

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
(BUDGET WORKSHOP)
May 5, 2020

A special meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on May 5, 2020 via Google Hangouts Meet Video Conference (Live Stream). Board of Education Chair, Suzanne Sack, called the meeting to order at 5:37 PM.

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

Members Absent: *None.*

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*

Call to Order/Opening of Meeting: *Board of Education Chair, Suzanne Sack, called the meeting to order at 5:37 PM.*

Board Chair, Suzanne Sack, wished all Teachers a Happy Teacher Appreciation Week.

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

Board Chair, Sack, updated the Board.

Report from Director of Operations:

a. Update on the Field House Project & Oil Tank Replacements

John Mercier updated the Board.

Board Vice Chair, Sonski, updated the Board.

1. Approval of Plans and Documents for the HKHS Gymnasium Renovation

*Peter Sonski **MOVED** and Eileen Blewett **SECONDED** a motion to approve the Plans and Documents for the HKHS Gymnasium Renovation as presented.*

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

Kathleen Zandi YES √ NO A
Peter Sonski YES √ NO A
Dr. Nelson Rivera YES √ NO A
Eileen Blewett YES √ NO A

Shawna Goldfarb YES √ NO A
Jennifer Favalora YES √ NO A
Joel D'Angelo YES √ NO A
Brenda Buzzi YES √ NO A

Joanne Nesti YES √ NO ___ A ___

Suzanne Sack YES √ NO ___ A ___

2. Approval of Plans and Documents for the BES Underground Tank Removal Project

*Peter Sonski **MOVED** and Eileen Blewett **SECONDED** a motion to approve the Plans and Documents for the BES Underground Tank Removal Project as presented.*

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

Kathleen Zandi YES √ NO ___ A ___
Peter Sonski YES √ NO ___ A ___
Dr. Nelson Rivera YES √ NO ___ A ___
Eileen Blewett YES √ NO ___ A ___
Joanne Nesti YES √ NO ___ A ___

Shawna Goldfarb YES √ NO ___ A ___
Jennifer Favolora YES √ NO ___ A ___
Joel D’Angelo YES √ NO ___ A ___
Brenda Buzzi YES √ NO ___ A ___
Suzanne Sack YES √ NO ___ A ___

Status, Update and Discussion, and Next Steps on the 2020/21 District Budget:

Board Chair, Sack, updated the Board.

Presentation and Discussion of Superintendent’s Budget Adjustments and Next Steps/Decisions:

Superintendent Dr. Hageman presented the proposed Budget Adjustments. She briefly spoke on reducing the HKHS/HKMS PM Monitors. She went over putting back in the budget the three Kindergarten paraprofessionals due to student needs coming back from the Distance Learning environment in the Fall. The paras will ultimately be K-1 support, possibly in a small group setting, with students that are in need of more support. She spoke on the reduction of Large District Calendars and a reduction in the Health Insurance based on updated information. Further, she spoke about reducing the line items for Substitute Clerical, Substitute Teachers, and LT Subs. Superintendent Dr. Hageman spoke on the Late Buses being eliminated from the Budget and having HK Park and Rec be available at HKMS until 6:00 p.m. if parents need additional coverage for their children. This would be for a small fee. Ann Adriani briefly touched on the increase in Pension Renewal Estimates. For the next Finance meeting, she will look at what level the contributions are being made and if the Pension is fully funded. Superintendent Dr. Hageman spoke about the Flex spending reduction and reducing postage. She briefly went over the line item reduction in Time Clocks. Further, Superintendent Dr. Hageman spoke on two students not needing outplacement services anymore which was a decrease in tuition. Also, Superintendent Dr. Hageman discussed potential School Calendar changes with the proposed reduction of student school days from 182 to 180. The BOE Calendar will be reviewed at the next meeting scheduled for May 19th.

The Board discussed some of the proposed changes with Superintendent Dr. Hageman including KES Textbooks, reducing the Capital Account/using HES 1st installment for offset, and the Late Buses. Superintendent Dr. Hageman spoke about Distance Learning, social distancing and waiting on clear guidance from the State on how to move forward in the Fall.

The Board gave Consensus to move forward with the Budget Adjustments presented by Superintendent Dr. Hageman at tonight’s Budget Workshop with a Proposed Net Budget of \$40,773,479.35. Superintendent Dr. Hageman will explore Board suggestions for the late buses and appreciated the Board’s suggestions on same. The next steps will include hearing the Community perspective on the Budget as well as getting feedback from the Leadership of the Towns of Haddam and Killingworth. The Board will vote on the Budget on June 2nd.

Adjournment:

Board Chair, Suzanne Sack, called for the meeting to adjourn at 7:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jamie Sciascia
Board Clerk*

*Approval: _____ Date: _____
Jennifer Favalora, Secretary*

Pamela Hensel, Notary Public

Date