

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION - EDUCATION SESSION
December 18, 2019**

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on December 18, 2019 in the Haddam-Killingworth Intermediate/Middle School Media Center. Board of Education Chair, Suzanne Sack, called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Members Present: *Brenda Buzzi (Arrived at 6:05 PM), Kathleen Zandi, Eileen Blewett, Dr. Nelson Rivera, Joel D'Angelo (Arrived at 6:11 PM), Joanne Nesti, Jennifer Favalora, and Suzanne Sack*

Members Absent: *Gerry Matthews, Shawna Goldfarb and Peter Sonski*

Also Present: *Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Holly Hageman, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth High School, Donna Hayward, Director of Student Services, Dr. Kris Lindsay, Director of Operations for RSD17, John Mercier, and Board Clerk, Jamie Sciascia (Arrived at 6:05 PM)*

Visitors: *Approximately 1*

Call to Order/Opening of Meeting: *Board of Education Chair, Suzanne Sack, called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.*

Public Comment: *None.*

*Joanne Nesti **MOVED** and Kathleen Zandi **SECONDED** a motion to move up in the Agenda Items 5A Student Services Continuous Improvement Plan – Dr. Kris Lindsay, **TABLE 5B**, Search Institute Survey- Laurie Ruderfer, HKYFS Director set forth under New Business and move up 4D, Facilities Update: John Mercier, Director of Operations set forth under Old Business.*

Motion passed unanimously 8-0-0 by the following Show of Hands:

Kathleen Zandi	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	Shawna Goldfarb	Absent
Peter Sonski	Absent			Jennifer Favalora	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Gerry Matthews	Absent			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"/>

New Business:

A. Student Services Continuous Improvement Plan – Dr. Kris Lindsay

Dr. Kris Lindsay updated the Board. She spoke about Improving the Mental Wellness of Students with this year's focus on Grade 6-12. The Mental Health Committee meets on a monthly basis, and all schools will use research based practices for students that are in crisis. Dr. Lindsay spoke on restructuring the Student Behavior Center at HKMS to be more effective addressing the social, emotional and behavioral needs of students who need intensive support. Further, she addressed the implementation of social, emotional, behavioral screening system for students at the K-5 Levels. She spoke about implementing next year at the 6-12 Levels a social, emotional,

behavioral screening system. Further, she spoke briefly about developing written procedures for suicide prevention and intervention, for threat assessment, and for self-harming behaviors. Dr. Lindsay provided the Board with a brief update on Dyslexia as they continue to build on the Orton-Gillingham instruction in-house throughout the District, as well as efforts to reduce out of District placements as they Streamline and Reallocate Resources to Ensure Cost-Effectiveness. Lastly, Dr. Lindsay spoke about improving the Integrated Preschool Program and possibly engaging in a partnership with Haddam-Killingworth Youth and Family Services.

B. Search Institute Survey-Laurie Ruderfer, HKYFS Director

This item was TABLED.

Dr. Kris Lindsay left the meeting at approximately 6:45 p.m.

*Joanne Nesti **MOVED** and Dr. Nelson Rivera **SECONDED** a motion to move back in place on the Agenda Item 3, Board Liaison Reports.*

Motion passed unanimously 8-0-0 by the following Show of Hands:

Kathleen Zandi	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>	Shawna Goldfarb	Absent
Peter Sonski	Absent	Jennifer Favalora	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Gerry Matthews	Absent	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"/>

Board Liaison Reports:

- A. Curriculum Liaison Reports** *Kathy Zandi updated the Board. She spoke about adding a new English class which would be at the Junior and Senior Levels for approximately 15-20 students starting in the Fall of 2020, and books would be under \$1,000.*

Superintendent Dr. Hageman will put the new English Class on the Education Session Agenda meeting in January and will distribute information regarding same for the Board's review.

Kathy Zandi spoke about the new World Language Class which is now a graduation requirement of 1 full credit. This class focusses on Spanish, culture and career and is a blended class. The cost of instructional supplies is approximately \$2,000, having about 15 students a year. Superintendent Dr. Hageman will also distribute to the Board more information on same.

Superintendent Dr. Hageman spoke briefly about the NEASC visiting team's report of requirements and recommendations to the high school prior to the decennial visit and accreditation.

Principal Donna Hayward left the meeting at approximately 7:01 p.m.

D. Facilities Update: John Mercier, Director of Operations

- a. HKHS Energy Project Presentation**
- b. HKHS Fieldhouse Floor Project Education Specifications**
- c. BES Underground Oil Tank Replacement Education Specifications**

John Mercier updated the Board on Items a-c. John gave a presentation on each project: Roofing, Photovoltaic, Auditorium and Interior and Exterior Lighting. He broke down each

project by specific areas which included, money spent and state reimbursements, who the architect/contractor was, what items were replaced and/or restored within the project as well as the time limit that was spent on the job and if the project has any outstanding work to be done.

Pictures from a drone that flew over the High School were shown to the Board. Board members expressed how they wanted the Community to see the work that was completed.

John handed out to the Board Members the Educational Specifications for the Burr Elementary School Underground Oil Tank Replacement and the HKHS Fieldhouse Floor Project. John spoke about the project timing, RFPs and the architects for each project.

