

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION - EDUCATION SESSION
January 21, 2020**

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on January 21, 2020 in the Haddam-Killingworth Intermediate/Middle School Media Center. Board of Education Chair, Suzanne Sack, called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

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

Members Absent: *None.*

Also Present: *Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Holly Hageman, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth High School, Donna Hayward, Director of Fiscal Operations for RSD17, Ann Adriani, President of Education Association, Robin Duffield, HKYFS Director, Laurie Ruderfer, Director of Operations for RSD17, John Mercier, Curriculum Coordinators, Jennifer Beermuender and Heather Rigatti, and Board Clerk, Jamie Sciascia*

Visitors: *Approximately 7*

Call to Order/Opening of Meeting: *Board of Education Chair, Suzanne Sack, called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.*

Public Comment: *None.*

*Gerry Matthews **MOVED** and Kathleen Zandi **SECONDED** a motion to move up in the Agenda Item 4A, Cougar Pride: Recognition of HKHS Public Building Committee set forth under New Business.*

Motion passed unanimously 11-0-0 by the following Show of Hands:

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>
Gerry Matthews	YES	<u>√</u>	NO	<u> </u>	A	<u> </u>	Dr. Nelson Rivera	YES	<u>√</u>	NO	<u> </u>	A	<u> </u>
Joel D'Angelo	YES	<u>√</u>	NO	<u> </u>	A	<u> </u>	Eileen Blewett	YES	<u>√</u>	NO	<u> </u>	A	<u> </u>
Brenda Buzzi	YES	<u>√</u>	NO	<u> </u>	A	<u> </u>	Joanne Nesti	YES	<u>√</u>	NO	<u> </u>	A	<u> </u>
							Suzanne Sack	YES	<u>√</u>	NO	<u> </u>	A	<u> </u>

New Business:

A. Cougar Pride: Recognition of HKHS Public Building Committee

Board Chair, Suzanne Sack, updated the Board. She gave Recognition to the HKHS Public Building Committee for all their hard work overseeing the Auditorium Project, Photovoltaic Project, Lighting Project, Boiler Project and Roof Project. These Members included: Eric Couture, Joanne Nesti, Colleen Fitzpatrick, Karen Perry, Sue Williams, Bill Leahy, Bob Braren, Chip Frey, Rob Albert and Tom Hogarty.

There was a brief pause in the meeting in order to take a group photo of the HKHS Public Building Committee.

Joanne Nesti **MOVED** and Kathleen Zandi **SECONDED** a motion to move up in the Agenda Item 4B, Introduction of New Administrators: Director of Fiscal Operations (Ann Adriani) and Curriculum Coordinators (Jennifer Beermuender and Heather Rigatti) set forth under New Business.

Motion passed unanimously 11-0-0 by the following Show of Hands:

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"/>
Gerry Matthews	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"/>
							Suzanne Sack	YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO	<input type="checkbox"/>	A	<input type="checkbox"/>

B. Introduction of New Administrators: Director of Fiscal Operations (Ann Adriani) and Curriculum Coordinators (Jennifer Beermuender and Heather Rigatti)

Superintendent Dr. Hageman gave a warm welcome and a brief introduction of Ann Adriani, Jennifer Beermuender and Heather Rigatti.

Superintendent Dr. Holly Hageman stated how Anne Adrianni is the new Director of Fiscal Operations for RSD17, and officially starts Monday, January 27, 2020. She comes from Danbury Public Schools System where she worked with a \$134 million dollar budget. Superintendent Dr. Hageman stated how Ann will be an excellent fit to the Finance Team, Administrators and Board.

Superintendent Dr. Hageman introduced Jennifer Beermuender. She stated how Jenn has been hired as the K-12 Curriculum Coordinator, she holds a Masters from UConn and has done amazing work in the District since 2011. Superintendent Dr. Hageman is very excited for her to be in this new position.

Superintendent Dr. Hageman introduced Heather Rigatti She spoke about how Heather has been around the School District much of her life, is an HK Graduate and a Math Coach at the Middle School Level. She further stated how she is very proud and pleased that Heather is moving into this role as Curriculum Coordinator.

Ann Adriani, Jennifer Beermuender and Heather Rigatti left the meeting at approximately 7:20 PM.

