

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
November 12, 2019

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on November 12, 2019 at Central Office in the Board Room. Board of Education Chair, Joanne Nesti, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Members Present: *Eric Couture, Maura Wallin, Joel D'Angelo, Eileen Blewett, Brenda Buzzi, Gerry Matthews, Peter Sonski, Kathleen Zandi, Suzanne Sack, Sue Williams and Joanne Nesti*

Members Absent: *None.*

Also Present: *Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Holly Hageman, Director of Operations for RSD17, John Mercier, Interim Director of Finance, Jason Lathrop, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth High School, Donna Hayward, Director of Athletics, Lynne Flint, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth Middle School, Dolores Bates, STA Manager, Cathy Luisi, Student Representatives, Lauren Miller and Matthew Jennings and Board Clerk, Jamie Sciascia*

Visitors: *9*

Call to Order/Opening of Meeting:

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

Public Comment: *None.*

Board Recognition

Board Chair, Nesti, gave recognition to the wonderful Board Members, Maura Wallin, Eric Couture and Sue Williams, whose terms are up and will be departing the Board of Education. She also presented them with a Certificate of Appreciation.

Superintendent Dr. Hageman spoke about Board Chair, Nesti, and presented her with a token of appreciation for being such a strong and devoted leader in her term as Board Chair.

Board Chair, Nesti, expressed her gratitude towards Superintendent Dr. Hageman and stated how she is looking forward to her tenure as Superintendent. She thanked the Board for giving her the job as Board Chair, and also thanked elected officers Suzanne Sack, Eileen Blewett and Peter Sonski for their countless number of hours they put into the betterment of this District.

Recognition of Cathy Luisi, Transportation Manager:

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Hageman, gave recognition to Cathy Luisi. John Mercier presented her with a plaque for her service and dedication.

Lynne Flint spoke about Cathy Luisi and presented her with a gift of appreciation. She stated how transportation is a huge part of Athletics and the school District and Cathy always made it happen. Lynne stated how she is such an important part of this team and will be missed by so many.

Cathy Luisi addressed the Board. She stated how she has been at the Bus company for 23 years, raised two kids within the District and how it is hard to say goodbye to RSD17. She will miss everyone dearly.

Approval of Minutes:

Approval of Minutes for the following Board Meetings:

- A. Approval of Minutes for the September 3, 2019 Board of Education Meeting
- B. Approval of Minutes for the September 17, 2019 Board of Education - Special Meeting
- C. Approval of Minutes for the September 17, 2019 Board of Education – Education Session Meeting
- D. Approval of Minutes for the October 1, 2019 Board of Education Meeting
- E. Approval of Minutes for the October 15, 2019 Board of Education – Education Session Meeting
- F. Approval of Minutes for the October 15, 2019 Board of Education – Special Meeting
- G. Approval of Minutes for the October 16, 2019 Board of Education – Special Meeting

Gerry Matthews **MOVED** and Kathleen Zandi **SECONDED** a motion to approve Minutes A-F as presented.

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

Suzanne Sack	YES <u>✓</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>	Joel D'Angelo	YES <u>✓</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>
Peter Sonski	YES <u>✓</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>	Eileen Blewett	YES <u>✓</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>
Maura Wallin	YES <u>✓</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>	Brenda Buzzi	YES <u>✓</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>
Eric Couture	YES <u>✓</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>	Gerry Matthews	YES <u>✓</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>
Sue Williams	YES <u>✓</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>	Kathleen Zandi	YES <u>✓</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>
				Joanne Nesti	YES <u>✓</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>

Report from Student Representatives:

Lauren Miller updated the Board. She spoke about Cross County for the boys and girls team and how Matthew Jennings placed 17 in all of New England. She also briefly spoke on Homecoming which is November 22nd and theme is Out of this World. Lastly, Lauren spoke about the upcoming Principal's Cup Football Game.

Matthew Jennings updated the Board. He spoke about how the girls' soccer team won, and the Volleyball team is continuing to spike their way to State Championship.

Principal Donna Hayward and Student Representatives, Lauren Miller and Matthew Jennings left the meeting at approximately 7:15 p.m.

Sue Williams **MOVED** and Maura Wallin **SECONDED** a motion to move up on the Agenda Items 11A and 11B set forth under New Business.

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

Suzanne Sack	YES <u>✓</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>	Joel D'Angelo	YES <u>✓</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>
Peter Sonski	YES <u>✓</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>	Eileen Blewett	YES <u>✓</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>
Maura Wallin	YES <u>✓</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>	Brenda Buzzi	YES <u>✓</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>

Eric Couture YES √ NO A
 Sue Williams YES √ NO A

Gerry Matthews YES √ NO A
 Kathleen Zandi YES √ NO A
 Joanne Nesti YES √ NO A

New Business:

B. HKHS – Washington, D.C. Trip – March 12th – March 15, 2020

Eric Couture **MOVED** and Maura Wallin **SECONDED** a motion to **TABLE** 11B, HKHS – Washington, D.C. Trip – March 12th – March 15, 2020 set forth under New Business.

