

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
August 6, 2019**

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on August 6, 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, Sue Williams, Eileen Blewett, Brenda Buzzi, Gerry Matthews, and Joanne Nesti*

Members Absent: *Peter Sonski, Kathleen Zandi and Suzanne Sack*

Also Present: *Superintendent of Schools, Howard Thiery, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Holly Hageman, Principal of KES, Dennis Reed, 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.

Approval of Minutes:

Approval of Minutes for the following Board Meetings:

- A.** Approval of Minutes for the October 2, 2018 Board of Education Meeting (REVISED)
- B.** Approval of Minutes for the May 7, 2019 Board of Education Meeting (REVISED)
- C.** Approval of Minutes for the June 25, 2019 Board of Education – Special Meeting (Education Session)
- D.** Approval of the Minutes for the July 2, 2019 Board of Education Meeting

*Gerry Matthews **MOVED** and Maura Wallin **SECONDED** a motion to approve Minutes A-D as presented.*

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

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

*Maura Wallin **MOVED** and Sue Williams **SECONDED** a motion to move up in the Agenda 8A, KES PTO Fund Raiser: Sell a Brick Walkway set forth under New Business.*

Motion passed unanimously 8-0-0 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 | Absent | 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"/> |

New Business

A. KES PTO Fund Raiser: Sell a Brick Walkway

Alisha McNamara of Killingworth and Samantha Harvey of Killingworth updated the Board. Alisha spoke about the KES PTO Fundraiser, Sell a Brick Walkway. She stated that there is a garden called the "Butterfly Garden" in the back of KES which you pass on the way to the playground. She is looking to sell approximately 180 bricks, to Community Members, and they would pay a cost to have their name engraved in the bricks. These bricks would circle the whole garden and then the Beautification Committee would maintain it. It would be a Community build project, and children would help out too. The contractor is TBD and they are looking at September timeframe. Principal Reed stated there would be no impact to the grounds and spoke briefly on the width of the main walkway. Board Member, Gerry Matthews, made a suggestion that people might want to take the bricks, when they leave KES, and storing extra ones that need to be replaced might be helpful. The Board had further discussion about this wonderful Community PTO Fundraiser.

Joel D'Angelo **MOVED** and Eileen Blewett **SECONDED** a motion to approve the KES PTO Sell-A-Brick Walkway campaign.

Joel D'Angelo **AMENDED** and Eileen Blewett **SECONDED** a motion to approve the PTO donations of a brick walkway in the Butterfly Garden in the back of Killingworth Elementary School.

Motion passed unanimously 8-0-0 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 | Absent | 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"/> |

Board Committee Reports and Future Meetings

A. Facilities Subcommittee

No Report.

B. Finance Subcommittee

Eileen Blewett updated the Board. She spoke about short term borrowing being up in October, looking to go out to bond, interest rates and bank-borrowing.

Policy Subcommittee

No Report.

C. Communications Subcommittee

No Report.

D. Personnel and Evaluation Subcommittee

No Report.

Board Liaison Reports

A. Healthy Communities – Healthy Kids Council

No Report.

B. LEARN

No Report.

C. Park & Recreation

No Report.

D. Haddam Board of Selectmen

No Report.

E. Killingworth Board of Selectmen

Eric Couture updated the Board.

6. Old Business

E. High School Energy and Facilities Upgrade

a) Project Update

b) Financial Update

c) Building Committee Requests

Superintendent Thiery updated the Board. He spoke about how the Boilers are up and running, commissioning and painting the floors will be next week. He spoke about the Solar Project, purchasing 22 extra solar panels and recommended that we purchase these to match the others on the roof now. It would cost approximately \$6,490.00.

Superintendent Thiery stated they are still moving HES furniture into Burr and the last of items that District desires. The next step would be emails to municipal entities, fire companies, ambulances, libraries, Senior Centers to see if they are interested in any items that are left. This is only open to Haddam and Killingworth. Also, there is a possibility of a salvage company coming in as the third step. The Board gave Consensus on the next steps.

*Gerry Matthews **MOVED** and Eric Couture **SECONDED** a motion to approve the 22 Solar Panels in the amount of \$6,490.00 out of the Operating Budget as presented.*

Motion passed 8-1-0 by the following votes:

| | | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| Suzanne Sack | Absent | Joel D'Angelo | YES <u>√</u> | NO <u> </u> | A <u> </u> |
| Peter Sonski | Absent | Eileen Blewett | YES <u>√</u> | NO <u> </u> | A <u> </u> |
| Maura Wallin | YES <u>√</u> | Brenda Buzzi | YES <u>√</u> | NO <u> </u> | A <u> </u> |
| Eric Couture | YES <u>√</u> | Gerry Matthews | YES <u>√</u> | NO <u> </u> | A <u> </u> |

Sue Williams YES √ NO A

Kathleen Zandi Absent
Joanne Nesti YES NO √ A

B. Intermediate School Update

Dr. Holly Hageman updated the Board. She spoke about how the HKIS playground has been installed and on budget, also that the new signage for the HKIS/HKMS will be installed next week. Dr. Hageman went over the step-up activities, family picnic, orientation, art work, school t-shirts and picture day for all students and staff. She briefly spoke about teacher laptops and chromebooks.

