

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION – EDUCATION SESSION**  
**August 20, 2019**

*A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on August 20, 2019 in the Haddam-Killingworth Intermediate/Middle School Cafeteria. Board of Education Chair, Joanne Nesti, called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.*

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

**Members Absent:** *Kathleen Zandi and Suzanne Sack*

**Also Present:** *Interim Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Holly Hageman, Director of IT for RSD17, John Mercier, 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, Vice President of Education Association, Robin Duffield, Board Clerk, Jamie Sciascia*

**Visitors:** *Approximately 5*

**Call to Order/Opening of Meeting:** *Board of Education Chair, Joanne Nesti, called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.*

*Board Chair, Nesti, thanked Dr. Holly Hageman for taking on the task and moving into transition to Superintendent.*

**Public Comment:**

*Arthur Collins of Higganum addressed the Board. He inquired about whether or not anyone knew that Howard Thiery was resigning as Superintendent and spoke about the new superintendent interview process/online.*

*Maura Wallin **MOVED** and Eric Couture **SECONDED** a motion to add to the Agenda, Introduction of the new Middle School Principal, Dolores Bates.*

*Motion passed unanimously 9-0-0 by the following Show of Hands:*

Suzanne Sack	Absent	Joel D'Angelo	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Peter Sonski	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Eileen Blewett	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Maura Wallin	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Brenda Buzzi	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Eric Couture	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gerry Matthews	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Sue Williams	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kathleen Zandi	Absent		
		Joanne Nesti	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>

*Interim Superintendent Dr. Holly Hageman, welcomed Dolores Bates as the new Haddam-Killingworth Middle School Principal and stated how she looks forward to her Leadership of the school and the great relationships she has built during her time as interim HKMS Principal.*

Principal Dolores Bates thanked the Board for the wonderful opportunity to serve as the Haddam-Killingworth School Principal and is very excited for what the future lies ahead.

Gerry Matthews **MOVED** and Brenda Buzzi **SECONDED** a motion to move up on the Agenda 5A, Introduction of new High School Assistant Principal. Adam Apicella set forth under New Business.

Motion passed unanimously 9-0-0 by the following Show of Hands:

Suzanne Sack	Absent	Joel D'Angelo	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Peter Sonski	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Eileen Blewett	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Maura Wallin	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Brenda Buzzi	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Eric Couture	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gerry Matthews	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Sue Williams	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kathleen Zandi	Absent		
		Joanne Nesti	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>

Principal Donna Hayward gave her warm remarks about the hiring of Adam Apicella.

Adam Apicella spoke on his newly appointed position as the Assistant Principal at the Haddam-Killingworth High School. He stated how is very excited for this opportunity and looks forward to working in a Blue Ribbon School, wonderful culture and environment. He briefly spoke about the wonderful interview process he has had within RSD17.

Principal Donna Hayward, Assistant Principal, Adam Apicella, and Principal Dolores Bates left the meeting at approximately 7:15 p.m.

**Board Liaison Reports**

**A. Curriculum Council**  
No Report.

**B. Curriculum Subcommittee**  
No Report.

**Old Business**

**A. High School Building Project**

**a) Report from Public Building Committee**

**b) Finance Committee Update on Project Financing**

**c) Resolution to Close the High School Roof and Photovoltaic Projects**

Eric Couture updated the Board. He spoke about how there are the Commissioning of the Boilers and floor left in the Boiler Project. There are a few punch list items for the Lighting project. The Auditorium Project has painting in the entrance and the Photovoltaic Project is in the closeout stage where the Finance Committee will be updating the Board on that portion of it.

Eric spoke on the Shea Invoice which is for the remaining retainage due and the PBC approved this for payment. He also stated how they did a wonderful job with the solar panels. Eric briefly touched on the State reimbursement of funds for this project.

Eileen Blewett updated the Board. She spoke about how the Finance Committee recommends going out to bond, and BANS being due at the end of October. It will be a 10 year Bond for approximately 7.2 million. The recommendation is not to extend the debt longer than 10 years. She mentioned the estimated net interest cost (NIC) being a good rate.