Gerry Matthews **MOVED** and Joanne Nesti **SECONDED** a motion to move up in the Agenda Item 4C, Search Institute Survey-Laurie Ruderfer, HKYFS Director set forth under New Business.

Motion passed unanimously 11-0-0 by the following Show of Hands:

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"/>
Gerry Matthews	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"/>
							Suzanne Sack	YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO	<input type="checkbox"/>	A	<input type="checkbox"/>

C. Search Institute Survey-Laurie Ruderfer, HKYFS Director

Laurie Ruderfer updated the Board. She spoke about her formal request to administer the Search Institute Survey and wanted to give the Board information on it. She has been administering this test every other year, for the past 14 years in Grades 7-12. This survey is an evidence based reliable tool which measures thriving behaviors in youths, their strengths and successes in school, how they value diversity, etc. It also measures risk behaviors, depression, early onset of sexual behavior and these types of behaviors. The survey also provides data on youths' alcohol use, tobacco use, opioid use and other drug use. An addendum will be put in for vaping this year. Further, the survey will look at how students feel about themselves, how they feel living in the Community, how they view others. This test will hopefully be administered this Spring based on Principal Hayward's and Principal Bates' schedules. Once report is received, Laurie will then report the results back to the Board for viewing. Lastly, if parents are uncomfortable with taking this survey they can't opt out.

Superintendent Dr. Hageman appreciates the administering of this survey and stated how it really makes them aware of how students are feeling by what they report. She stated how they can continue to partner with HKY&FS with important and effective programs to help the students and also through different types of Community supports offered through PTO and others groups.

Gerry Matthews **MOVED** and Brenda Buzzi **SECONDED** a motion to approve the Search Institute Survey administered from 7th Grade through the High School Level.

Motion passed unanimously 11-0-0 by the following 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"/>
Gerry Matthews	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"/>
				Suzanne Sack	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>

Laurie Ruderfer left the meeting at approximately 7:45 PM.

Old Business:

A. Curriculum Subcommittee: HKHS New Course Approvals

1. Beginning Spanish Conversation

Kathleen Zandi updated the Board. She spoke about the Beginning Spanish Conversation Course and how it a New Graduation requirement for 1 full credit. There will be no new textbook requirements, the class will meet 4 times a week and this course will be added this coming year.

Superintendent Dr. Hageman stated that this is a stand along course depending on what the students' goals and objectives are. Board Vice Chair, Sonski, asked if there were any other course proposals that were offered like Sign Language. Principal Donna Hayward said Sign Language may be offered in the future but this course was more valid and useful for them due to the State's requirement.

Brenda Buzzi **MOVED** and Shawna Goldfarb **SECONDED** a motion approve the Beginning Spanish Conversation as presented.

Motion passed unanimously 11-0-0 by the following 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"/>
Gerry Matthews	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"/>
Brenda Buzzi	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"/>
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"/>

2. Modern Novel

Kathleen Zandi updated the Board. She spoke on the New Modern Novel course which has been brought to the Committee by the English Department. This class will be offered in the opposite years of Film Class and has a blended learning module. Approximately 15-20 kids will be able to take the course at once, the books are under \$1,000 and the Syllabus will be sent out in advance to parents.

Kathleen Zandi thanked the teachers for bringing the classes to them.

Joanne Nesti **MOVED** and Eileen Blewett **SECONDED** a motion approve the Modern Novel English Elective as presented.

Motion passed unanimously 11-0-0 by the following 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"/>
Gerry Matthews	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"/>
Brenda Buzzi	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"/>
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"/>

B. Board Liaisons: LEARN

Board Chair, Sack, updated the Board. She spoke briefly about how Board Member, Jennifer Favalora and herself will be interchangeable for all the LEARN meetings. LEARN agreed that this is doable, and that other Districts have this in place.

The Board gave **CONSENT WITH NO OBJECTIONS** to allowing Board Chair, Suzanne Sack, and Board Member, Jen Favalora, to sit on the LEARN Board interchangeably representing HK and allowed to vote.