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 his discretion.

- A. Acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$14.33 from Lathrop Vending, Inc. Submitted by Donna Hayward, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth High School.

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

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

| | | | |
|--------------|---|----------------|---|
| Suzanne Sack | Absent | Joel D'Angelo | YES <u>√</u> NO <u> </u> A <u> </u> |
| Peter Sonski | Absent | 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:

A. Inventory Disposal Request Form - KES

Superintendent Thiery updated the Board. He spoke about the KES Inventory Disposal Request which are books dating back to 1990 and early 2000. Board Member, Brenda Buzzi, suggested looking into donating them.

*Eric Couture **MOVED** and Maura Wallin **SECONDED** a motion to approve the Inventory Disposal Request Form as presented.*

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

| | | | |
|--------------|---|----------------|---|
| Suzanne Sack | Absent | Joel D'Angelo | YES <u>√</u> NO <u> </u> A <u> </u> |
| Peter Sonski | Absent | 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> |

C. Attorney Presentation: HES Sale Document*

D. Transportation Contract*

E. Central Office Restructuring*

Gerry Matthews **MOVED** and Kathleen Zandi **SECONDED** a motion to move down on the Agenda under the second Public Comment, Agenda Items 8C-E set forth under New Business.

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

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

F. BES Third Grade Enrollment

Superintendent Thiery updated the Board. He thanked Dr. Hageman for tracking the current enrollment numbers. He briefly spoke on the 3rd Grade Class size at Burr being 21 students with 3 sections, and stated how historically it is around 22. He spoke to Principal Larson and Principal Whidden about same and Superintendent Thiery's recommendation would be to continue to monitor the class sizes.

Board Member, Maura Wallin, spoke how we made a promise to the Community to keep the class sizes on the lower side, and how she feels we need to add another class immediately.

The Board had further discussion about the possibility of adding another 3rd grade section at Burr and staffing same.

Gerry Matthews **MOVED** and Sue Williams **SECONDED** a motion to add a 5th section to the 3rd Grade Class at Burr District Elementary School, and to hire a teacher for that section.

Motion passed 6-2-0 by the following Show of Hands:

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

Maura Wallin **MOVED** and Brenda Buzzi **SECONDED** a motion to amend the Agenda to add Search Committee Update.

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

| | | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| Suzanne Sack | Absent | Joel D'Angelo | YES <u>√</u> | NO <u> </u> | A <u> </u> |
| Peter Sonski | Absent | Eileen Blewett | YES <u>√</u> | NO <u> </u> | A <u> </u> |
| Maura Wallin | YES <u>√</u> | Brenda Buzzi | YES <u>√</u> | NO <u> </u> | A <u> </u> |
| Eric Couture | YES <u>√</u> | Gerry Matthews | YES <u>√</u> | NO <u> </u> | A <u> </u> |

Sue Williams YES NO A

Kathleen Zandi Absent
Joanne Nesti YES NO A

Search Committee Update:

Joel D'Angelo updated the Board. He spoke about how the Search Committee met with CES, how there has been a Press Release to the Community seeking public input, scheduling of Focus Groups, parent community sessions and an online survey asking for all the qualifications that are important in a new Superintendent. After all that happens, CES will produce a Leadership profile of the responses that were provided. Board had further discussions about whether or not the few Public sessions that are scheduled will be enough for parents to attend since the dates fall on HKIS events.

From the Superintendent:

A. Legislative Update

Superintendent Thiery updated the Board. He spoke briefly about events that are happening at the State Level.

B. Personnel Report

Superintendent Thiery advised that the Personnel Report has been provided in the BOE Packet. He also spoke about still hiring Personnel for the District.

C. Enrollment Report

Superintendent Thiery advised that the Enrollment Report has been provided in the BOE Packet. Superintendent Thiery spoke briefly on current Enrollment.

From the Director of Fiscal Operations:

A. Budget Transfers

No Report.

Board Discussion/News/Suggestions: Board Chair, Nesti, spoke about Superintendent Thiery's resignation. The Board presented him a gift for his dedication and years of service to RSD17.

Public Comment: None.

Eric Couture **MOVED** and Maura Wallin **SECONDED** a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing a Real Estate Transaction, Personnel Matters related to possible Central Office Restructuring, Discussion related to Contraction Negotiations and to also invite Assistant Superintendent Dr. Holly Hageman, and Attorney Brian Lema.

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

Suzanne Sack Absent
Peter Sonski Absent
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 Absent
Joanne Nesti YES NO A

The Board went into Executive Session at 8:05 p.m.

Executive Session:

Attorney Brian Lema updated the Board on the Sales contract for the Sale of HES. The Board discussed the terms of contract.

Superintendent Thiery updated the Board on the Transportation Contract that is due to expire in June 2020.

Superintendent Thiery updated the Board on the proposed idea of a District restructuring of Central Office.

The Board ended Executive Session at 9:12 p.m.

Adjournment:

Board Chair, Joanne Nesti, called for the meeting to adjourn at 9:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Jamie Sciascia
Board Clerk

Approval:


Eileen Blewett, Secretary

Date:

10/1/19