Eric Couture **MOVED** and Sue Williams **SECONDED** a motion to approve the invoice for payment to Shea Electric in the amount of \$115,797.78 as presented.

Motion passed unanimously 9-0-0 by the following votes:

Suzanne Sack	Absent	Joel D'Angelo	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Peter Sonski	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Eileen Blewett	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Maura Wallin	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Brenda Buzzi	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Eric Couture	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gerry Matthews	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Sue Williams	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kathleen Zandi	Absent		
		Joanne Nesti	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>

Eric Couture **MOVED** and Maura Wallin **SECONDED** a motion to designate the state project #217-0050RR, roof replacement at the Haddam-Killingworth High School, as complete and accepted by the RSD 17 Board of Education. Total project expenditure was \$2,488,947.

Motion passed unanimously 9-0-0 by the following votes:

Suzanne Sack	Absent	Joel D'Angelo	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Peter Sonski	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Eileen Blewett	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Maura Wallin	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Brenda Buzzi	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Eric Couture	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gerry Matthews	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Sue Williams	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kathleen Zandi	Absent		
		Joanne Nesti	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>

Eric Couture **MOVED** and Brenda Buzzi **SECONDED** a motion to designate the state project #217-0051EC, energy conservation/photovoltaic project at the Haddam-Killingworth High School, as complete and accepted by the RSD 17 Board of Education. Total project expenditure was \$2,461,226.

Motion passed unanimously 9-0-0 by the following votes:

Suzanne Sack	Absent	Joel D'Angelo	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Peter Sonski	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Eileen Blewett	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Maura Wallin	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Brenda Buzzi	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Eric Couture	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gerry Matthews	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Sue Williams	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kathleen Zandi	Absent		
		Joanne Nesti	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>

Brenda Buzzi **MOVED** and Maura Wallin **SECONDED** a motion to amend the Agenda to add the discussion of Burr District Elementary School Carpet Replacement.

Motion passed unanimously 9-0-0 by the following Show of Hands:

Suzanne Sack	Absent	Joel D'Angelo	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Peter Sonski	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Eileen Blewett	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Maura Wallin	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Brenda Buzzi	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Eric Couture	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gerry Matthews	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>

Sue Williams YES ✓ NO     A    

Kathleen Zandi Absent  
Joanne Nesti YES ✓ NO     A    

### Carpet Replacement – Burr:

Dr. Holly Hageman updated the Board. She spoke about how the carpeting in the Burr Elementary School is worn, due to aging, and needs to be replaced. This item was not on the immediate Capital Tier items list; however, there is a specific section of the carpeting in a hallway that needs to be replaced sooner rather than later. She asked the Board for their permission to engage in Fuss and O'Neil to make sure that there is nothing of an environmental hazard underneath it. The approximate cost of them coming out would be \$1160.

The Board had further discussion about Fuss and O'Neill, obtaining some pictures of the areas for replacement, and would like John Mercier to assess it. Some Board members wanted this process to be expedited since school is beginning. Also, further discussions about asbestos under the carpet, how to remediate it, and patching the area that could potentially be a tripping hazard took place.

Peter Sonski **MOVED** and Gerry Matthews **SECONDED** a motion to approve Fuss & O'Neil's carpet analysis at Burr District Elementary School and asked that the process be expedited.

Motion passed unanimously 9-0-0 by the following Show of Hands:

Suzanne Sack	Absent	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	Absent
		Joanne Nesti	YES <u>✓</u> NO <u>   </u> A <u>   </u>

Eric Couture **MOVED** Sue Williams **SECONDED** a motion to move down on the Agenda under Public Comment Items B-D set forth under Old Business:

Motion passed unanimously 9-0-0 by the following Show of Hands:

Suzanne Sack	Absent	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	Absent
		Joanne Nesti	YES <u>✓</u> NO <u>   </u> A <u>   </u>

### New Business:

#### B. Opening of School Update

Dr. Holly Hageman updated the Board. She spoke about the Opening Day of Schools; two new administrators being hired as well as 17 new teachers across the District. She thanked Rob Albert and Custodians for helping to move everything over to Burr from HES. She spoke about school projects nearing completing: painting in the high school wing, Auto Shop washed, new furniture in the blended learning section (tables and chairs). She spoke about Principal Dolores Bates and Principal Eric Larson, renewing positives relationship within the District and they plan on rolling out communication in the upcoming days. HKIS is ready to go, signs were installed as well as the kid's playground. Spoke briefly about the HKIS events.

