

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
March 10, 2020

A special meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on March 10, 2020 in the Central Office Board Room. Board of Education Vice-Chair, Peter Sonski, called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

Members Present: *Peter Sonski, Kathleen Zandi (Arrived at 6:04 PM), Jennifer Favalora, Shawna Goldfarb, Eileen Blewett, Joanne Nesti, Joel D'Angelo (Arrived 6:12 PM), Dr. Nelson Rivera (Arrived at 6:18 PM) and Suzanne Sack (Arrived 6:09 PM)*

Members Absent: *Brenda Buzzi*

Also Present: *Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Holly Hageman (Arrived at 6:10 PM)), Director of Finance, Ann Adriani, Interim Director of Finance, Jason Lathrop, Director of Operations, John Mercier, President of HK Education Association, Robin Duffield, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth High School, Donna Hayward, Assistant Principal of Haddam-Killingworth High School, Adam Apicella, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth Middle School, Dolores Bates, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth Intermediate School, Eric Larson, Director of Student Services, Dr. Kris Lindsay, Haddam Board of Finance Alternate, Priem Aithal, Curriculum Coordinators, Jennifer Beermuender and Heather Rigatti, and Board Clerk, Jamie Sciascia*

Visitors: *Approximately 1*

Call to Order/Opening of Meeting: *Board of Education Vice-Chair, Peter Sonski, called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.*

Board Vice-Chair, Peter Sonski, noted that there is no Public Comment at this meeting.

Discussion of the Superintendent's Proposed 2020-2021:

The Board discussed initial reaction to the Budget as a whole and addressed concerns. John Mercier noted a \$90,000 decrease in the Energy portion of the Budget. The Consensus of the Board was to accept the \$90,000 decrease. The Board further looked at Electricity at BES and KES, and Fuel at the High School Levels, new Finance System and updating of the RSD17 Website. Consensus of the Board for Technology in the Business Office and for update to the RSD17 Website to change this year. The Board had further conversations regarding the Chrome Operating System/Licensing at Burr and KES Levels and A-Z price differences, Newsela, Inc. Licensing Fees and Reduction of Periodicals at the Middle School Level. Consensus of the Board is to accept the Technology portion of the Budget.

Jason Lathrop presented the Healthcare portion of the Budget which included: Changes that occurred for years 2017-2020 as well as the Annual Rates for Non-Certified and Certified Employees, Enrollment for Active Employees and Retirees, Healthcare Cost Share Premiums for Medical, Dental and Vision and the 6.57% Healthcare increase. Jason further spoke briefly on Debt Service and there being a \$165,000 increase due to the District floating a \$7.2 Million Bond.

Principal Eric Larson and the Board had discussions on other areas of focus which included: an increase of Special Education at the HKIS Level, number of Nurses and Use of Supplies at the HKIS and Middle School Levels, Student Activity Travel, Shoreline Music Festivals, Instructional Supplies for Tech Ed, World Language (690 & 611), Per Pupil Allocation, After School Clubs and Stipends for same, Late Bus for these

Clubs (not in this year's proposed Budget), Musicals, Music Maintenance Contracts at HKIS and HKMS, Professional Development Fees, Project Lead the Way Fees, Library Assistant at the HKIS/HKMS Levels and Chorus/Band Before School Funding. Further, discussion took place around PLA Textbooks, Wilson Foundations at the Elementary and HKIS Levels, Orton-Gillingham Instruction Materials and New Equipment for Industrial Arts.

Principal Bates and the Board discussed the reduction of 4 FTE positions at the Middle School Level, Class Sizes being within guidelines, future reorganization of the Intervention/Specialized Programs and World Language class location as well as shifting of pods at the Middle School and Intermediate School Levels. When the details of location changes are finalized, Principal Bates will communicate to parents and to the Board as well as update the HKIS/HKMS color-coded location chart for viewing. The Board noticed a significant increase of funds for PM Monitors and Superintendent Dr. Hageman will look into this and update the Board at the next Budget meeting. Further, discussions took place around Field Trips, replacement of Wrestling Mats, Tuning Piano Fees, Media Production Digital Cameras, Sprinkler System Fees (John Mercier will look into using someone less expensive), Software Technology, Music Concerts, Use of Dismissal Pads, Senior Center Field Trip, Veteran's Day Breakfast, and Copier Machine Contract (Net Impact—follow up item at next Budget Workshop).

Lastly, the Board had a discussion in length with Principal Hayward about adding a PE/Health Teacher at the High School Level, new stipend for the Internship Coordinator and training of that position as well as new Table/Chairs request.

Adjournment

Board Chair, Suzanne Sack, called for the meeting to adjourn at 8:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jamie Sciascia
Board Clerk*

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