C. Public Building Committee Report: Architect Approval, Board Approval Timeline, Renovation Considerations

Board Vice Chair, Sonski, updated the Board. He spoke about how at the last meeting they appointed a Public Building Committee. Two architectural firms bid on the design and reconstruction of the Fieldhouse Floor as well as the replacement of the two Fuel Tanks: one at Burr and one at KES. He said it is a rather aggressive schedule to be maintained in order to meet the timeline for the Fieldhouse Floor replacement. They PBC settled unanimously on one firm which he is bringing to the Board tonight for approval. Principal Hayward and Lynne Flint have worked out a schedule to vacate the Fieldhouse so they can remove the floor and start the replacement even before

the end of the academic year. Board Vice-Chair, Sonski, spoke about the list of other things that potentially could be fixed in the Fieldhouse and will review them with the PBC, Superintendent Dr. Hageman, Principal Hayward and Lynne Flint before bringing them to the Board for consideration. Lastly, he stated to the Board members if they are interested in attending the meeting, to let Peter know so they don't run into a quorum.

Peter Sonski **MOVED** and Gerry Matthews **SECONDED** a motion to appoint Hibbard and Rosa Architects, LLC of Middletown, CT, at a cost of \$20,300, to design and provide construction administration for the HKHS Fieldhouse Floor replacement project.

Motion passed unanimously 11-0-0 by the following 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"/>
Gerry Matthews	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"/>
							Suzanne Sack	YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO	<input type="checkbox"/>	A	<input type="checkbox"/>

Principal Donna Hayward left the meeting at approximately 8:15 p.m.

D. Board Subcommittee Objectives 2020

Board Chair, Sack, updated the Board. She spoke about how the Subcommittees will share what their 2020 Objectives are either at the February 4th or February 25th Board meeting. This will tie together with the Strategic Priorities.

E. Board Monthly Communication and Use of Content

Board Chair, Sack, updated the Board. She spoke about how the Communications Subcommittee has begun to work on establishing standard processes and through Community input it was their desire to know more about what the Board is involved in. This will establish more transparency, and is a step in the right direction.

Jennifer Favalora updated the Board. She spoke about first steps and the Committee moving forward in the right direction. There will be a summary of monthly meetings, two meetings to one summary, which will be first sent to the Board for review and then read by the Liaisons at the Board of Selectman meetings for both Towns. The summaries will then be submitted to the Board's RSD17 Facebook page, Haddam-Killingworth News, Killingworth News and other newspaper publications which have not been confirmed yet. Also, there will be Monthly articles written with a Board related topic sent to those same Newspapers as well as posted on the RSD17 Board's Facebook page to get information out as possible to the Community. Lastly, the Committee is verifying how they are getting their communication out to make sure they are reaching all Constituents. Board Discussion about not being able to comment on the Board's Facebook page since the comment feature was turned off took place. Board Member, Brenda Buzzi, stated how this is a fantastic step forward.

The Board gave **CONSENT WITH NO OBJECTIONS** to the Communications Committee to proceed with it's communication plan as presented.

F. Consideration of a Clinical Services Program

Board Chair, Suzanne Sack, updated the Board. She spoke about the possibility of a Clinical Services Program and how the Executive Committee will be seeking more information regarding

same. She spoke about some students that have been identified for Special Education are seeking services outside the District and they would like to consider this program to keep all students in-house. She wanted to get the Board's Consent to gather more information from Dr. Lindsay and Superintendent Dr. Hageman to really give this topic the attention as it deserves. Lastly, she spoke briefly aboutn how kids get identified under Special Education.

The Board gave **CONSENT WITH NO OBJECTIONS** to the members of the Executive Committee and Shawna Goldfarb to gathering more information to educate the Board on SPED.

Board Updates:

Board Chair, Sack, spoke about scheduling a Strategic Planning meeting on February 6, 2020. She also spoke about finishing up putting together a Board Group Text list. Lastly, she spoke briefly about sending Board members reading materials via email before the Board meeting so everyone can come as prepared as possible.

Superintendent Dr. Hageman updated the Board on an issue that arose with the Tour Group pricing for the 2021 Washington D.C. Trip that was approved by the Board at a previous meeting.

Public Comment: None.

Adjournment:

Board Chair, Suzanne Sack, called for the meeting to adjourn at approximately 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Jamie Sciascia
Board Clerk

Approval:  Date: Feb. 4, 2020
Jennifer Favolora, Secretary