is safe to send children back to school in a few weeks then why are the Board meetings still being held remotely. She also briefly spoke about some Districts pausing their openings by 1-2 weeks for safety reasons.

Chris Page of Higganum addressed the Board. He spoke about how he would like the Board to reconsider the hybrid approach since it affects so many working parents who now need to find additional daycare, and is also concerned with kids being isolated and separated from their friends.

Barbara Fernandez of Haddam addressed the Board. She inquired whether or not the families that chose remote learning, if they will get a schedule and any other helpful tools to support her 6-year-old grandson.

Approval of Minutes

- A. Approval of Minutes from the June 9, 2020 Board of Education - Special Meeting
- B. Approval of Minutes from the June 16, 2020 Board of Education – Education Meeting
- C. Approval of Minutes from the June 25, 2020 Board of Education – Special Meeting
- D. Approval of Minutes from the July 7, 2020 Board of Education Meeting
- E. Approval of Minutes from the July 14, 2020 Board of Education – Special Meeting
- F. Approval of Minutes from the July 21, 2020 Board of Education – Education Session

Joanne Nesti **MOVED** and Kathleen Zandi **SECONDED** a motion to accept Minutes A-F as presented.

Motion passed 8-0-1 by the following Voice Votes:

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

Board Liaison Reports

A. Curriculum Subcommittee

Kathleen Zandi updated the Board. She briefly spoke about the Diversity Committee that has been established and the role out of the Professional Development Plan.

B. Policy Subcommittee

Joanne Nesti updated the Board. She spoke about how the Committee is still in the process of working on an addendum document which summarizes only the COVID-19 related changes to each policy. This would be brought to the Board for approval once completed.

*Dr. Nelson Rivera **MOVED** and Shawna Goldfarb **SECONDED** a motion to move up on the Agenda, Items 6Ba & 6Bb, Report from Director of Operations/Facilities, Update on the Field House Project and Update on the BES and KES Oil Tank Projects set forth under Old Business as well as Item 7A & 7B set forth under the Consent Agenda.*

Motion passed unanimously by Consent from all Board Members.

Old Business:

B. Report from Director of Operations/Facilities:

a. Update on the Field House Project

b. Update on BES and KES Oil Tank Projects

John Mercier updated the Board. He spoke about the Fieldhouse Project and items of completion, the Floor colors that were voted in by the Public Building Committee Members and the shipping/delivery delays of materials for the project due to COVID-19. The Project will be completed around the October timeframe.

John Mercier updated the Board on the BES and KES Oil Tank Projects which will begin in September. A temporary tank has been put in at Burr for the use of their hot water heater.

Consent Agenda:

The donations on the Consent Agenda are made to the school system as a whole, and the Superintendent may direct any monies to specific schools or programs at her discretion.

- A. Acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$1,148.79 from Stop & Shop A+ Rewards to be deposited into the Student Activity Account. Submitted by Brienne Whidden, Principal of Burr District Elementary School.
- B. Acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$1,184.95 from Stop & Shop A+ Rewards program to be deposited into the Student Activity Account. Submitted by Dolores Bates, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth Middle School

*Kathleen Zandi **MOVED** and Joanne Nesti **SECONDED** a motion to accept Consent Items A & B as presented with great appreciation.*

Motion passed unanimously 9-0-0 by the following 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>
Dr. Nelson Rivera	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>	Joel D'Angelo	Absent		
Eileen Blewett	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>	Brenda Buzzi	Absent		
Joanne Nesti	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>	Prem Aithal	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>
Suzanne Sack	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>				

Old Business:

A. Status/Update, Discussion, and Next Steps on Upcoming School Year

a. HK Sports Programs

Superintendent Dr. Hageman updated the Board. She spoke about how local Districts were granted more flexibility to decide the best way to open schools, and the Reopening Committee met and revised the plan to balance the safety and high quality of instruction to a hybrid model with a full reopening after September. She went over the different types of learning apps, students use of Chromebooks, live instruction and recorded assignments that will be given to students adding balanced blended mix. Superintendent Dr. Hageman addressed Professional Development, PPE equipment, attendance, grading, use of masks and briefly touched on the survey results submitted by parents for bus transportation as well as whether or not students are returning for in-person instruction, temporary remote, or home schooling. Superintendent Dr. Hageman further spoke about how other school districts are reopening later in September, creating an acknowledgment form for Covid-19 related policies to be added as an addendum in the Student Handbook, IEP's, proper protocols for how to drop off items to school, and communication to parents on daily assignments that were given to students by way of carbon copy through the Google app.

Lastly, Superintendent Dr. Hageman addressed the CIAC's recommendation to pause football and school sports for now and she will update Community as more information comes in.

Public Comment: *None.*

The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, September 1, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment:

Board Chair, Suzanne Sack, called for the meeting to adjourn at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jamie Sciascia
Board Clerk*

Approval: _____ Date: _____
Jennifer Favalora, Secretary