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

Suzanne Sack YES √ NO A
 Peter Sonski YES √ NO A
 Maura Wallin YES √ NO A
 Eric Couture YES √ NO A
 Sue Williams YES √ NO A

Joel D'Angelo YES √ NO A
 Eileen Blewett YES √ NO A
 Brenda Buzzi YES √ NO A
 Gerry Matthews YES √ NO A
 Kathleen Zandi YES √ NO A
 Joanne Nesti YES √ NO A

New Business:

A. HKMS - Washington, D.C. Trip – April 28th – April 30, 2021

Principal Dolores Bates updated the Board. She spoke on the upcoming Washington D.C. Trip which students have taken over the past 16 years. They travel with their friends, see the U.S. Capitol, tour the Monuments and African American History over the course of 3 days.

Joel D'Angelo **MOVED** and Kathleen Zandi **SECONDED** a motion to approve the HKMS - Washington, D.C. Trip from April 28th – April 30, 2021 as presented.

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

Suzanne Sack YES √ NO A
 Peter Sonski YES √ NO A
 Maura Wallin YES √ NO A
 Eric Couture YES √ NO A
 Sue Williams YES √ NO A

Joel D'Angelo YES √ NO A
 Eileen Blewett YES √ NO A
 Brenda Buzzi YES √ NO A
 Gerry Matthews YES √ NO A
 Kathleen Zandi YES √ NO A
 Joanne Nesti YES √ NO A

Principal Dolores Bates left the meeting at approximately 7.35 p.m.

Board Committee Reports and Future Meetings

A. Facilities Subcommittee

Eric Couture updated the Board. He spoke about how the Committee met and discussed the Field House Floor, and how the subsurface is breaking down. He further stated that they will be finding an architect and how John Mercier and Jason Lathrop will be working with the state for reimbursement. Eric spoke about the oil tanks, replacing and funding of same at BES and KES. Eric briefly spoke about the HKHS Auditorium sound system being updated and brining up to code. Further, Eric spoke about the Capital Plan, Middle School Roof reaching 20 years and will need replacement in 2026-2027. He also spoke about the HKHS pool.

Eric Couture **MOVED** and Maura Wallin **SECONDED** a motion to approve \$16,500 out of the Capital Account for the Auditorium Voice Evac System and Strobes.

Motion passed unanimously 11-0-0 by the following votes:

Suzanne Sack	YES	<u>√</u>	NO	<u> </u>	A	<u> </u>
Peter Sonski	YES	<u>√</u>	NO	<u> </u>	A	<u> </u>
Maura Wallin	YES	<u>√</u>	NO	<u> </u>	A	<u> </u>
Eric Couture	YES	<u>√</u>	NO	<u> </u>	A	<u> </u>
Sue Williams	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>
Gerry Matthews	YES	<u>√</u>	NO	<u> </u>	A	<u> </u>
Kathleen Zandi	YES	<u>√</u>	NO	<u> </u>	A	<u> </u>
Joanne Nesti	YES	<u>√</u>	NO	<u> </u>	A	<u> </u>

B. Finance Subcommittee

Suzanne Sack updated the Board. She spoke about how the Finance Committee met and reviewed the General Fund to date, Vendor Detail and the Energy project went out to bond. Suzanne spoke about the Health Insurance rates, Middlesex County being one of the highest surcharges over the base rates. She spoke about the Annual Finance Work Plan and how Facilities will be looking at the gym in terms of upgrading. Lastly, she spoke about how they will be hosting a joint meeting on December 12th in the Intermediate/Middle School Cafeteria with the newly elected Finance and Selectman to share their concerns.

C. Policy Subcommittee

Eric Couture updated the Board. Eric stated that the Policy Committee did not meet; he briefly went over the revamping of the policies, and would like to get the new Board Members acquainted with the process and to move it back a few months.

Superintendent Dr. Hageman updated the Board. She briefly went over the new Shipman and Goodwin policies and being able to stay up to date. She will bring the Policy sets to the Board for first and second reads in late March/April timeframe once budget season winds down. Board Member, Suzanne Sack, inquired about the Social Media policy. Superintendent Hageman will look specifically at this policy in terms of board function/advisements on social media.

Board Member, Brenda Buzzi, left the meeting at approximately 7:45 p.m.

D. Communications Subcommittee

a) Board Handbook Revision

Gerry Matthews updated the Board. He thanked Kathy Zandi for her hard work with updating the original handbook that was created by Susan Dean.

Kathleen Zandi updated the Board. She spoke briefly about the number of policies that existed and adding a paragraph on Confidentiality and Freedom of Information Act. She would love any feedback from the Board and will delegate any final approvals to the Communications Committee.

