

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**January 07, 2020**

*A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on January 07, 2020 in the Central Office Board Room. Board of Education Chair, Suzanne Sack, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.*

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

**Members Absent:** *Joel D'Angelo*

**Also Present:** *Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Holly Hageman, Director of Operations for RSD 17, John Mercier, Interim Director of Finance, Jason Lathrop (Arrived at 7:38 PM), Principal of Haddam-Killingworth High School, Donna Hayward, President of Education Association, Robin Duffield, HKHS Video Production Teacher, Kasha Topa-Finberg, Student Representatives, Lauren Miller and Matthew Jennings, and Board Clerk, Jamie Sciascia*

**Visitors:** *Approximately 1*

**Call to Order/Opening of Meeting:**

*Board of Education Chair, Suzanne Sack, called the meeting to order at 7:00PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.*

**Public Comment:** *None.*

**Approval of Minutes:**

*Approval of Minutes for the following Board Meetings:*

- A.** Approval of Minutes for the December 3, 2019 Board of Education Meeting
- B.** Approval of Minutes for the December 18, 2019 Board of Education – Special Meeting
- C.** Approval of Minutes for the December 18, 2019 Board of Education – Education Session Meeting

*There was brief discussion about the Board Bylaws and the way the individual Ballot votes need to be recorded.*

*Joanne Nesti **MOVED** and Eileen Blewett **SECONDED** a motion to approve Minutes A-C with an amendment to the December 3, 2019 Minutes to include the Board Members names under each ballot vote for Board Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary.*

*Motion passed unanimously 10-0-0 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	Absent						Eileen Blewett	YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO	<input type="checkbox"/>	A	<input type="checkbox"/>



Brenda Buzzi YES  NO  A

Joanne Nesti YES  NO  A

Suzanne Sack YES  NO  A

### Report from Student Representatives:

*Lauren Miller and Matthew Jennings updated the Board. They spoke about Alumni Day at the High School, and how alumni talk to the students about transitioning into their post-secondary plans. The Annual Holiday Show raised \$7,657.40 for A Little Compassion and The Nest Coffee House. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Preview Night will be January 27, 2020 to introduce parents to the High School. Also, they briefly touched on how the Southern Regional Music Festival is approaching quickly and the drama department will put on a Broadway Review on January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020.*

*Board Chair, Sack, Congratulated the Students and said it is such an accomplishment to raise that money at their Annual Holiday Show.*

*Student Representatives, Lauren Miller and Matthew Jennings, left the meeting at approximately 7:10 p.m.*

### Board Committee Reports and Future Meetings

#### A. Facilities Subcommittee

*Peter Sonski updated the Board. He spoke about how the Facilities Committee met last night and discussed the renovations to the HK Fieldhouse and the Underground Fuel Storage Tanks at Burr and KES. They toured the Fieldhouse and the newly commissioned Boilers. The Facilities Committee plan on meeting on a monthly basis at different schools.*

#### B. Finance Subcommittee

*No Report.*

#### C. Policy Subcommittee

*No Report.*

#### D. Communications Subcommittee

*No Report.*

#### E. Personnel and Evaluation Subcommittee

*No Report.*

*Brenda Buzzi **MOVED** and Gerry Matthews **SECONDED** a motion to move up on the Agenda Item 9B, HKHS Field Trip to Student Television Network (STN) in Washington, D.C. from March 12, 2020 – March 15, 2020 set forth under New Business.*

*Motion passed unanimously 10-0-0 by the following votes:*

Kathleen Zandi YES  NO  A

Peter Sonski YES  NO  A

Gerry Matthews YES  NO  A

Joel D'Angelo Absent

Brenda Buzzi YES  NO  A

Shawna Goldfarb YES  NO  A

Jennifer Favalora YES  NO  A

Dr. Nelson Rivera YES  NO  A

Eileen Blewett YES  NO  A

Joanne Nesti YES  NO  A

Suzanne Sack YES  NO  A



**New Business:**

**B. HKHS Field Trip to Student Television Network (STN) in Washington, D.C. from March 12, 2020 – March 15, 2020**

*Kasha Topa-Finberg updated the Board. She spoke about how she is the Media and Communications Teacher at the High School Level. She is seeking the Board's permission to go to Student Television Network (STN) in Washington D.C. from March 12, 2020-March 15, 2020. She said there will be deadline driven contests, exhibits for education, College Fair and different video sessions with industry professionals for the students. They will be able to interact and share their ideas.*