The Board had discussion about disbanding the Public Building Committee since their work is completed and also spoke briefly about outstanding invoices. Board Chair, Suzanne Sack, disbanded the Public Building Committee on record; however, Superintendent Dr. Hageman will look into if there is anything more the Board needs to do in terms of making this a motion. The Board had further discussions about having the Public Building Committee come to a meeting to thank them for their hard work and presenting them with a Certificate for same.

Brenda Buzzi **MOVED** and Kathleen Zandi **SECONDED** a motion to Approve the Educational Specifications for the Haddam-Killingworth High School Field House Floor Removal, Abatement, and Replacement project as presented.

Motion passed unanimously 8-0-0 by the following votes:

Kathleen Zandi	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	Shawna Goldfarb	Absent		
Peter Sonski	Absent			Jennifer Favalora	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Gerry Matthews	Absent			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"/>

Joel D'Angelo **MOVED** and Eileen Blewett **SECONDED** a motion to Approve the Educational Specifications for the Burr Elementary School Underground Fuel Storage Replacement project as presented.

Motion passed unanimously 8-0-0 by the following votes:

Kathleen Zandi	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	Shawna Goldfarb	Absent		
Peter Sonski	Absent			Jennifer Favalora	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Gerry Matthews	Absent			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"/>

Old Business:

A. BOE Committee Leadership and Membership

Board Chair, Suzanne Sack, updated the Board. She spoke briefly about how she has been in touch with all the Board Members and hopes she fulfilled all wishes for Committee Leadership and Memberships.

B. BOE Orientation

Board Chair, Suzanne Sack, updated the Board. She spoke about Board Orientation which is for all new members and existing members are welcome join. She further stated that the goal of Orientation is to go over the rules, regulations, procedures and supporting the Superintendent. Also, Board Members will take a look at Bylaws and Statutes.

The Board Orientation is scheduled for Saturday, January 4, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. at Central Office, Room A116.

C. Budget Calendar: Pre-Budget Joint Meeting of Boards

Board Chair, Suzanne Sack, updated the Board. She spoke briefly about the Pre-Budget Joint meeting of the Boards and how we want to keep the Towns informed on items like Capital Improvement, Technology, Education, and different Financial aspects. The Pre-Budget Joint Meeting of the Boards will be held on January 14th at 6:00 p.m. at the Haddam-Killingworth Intermediate/Middle School.

E. 2021-2022 Calendar (2nd Read)

Superintendent Dr. Holly Hageman updated the Board. She handed out a draft of the proposed 2021-22 Calendar which went to the Board for approval. Superintendent Dr. Hageman will be researching if the Board decides to change Columbus Day to Indigenous Day per the request of a former Board Member.

Joanne Nesti **MOVED** and Dr. Nelson Rivera **SECONDED** a motion to approve the School Calendar for 2021-2022 as presented.

Motion passed unanimously 8-0-0 by the following votes:

Kathleen Zandi	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	Shawna Goldfarb	Absent		
Peter Sonski	Absent			Jennifer Favalora	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Gerry Matthews	Absent			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"/>

F. HKAA Contract*

Board Chair, Suzanne Sack, updated the Board. She spoke about the negotiations of the HKAA Contract, the different highlights and language issues. There will be a 2.5 percent increase for the next 3 years. She touched on moving from a self-insured insurance plan to the State plan. Lastly, she spoke about adding two Curriculum Coordinators and salaries.

Superintendent Dr. Hageman spoke about how the two Curriculum Coordinator positions were posted internally and they were looking for qualified candidates from within the District. They interviewed the candidates with Board representation from Eileen Blewett and Dr. Nelson Rivera. She spoke on both candidates having a wonderful reputation and high quality of work. They will be

signing their contracts January 2, 2020 and will be introduced at the next Board of Education – Education Session meeting in January 2020.

The Board had further discussion about the tiers of Elementary School Levels and the Intermediate School to be more specific in the contract.

G. Transportation Contract*

Board Chair, Suzanne Sack, updated the Board. She spoke about how the Board asked the Finance Committee to negotiate the contract. STA worked with the Finance Committee in negotiating their contract which would extend the existing contract for 3 years at a rate of 1.5 percent for each of the first two years and 2.5 percent for the final year. Suzanne also stated that for this current year, RSD 17 would receive a credit of 2.5%.

The Board had further discussions about looking into shared services which could potentially be a cost savings, payment of fuel and garage rental.

John Mercier would be the point of contact for transportation.

Eileen Blewett **MOVED** and Kathleen Zandi **SECONDED** a motion to approve the Transportation Contract as presented.

Motion passed 7-0-1 by the following votes:

Kathleen Zandi	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Peter Sonski	Absent		
Gerry Matthews	Absent		
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	Absent		
Jennifer Favolora	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input checked="" 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"/>

Public Comment: None.

Adjournment:

Board Chair, Suzanne Sack, called for the meeting to adjourn at approximately 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Jamie Sciascia
Board Clerk

Approval:  Date: January 7, 2020
Jennifer Favolora, Secretary