The new Board members that are coming on have to get sworn into the Town Clerk by November 30th.

Superintendent Dr. Hageman thanked Kathy Zandi for all her hard work on the handbook. Also, she asked the new board members coming on to read it, and stated that Pamela Hensel will be reaching out to them for their mailbox key. Board orientation will follow shortly.

Kathleen Zandi **MOVED** and Suzanne Sack **SECONDED** a motion to delegate the final version of the Board Handbook to the Communications Subcommittee.

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

Suzanne Sack	YES <u>✓</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>	Joel D'Angelo	YES <u>✓</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>
Peter Sonski	YES <u>✓</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>	Eileen Blewett	YES <u>✓</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>
Maura Wallin	YES <u>✓</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>	Brenda Buzzi	Absent		
Eric Couture	YES <u>✓</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>	Gerry Matthews	YES <u>✓</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>
Sue Williams	YES <u>✓</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>	Kathleen Zandi	YES <u>✓</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>
				Joanne Nesti	YES <u>✓</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>

b) BOE Facebook Presence

Gerry Matthews updated the Board. He spoke about the BOE Facebook page that they could use as a way of communication to the Community to summarize activities within the District and Board items that are appropriate for public viewing.

The Board further had discussion about who would have access to the website, if the comments be turned on/off, being able to put links to all BOE Videos, making it public and having a trial run.

Lastly, the Board spoke about the future quarterly reports that would be possibly sent to each household within the Community and the costs of same.

Gerry Matthews **MOVED** and Eric Couture **SECONDED** a motion to approve the BOE Facebook page as well as to make it public.

Eric Couture **AMENDED** and Gerry Matthews **SECONDED** a motion to approve the BOE Facebook page as a pilot until year-end and to be revisited at the Board meeting in January with a presentation of same.

Motion passed 7-3-0 by the following votes:

Suzanne Sack	YES <u> </u>	NO <u>✓</u>	A <u> </u>	Joel D'Angelo	YES <u>✓</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>
Peter Sonski	YES <u>✓</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>	Eileen Blewett	YES <u>✓</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>
Maura Wallin	YES <u> </u>	NO <u>✓</u>	A <u> </u>	Brenda Buzzi	Absent		
Eric Couture	YES <u>✓</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>	Gerry Matthews	YES <u>✓</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>
Sue Williams	YES <u> </u>	NO <u>✓</u>	A <u> </u>	Kathleen Zandi	YES <u>✓</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>
				Joanne Nesti	YES <u>✓</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>

E. Personnel and Evaluation Subcommittee

No Report.

Board Liaison Reports

A. Healthy Communities – Healthy Kids Council

Gerry Matthews updated the Board.

B. LEARN
No Report.

C. Park & Recreation
Peter Sonski updated the Board. He spoke about after school activities and clubs and they will be looking at for each school within the District. Superintendent Dr. Hageman will be meeting with Robyn from Park and Rec every other month regarding same.

D. Haddam Board of Selectmen
No Report.

E. Killingworth Board of Selectmen
No Report.

Old Business

B. High School Energy and Facilities Upgrade
a) Report from Public Building Committee

Jason Lathrop passed out a sheet of invoices to be reviewed and approved by the Board. Eric Couture updated the Board. He spoke about how they are almost complete; the lights are installed, the solar system is up and running and the Auditorium is completed.

The Board also spoke about the Public Building Committee possibly being dissolved. CREC is coming back to make a full presentation on all projects. Also, December 3rd the Board will take tour of the Boiler Project and address the possible dissolution of the PBC.

*Eric Couture **MOVED** and Eileen Blewett **SECONDED** a motion to approve all invoices as presented.*

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

Suzanne Sack	YES	<u>✓</u>	NO	<u> </u>	A	<u> </u>
Peter Sonski	YES	<u>✓</u>	NO	<u> </u>	A	<u> </u>
Maura Wallin	YES	<u>✓</u>	NO	<u> </u>	A	<u> </u>
Eric Couture	YES	<u>✓</u>	NO	<u> </u>	A	<u> </u>
Sue Williams	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	Absent					
Gerry Matthews	YES	<u>✓</u>	NO	<u> </u>	A	<u> </u>
Kathleen Zandi	YES	<u>✓</u>	NO	<u> </u>	A	<u> </u>
Joanne Nesti	YES	<u>✓</u>	NO	<u> </u>	A	<u> </u>

B. Transportation Contract *

Peter Sonski updated the Board. He spoke about how he did preliminary research with regard to the Transportation bid for this contract, and showing interest around the surrounding Districts has been poor. Also, he stated that they are looking at STA for possible negotiations and could be making a recommendation soon to the Board for their renewal/extension of their contract.

The Board had further discussion about the transportation contract and what would happen if enrollment drops.