*Haddam-Killingworth High School Student, Joseph Formica, updated the Board. He spoke about going on the trip last year to Seattle, and said it was one of the most rewarding and valuable experiences and stated how this is the path he wants to follow. He also spoke about how this class has helped him stay motivated to keep his grades up and he shared his experience at the competition last year and how they won for documentary two years ago.*

*The Board had questions on getting new students to go on the trip; 16 are signed up and half are new. Also, there will be 3 Chaperones attending and numerous fundraisers for the students to raise money for their trip (i.e. bake sales, Mr. HK Event).*

*Peter Sonski **MOVED** and Gerry Matthews **SECONDED** a motion to approve the HKHS Field Trip to Student Television Network (STN) in Washington, D.C. as presented.*

*Motion passed unanimously 10-0-0 by the following 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>
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	Absent			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>

*Principal Donna Hayward, Robin Duffield and Kasha Topa-Finberg left the meeting at approximately 7:22 p.m.*

**Board Liaison Reports**

**A. Healthy Communities – Healthy Kids Council**

*No Report. Gerry Matthews briefly spoke on the Pumpkin Fun Run and how it didn't do very well this year.*

**B. LEARN**

*Board Chair, Suzanne Sack updated the Board. She spoke about how the Committee met on numerous occasions; CABE spoke about Superintendent Evaluations and Board self-assessment information. They put together a Task Force, addressing the Birth to 5 program. Jack Cross continues to work on regional opportunities for things like bus contracts in which Districts can work together on capitalizing on different things. LEARN also presented their Audit report.*



*Their Behavior Analyst Teacher came and presented about school avoidance, specifically, about kids struggling to go to school and keeping them at school. Further, they talked about completing a round of conversations where they met with District Superintendents using LEARN resources more expansively. Lastly, Board Chair, Sack, stated that one of those things that our District is vocal about is how LEARN focuses mainly in the New London area and they need to think more creatively about serving the West Side of their Region.*

**C. Park & Recreation**

*No Report.*

**D. Haddam Board of Selectmen**

*No Report.*

**E. Killingworth Board of Selectmen**

*No Report.*

**Old Business:**

**A. High School Energy and Facilities Upgrade**

**a) Action to dissolve this Public Building Committee**

*Board Chair, Sack, stated that the Public Building Committee projects have come close to being completed and the Committee should be dissolved. Board Member, Kathleen Zandi, stated how the Board should invite them to the next meeting to publicly thank them for their services.*

*Brenda Buzzi **MOVED** and Shawna Goldfarb **SECONDED** a motion to dissolve the Public Building Committee for the Haddam-Killingworth High School Energy and Facilities Upgrade.*

*Motion passed unanimously 10-0-0 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	Absent			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. 2019-20 Calendar Revision**

*Superintendent Dr. Holly Hageman updated the Board. She spoke about how they needed to add another day of school onto the 2019-2020 Calendar which would now make the last day of school June 10<sup>th</sup> not including the 3 snow days that were accrued. Going forward Superintendent Dr. Hageman will have a Committee made up of Administrators, the Athletic Director and HKAA keeping a close eye on the Calendar so we don't run into any revisions. Board Member, Jen Favalora, asked about the District attending school for the full 182 not 180. Superintendent Dr. Hageman spoke about this being a Board decision and that different Districts around us are in school for same. The Calendar will be added to the RSD17 website for public viewing.*

*Gerry Matthews **MOVED** and Eileen Blewett **SECONDED** a motion to approve the 2019-2020 Calendar with revisions as presented.*



Motion passed unanimously 10-0-0 by the following 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>
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	Absent			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>

**C. HKAA Contract\***

*Board Chair, Sack, updated the Board. She spoke about having the final version of the HKAA Contract ready that had been updated with all requested changes. She briefly went over the steps that were added into the Contract.*

*Gerry Matthews **MOVED** and Dr. Nelson Rivera **SECONDED** a motion to approve the HKAA Contract as presented.*

Motion passed unanimously 10-0-0 by the following 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>
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	Absent			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>

**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 \$67.14 from Lathrop Vending, Inc. to be deposited into the Student Activity Fund Submitted by Donna Hayward, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth High School.
- B. Acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$63.00 from Coca-Cola vending machine sales to be deposited into the Student Activity Account – Principal Account. Submitted by Dennis Reed, Principal of Killingworth Elementary School.
- C. Acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$1.80 from Lathrop Vending, Inc. to be deposited into the Principal's Account. Submitted by Donna Hayward, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth High School.