Dr. Hageman spoke on the August 27<sup>th</sup> Burr Community Picnic, kids painting a rock to add to the garden, ringing into school ceremony which took place over at HES. KES opening day ran smoothly and they stand for "Kindness, Effort and Safety".

Dr. Hageman further updated the Board on the IT aspect of it. Outlook was changed to Gmail, all equipment and projects from HES were moved across the District. Google Bandwidth increased to 10, District copiers were updated and replaced, PowerSchool has been updated, 250 chrome books and 150 laptops are underway. She gave a huge thanks to John, Brett and Dennis for all their hard work.

Lastly, Dr. Hageman spoke about Transposition and how the bus stops have been posted. She further spoke about the hiring of a teacher at BES who has served in the District and has wonderful experience. Board Member, Maura Wallin, inquired on the Teacher Letters for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, if the parents received them, since a new teacher and section were added.

**Public Comment:**

Shawna Goldfarb of Higganum addressed the Board. She spoke about the HKIS floorplans and asked about the August Enrollment to make sure it gets on the RSD17 website for public viewing.

Katie Packtor of Haddam addressed the Board. She spoke about the Superintendent Search survey and asked that it be advertised to the public more. She also spoke on the conflicts of meeting dates and times for the Superintendent Search meetings and asked if they can place them on the RSD17 website where the survey is located. John Mercier said he would get that up and running tonight.

**Old Business:**

- B. Personnel Matter Related to Central Office Restructuring and Director of Operations Proposal\***
- C. HES Sale Contract\***
- D. Transportation Contract\***

Gerry Matthews **MOVED** and Eric Couture **SECONDED** a motion to enter into Executive Session for purposes of discussing a Personnel Matter related to Central Office Restructuring and Director of Operations proposal, HES Sale Contract and Transportation Contract.

Motion passed unanimously 9-0-0 by the following Show of Hands:

Suzanne Sack	Absent	Joel D'Angelo	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"/>	Eileen Blewett	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"/>	Brenda Buzzi	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"/>	Gerry Matthews	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"/>	Kathleen Zandi	Absent		
				Joanne Nesti	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>

**Executive Session Started at approximately 8:04 p.m.**

**Executive Session:**

Board Members discussed an update on the HES Sales Contract.

Board Members, Joel D'Angelo and Sue Williams, left the meeting at approximately 8:40 p.m.

Dr. Holly Hageman updated the Board on the restructuring of Central office and the Director of Operations proposal.

Board tabled the discussion on the Transportation contract.

**Executive Session Ended at approximately 9:08 p.m.**

Eric Couture **MOVED** and Gerry Matthews **SECONDED** a motion to create the Position of Director of Operations with an annual salary of \$145,000.

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

Suzanne Sack	Absent	Joel D'Angelo	Absent
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	Absent	Kathleen Zandi	Absent
		Joanne Nesti	YES <u>√</u> NO <u>   </u> A <u>   </u>

Eric Couture **MOVED** and Maura Wallin **SECONDED** a motion to appoint John Mercier to the position of Director of Operations.

Motion passed 6-0-1 by the following votes:

Suzanne Sack	Absent	Joel D'Angelo	Absent
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	Absent	Kathleen Zandi	Absent
		Joanne Nesti	YES <u>√</u> NO <u>   </u> A <u>   </u>

**Adjournment:**

Board Chair, Joanne Nesti, called for the meeting to adjourn at approximately 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

  
 Jamie Sciascia  
 Board Clerk

Approval:   
 Eileen Blewett, Secretary

Date: 10/1/19