*Peter Sonski **MOVED** and Gerry Matthews **SECONDED** a motion that the Finance Subcommittee enter into negotiations with STA for extension of the transportation contract.*

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

Suzanne Sack	YES <u>✓</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>
Peter Sonski	YES <u>✓</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>
Maura Wallin	YES <u>✓</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>
Eric Couture	YES <u>✓</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>
Sue Williams	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	Absent		
Gerry Matthews	YES <u>✓</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>
Kathleen Zandi	YES <u>✓</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>
Joanne Nesti	YES <u>✓</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>

C. HKAA Contract Negotiations*

Gerry Matthews **MOVED** and Sue Williams **SECONDED** a motion to **TABLE** the HKAA Contract Negotiations.

Motion passed unanimously 10-0-0 by the following Show of Hands:

Suzanne Sack	YES <u>✓</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>
Peter Sonski	YES <u>✓</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>
Maura Wallin	YES <u>✓</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>
Eric Couture	YES <u>✓</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>
Sue Williams	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	Absent		
Gerry Matthews	YES <u>✓</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>
Kathleen Zandi	YES <u>✓</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>
Joanne Nesti	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 \$205.25 from Benevity Community Impact Fund to be deposited into the Principal's account. Submitted by Donna Hayward, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth High School.
- B. Acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$184.00 from Staff and will used as scholarship funds for HKIS students to be deposited into the Student Activity Fund. Submitted by Eric Larson, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth Intermediate School.
- C. Acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$24.00 from parents and will be used as scholarship funds for HKIS students to be deposited into the Student Activity Fund. Submitted by Eric Larson, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth Intermediate School.
- D. Acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$145.00 from parents and will be used as scholarship funds for HKMS students to be deposited into the student activity fund. Submitted by Dolores Bates, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth Middle School.
- E. Acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$276.00 from staff and will be used as scholarship funds for HKMS students to be deposited into the student activity fund. Submitted by Dolores Bates, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth Middle School.
- F. Acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$500.00 from KES PTO to be deposited into the KES Student Activity Account – Field Trips. Submitted by Dennis Reed, Principal of Killingworth Elementary School.
- G. Acceptance of a grant in the amount of \$1,000 from Special Olympics Connecticut, Inc. and sub-awarded through the CT Association of Schools to be used to support our Unified Sports and Education related programs. Submitted by Dolores Bates, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth Middle School.

- H. Acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$14.02 from Lathrop Vending, Inc. to be deposited into the Student Activity Fund. Submitted by Donna Hayward, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth High School.
- I. Acceptance of a donation from a Community member of a 1974 VW Beetle (Approx value \$1,000) for use in the Auto Class. Submitted by Donna Hayward, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth High School

Maura Wallin **MOVED** and Gerry Matthews **SECONDED** a motion to approve Item A-I listed on the Consent Agenda with great appreciation.

Motion passed unanimously 10-0-0 by the following Show of Hands:

Suzanne Sack	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"/>
Maura Wallin	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Eric Couture	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Sue Williams	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	Absent		
Gerry Matthews	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Kathleen Zandi	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"/>

From the Superintendent:

A. Legislative Update

No Report.

B. Personnel Report

Superintendent Dr. Hageman advised that the Personnel Report has been provided in the BOE Packet. If you have any questions on the report, please feel free to contact her directly.

C. Enrollment Report

Superintendent Dr. Hageman advised that the Enrollment Report has been provided in the BOE Packet. If you have any questions on the report, please feel free to contact her directly.

From the Director of Fiscal Operations:

A. Budget Transfers

None.

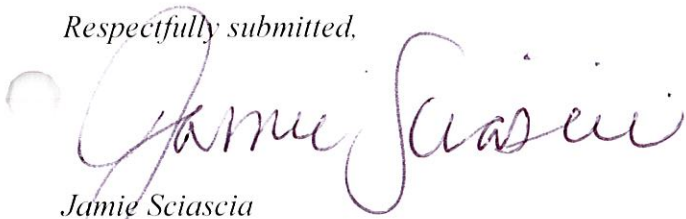
Board Discussion/News/Suggestions: *Board Chair, Nesti, will be working on scheduling a Joint Meeting with the newly elected Boards of Selectmen and the Boards of Finance in Haddam and Killingworth on December 12th at 7:00 p.m. at the Haddam-Killingworth Intermediate School/Middle School.*

Public Comment: *None.*

Adjournment:

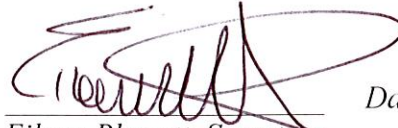
Board Chair, Joanne Nesti, called for the meeting to adjourn at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Jamie Sciascia
Board Clerk

Approval:



Eileen Blewett, Secretary

Date:

12/3/19