*Shawna Goldfarb **MOVED** and Kathleen Zandi **SECONDED** a motion to accept Items A-C listed on the Consent Agenda with great appreciation.*

Motion passed unanimously 10-0-0 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>
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Peter Sonski YES  NO  A   
 Gerry Matthews YES  NO  A   
 Joel D'Angelo Absent  
 Brenda Buzzi YES  NO  A

Jennifer Favalora YES  NO  A   
 Dr. Nelson Rivera YES  NO  A   
 Eileen Blewett YES  NO  A   
 Joanne Nesti YES  NO  A   
 Suzanne Sack YES  NO  A

**New Business:**

**A. Formation of a standing Public Building Committee**

*Board Chair, Sack, updated the Board. She spoke about how there are several projects underway and that they were looking to establish a standing Public Building Committee. The first three projects for the committee would be the HK Fieldhouse Project and the BES and KES Oil Tank Projects.*

*Peter Sonski **MOVED** and Gerry Matthews **SECONDED** a motion to create a single standing Public Building Committee.*

*Motion passed unanimously 10-0-0 by the following votes:*

Kathleen Zandi YES  NO  A   
 Peter Sonski YES  NO  A   
 Gerry Matthews YES  NO  A   
 Joel D'Angelo Absent  
 Brenda Buzzi YES  NO  A

Shawna Goldfarb YES  NO  A   
 Jennifer Favalora YES  NO  A   
 Dr. Nelson Rivera YES  NO  A   
 Eileen Blewett YES  NO  A   
 Joanne Nesti YES  NO  A   
 Suzanne Sack YES  NO  A

**C. Posting of Committee Meeting Dates by January 31, 2020**

*Board Chair, Sack, updated the Board. She went over the posting of meetings process; specifically a regular meeting versus a special meeting. She advised the Committee Chairs to give their meeting dates for 2020, if they haven't already.*

**D. Superintendent's Mid-Year Review**

*Board Chair, Sack, updated the Board. She spoke about the Superintendent's Mid-Year Review Process and how the Personnel and Evaluation Committee will take a look at certain evaluation categories, priorities and identified goals. Board member Kathy Zandi suggested gathering feedback from Superintendent Dr. Hageman's direct reports.*

**From the Superintendent:**

**A. Legislative Update**

*No Report.*

**B. Personnel Report**

*Dr. Holly Hageman advised that the Personnel Report has been provided in the BOE Packet. She stated if anyone had any questions on the report, please feel free to contact her.*

**C. Enrollment Report**

*Dr. Holly Hageman advised that the Enrollment Report has been provided in the BOE Packet. She stated if anyone had any questions on the report, please feel free to contact her.*

**From the Director of Fiscal Operations:**

**A. Budget Transfers**

*No Report.*

**Board Discussion/News/Suggestions:** *Board Chair, Sack, advised the Board that she will be reaching out soon to schedule the next Strategic Planning meeting.*

*Gerry Matthews **MOVED** and Joanne Nesti **SECONDED** a motion add to the Agenda the appointment of the Public Building Committee Members.*

*Motion passed unanimously 10-0-0 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	Absent			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"/>

*Kathleen Zandi **MOVED** and Joanne Nesti **SECONDED** a motion to name the members of the Public Building Committee as follows: Graig Judge, Sean Donlan, Jim Duffield, Eileen Blewett and Peter Sonski.*

*Motion passed unanimously 10-0-0 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	Absent			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"/>


*Board Member, Kathleen Zandi, made a suggestion of getting a student intern to follow the Public Building Committee during these projects. Superintendent Dr. Holly Hageman will reach out to Principal Donna Hayward regarding same.*

**Public Comments:** *None.*

**Adjournment:**

*Board Chair, Suzanne Sack, called for the meeting to adjourn at 8:01 PM.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

  
Jamie Sciascia  
Board Clerk

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