

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION - SPECIAL MEETING
May 9, 2019**

A special meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on May 9, 2019 at the Central Office Board Room. Board of Education Chair, Joanne Nesti, called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

Members Present: *Joel D'Angelo, Eric Couture, Sue Williams, Eileen Blewett, Brenda Buzzi (Arrived at 7:05 PM), Kathleen Zandi, Suzanne Sack, Peter Sonski, Maura Wallin (Arrived at 7:34 PM) and Joanne Nesti*

Members Absent: *Gerry Matthews*

Also Present: *Superintendent of Schools, Howard Thiery, Director of Finance, Martha Vaughn, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth Middle School, Dr. Jennifer Olsen, Principal of Burr Elementary School, Eric Larson, Principal of Haddam Elementary School, Brienne Whidden (Arrived at 7:42 PM), Principal of Killingworth Elementary School, Dennis Reed, RSD7 Technology Director, John Mercier, Vice President of HK Education Association, Robin Duffield, and Board Clerk, Jamie Sciascia*

Visitors: 4

Call to Order/Opening of Meeting: *Board of Education Chair, Joanne Nesti, called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.*

Budget and Referendum Timeline:

Superintendent Thiery updated the Board about the regulatory, statutory and posting requirements for putting another budget back out to referendum after it failed. He handed out the Proposed Second Referendum Budget Timeline.

*Joel D'Angelo **MOVED** and Kathleen Zandi **SECONDED** a motion to approve the Proposed Second Referendum Budget Timeline as presented.*

Motion passed 8-1-0 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	Absent	Brenda Buzzi	YES <u> </u> NO <u>√</u> A <u> </u>
Eric Couture	YES <u>√</u> NO <u> </u> A <u> </u>	Gerry Matthews	Absent
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>

Discussion of Results of Budget Referendum on 5/7/19:

The Board had discussion about the Budget results for the Towns of Haddam and Killingworth that took place on May 7, 2019 as well as a portion of the Survey Results that were given by the "Friends of HES" at the Voting polls.

Discussion of the Proposed 2019-2020 Budget:

Superintendent Thiery handed out adjustments that were made from retirees that recently took place since putting the Board of Education Budget out totaling \$148,076.26. This would be a 0.55% Gross Budget increase over the 2018-2019 year. He also handed out the 2019-2020 Summary of Total Request and the Board of Education Proposed 2019-2020 Summary of Total Request. He briefly spoke about the Haddam and Killingworth Town Assessments. The Board had discussion about the Lead Teacher being identified, insurance, pensions, Regional School Districts, new positions and investments regarding Technology Software upgrades, and Capital Contributions.

Superintendent Thiery briefly spoke about there being some confusion via Social Media and within the Community about not taking the salaries of the teachers positions that were being eliminated out of the budget to which he wanted to clarify that they were. He handed out the March 29, 2019 version which shows the monies weren't being accounted for in the Budget and their names were just a placeholder. The Board had further discussion in length regarding same.

Lastly, the Board had discussions and agreed upon three starting points for Superintendent Thiery and the Administration Team to review within the Budget and bring back to the Board at the next Budget Workshop. 1) Keeping the Budget as is with the retiree positions adjustments bringing the new Gross Budget of \$42,417,738.59; 2) Decreasing the budget another \$25,000 to bring both Towns of Killingworth and Haddam to a zero/negative zero Town Assessment; and/or 3) bringing the Gross Budget to a zero increase over 2018-2019.

There will be a Budget Workshop on Monday, May 13, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at Central Office.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Jamie Sciascia
Board Clerk



Approval: _____

Eileen Blewett, Secretary

Date: _____

7/2/19