

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**March 25, 2020**

*A special meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on March 25, 2020 via Google Hangouts Meet Video Conference (Live Stream). Board of Education Chair, Suzanne Sack, called the meeting to order at 5:32 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 5:32 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.*

*Board Chair, Suzanne Sack, welcomed everyone via live stream and asked the public if they would like to give a public comment to send it to [BoEPublicComments@rsd17.org](mailto:BoEPublicComments@rsd17.org).*

**Report from the Chairman, Secretary and Superintendent regarding BOE Meetings Format and Process (Governor's Order #7B)**

*Board Chair, Sack, updated the Board. She briefly went over the Governor's Order 7B; specifically, the requirements about holding a Board of Education meeting.*

**Public Comment:**

*Ed Munster from Haddam addressed the Board.*

**Old Business:**

**A. Update on the Field House Project**

**a) Bills Submitted for Payment (Architect, CMI Sound Systems)**

*Board Vice-Chair, Peter Sonski, updated the Board.*

*Peter Sonski **MOVED** and Eileen Blewett **SECONDED** a motion to approve CMI Sound Systems work for the Audio portion of the Fieldhouse Project not to exceed \$7,632 and payment to Hibbard and Rosa Architects for their 1/4 of their Project payment in the amount \$5,075.*

*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

Shawna Goldfarb YES  NO  A   
Jennifer Favalora YES  NO  A   
Joel D'Angelo YES  NO  A

Eileen Blewett YES √ NO \_\_\_ A \_\_\_  
Brenda Buzzi YES √ NO \_\_\_ A \_\_\_

Joanne Nesti YES √ NO \_\_\_ A \_\_\_  
Suzanne Sack YES √ NO \_\_\_ A \_\_\_

*Board Vice-Chair, Sonski, thanked staff and Administrators and all the family members helping with the Distance Learning program in order to make it work.*

**New Business:**

**A. Status/Updates and Next Steps on School Closures and Shift to Distance Learning**

*Superintendent Dr. Hageman updated the Board.*

**B. Status, Discussion and Next Steps of RSD17 School Budget, Budget Workshops and Referendum (Governor’s Order #7I and 7C)**

*Board Chair, Suzanne Sack, updated the Board.*

**C. Status, Discussion and Next Steps of Regular Board Meeting Schedule**

*Board Chair, Suzanne Sack, updated the Board.*

*Dr. Nelson Rivera **MOVED** and Brenda Buzzi **SECONDED** a motion to delegate authority to the Executive Committee to come up with a schedule for the Budget Process to be brought back to the Board for the March 31<sup>st</sup> meeting.*

*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 \_\_\_  
Brenda Buzzi YES √ NO \_\_\_ A \_\_\_

Shawna Goldfarb YES √ NO \_\_\_ A \_\_\_  
Jennifer Favalora YES √ NO \_\_\_ A \_\_\_  
Joel D’Angelo YES √ NO \_\_\_ A \_\_\_  
Joanne Nesti YES √ NO \_\_\_ A \_\_\_  
Suzanne Sack YES √ NO \_\_\_ A \_\_\_

**D. Status, Discuss and Next Steps on School Calendar, School End Date and Graduation Date (School Calendar)**

*Superintendent Dr. Hageman updated the Board.*

*Board Members had further discussion about the last day of school as it stands now, the possibility of moving the date, current half days, what other Districts are doing in terms of School End Date and April Vacation.*

*The Consensus of the Board was to keep April vacation as is on the 2019-2020 School Calendar.*

*Shawna Goldfarb **MOVED** and Eileen Blewett **SECONDED** a motion to **TABLE Item 5D** Status, Discuss and Next Steps on School Calendar, School End Date and Graduation Date (School Calendar) set forth under New Business.*

*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 \_\_\_  
Brenda Buzzi YES √ NO \_\_\_ A \_\_\_

Shawna Goldfarb YES √ NO \_\_\_ A \_\_\_  
Jennifer Favalora YES √ NO \_\_\_ A \_\_\_  
Joel D’Angelo YES √ NO \_\_\_ A \_\_\_  
Joanne Nesti YES √ NO \_\_\_ A \_\_\_  
Suzanne Sack YES √ NO \_\_\_ A \_\_\_

**E. 2020-21 Proposed Superintendent’s Budget: Discussion and Recommendations (Budget found on RSD17 Website under Budget Information)**

*Board Chair, Suzanne Sack, updated the Board.*

*The Board had further discussion of the possibility of operating on a flat budget and/or a negative budget, anticipation of savings due to the recent District’s school closure and new method of instruction, any new employee retirements, health insurance, and organizing a set of recommendations from Administrators of possible further reductions based on the strain of economic situation.*

*Superintendent Dr. Hageman will work with the Administrators to prioritize recommendations to get to a gross flat budget and also look at the scope, impact and implications of those said recommendations. This will be viewed in a two-step process.*

*The next Budget Workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 p.m. via Google Hangouts Meet Video Conference (Live Stream).*

*Board Chair, Suzanne Sack, thanked Superintendent Dr. Hageman for her support and Fearless Leadership.*

*Board Members, Brenda Buzzi and Joanne Nesti, thanked Suzanne Sack for her Leadership and Guidance.*

**Adjournment**

*Board Chair, Suzanne Sack, called for the meeting to adjourn at 7:36 PM.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Jamie Sciascia  
Board Clerk*

*Approval: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Favalora, Secretary*