

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION - SPECIAL MEETING
April 2, 2019**

A special meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on April 2, 2019 in the Student Commons of the Haddam-Killingworth Middle School. Board of Education Chair, Joanne Nesti, called the meeting to order at 8:37 PM.

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

Members Absent: None.

Also Present: Superintendent of Schools, Howard Thiery, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Curriculum, Dr. Holly Hageman, 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, Principal of Killingworth Elementary School, Dennis Reed, Student Services Director, Dr. Kris Lindsay, Vice President of HK Education Association, Robin Duffield, Special Education Coordinator, Tonya Gorgone, First Selectwoman for the Town of Killingworth, Cathy Iino, Board of Selectwoman for the Town of Haddam, Melissa Schlag, Resident State Trooper, Enrico Milardo, and Board Clerk, Jamie Sciascia

Visitors: Approximately 25

Call to Order/Opening of Meeting: Board of Education Chair, Joanne Nesti, called the meeting to order at 8:37 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited during the Annual Meeting held before this meeting.

Review of Community Input of Annual Hearing and Possible Budget Modification:

The Board briefly reviewed Community input, and discussed the possibility of adding extra questions on the voting ballot.

Board of Education Adopts 2019-2020 Budget for Annual Meeting:

*Gerry Matthews **MOVED** and Eric Couture **SECONDED** a motion to adopt a Regional Gross Education Budget of \$42,565,814.85 for the fiscal year of 2019-2020 starting July 1, 2019.*

Motion passed 9-2-0 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	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>

Approval of Legal Call for May 6, 2019:

*Eileen Blewett **MOVED** and Eric Couture **SECONDED** a motion to approve the Legal Call as follows below:*

Motion passed 9-2-0 by the following votes:

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

A meeting of Regional School District No. 17 of the State of Connecticut, whose member towns are the towns of Haddam and Killingworth, will be held in the Auditorium of Haddam-Killingworth High School on May 6, 2019 at 7:00 PM for the following purposes:

1. To adopt a regional education gross budget of \$42,565,814.85 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019.

The meeting will be adjourned to a yes/no vote on the budget which will take place on the voting machines in each of the member towns on the day following the district meeting; therefore, the vote on voting machines will take place May 7, 2019.

2. To set the voting hours of the referendum vote on the budget for the hours of 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM pursuant to Section 10-51 of the Connecticut General Statutes as amended by Public Act 94-245 and 7-7 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

A copy of the proposed budget recommended for adoption by the district Board of Education is on file and available for inspection and copies are available for distribution upon request at the office of the Superintendent of Schools at 57 Little City Road, Higganum, CT and at the offices of the town clerks of Haddam and Killingworth.

*Sue Williams **MOVED** and Kathleen Zandi **SECONDED** a motion to move up Item 5C on the Agenda, Update on Town of Haddam/HES Property.*

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

Old Business:

C. Update on Town of Haddam/HES Property

Attorney Floyd Dugas updated the Board. He spoke about making a smooth transaction and having internal discussions with the real estate department and land use department to make sure they are following the right steps and prepared to move forward. Town Attorneys for Haddam and Killingworth are keeping an open dialog, to be on the same page. Attorney Dugas spoke about the title search being done for the HES property. Secondly, he spoke with Richard Carella, the Haddam Town Attorney, about a timeline which included the BOS meeting scheduled for April 8th, a vote to move forward and a Section 8-24 review. If it goes through the 8-24 review, the BOF will hold a

public information session followed by a Town Meeting and Referendum. Attorney Carella said mid-June before this will be completed. Further, Attorney Dugas touched briefly on speaking with the Killingworth Town Attorney about what are rights relative to sale as far as the HES building being an asset at some value, offset other cost then there is savings to other parties. Lastly, he addressed the Survey of HES, and the costs associated with that.

Board Chair, Nesti, spoke on may not meeting the 60-day timeline but won't know until after the April 8th BOS meeting. She stated that the bidder for HES is aware of this timeline.

The Board had further conversations about starting the vetting process of the RFP in order to get the information they needed to move forward. They also spoke briefly about Swan Hill parcel and the Town of Haddam accepting the property.

Board Chair, Nesti, stated they will wait to get a clearer timeline after the Board of Selectman Meeting takes place on April 8th.

Attorney Floyd Dugas left the meeting at approximately 8:55 p.m.

Old Business

A. Report from the Public Building Committee

Board Chair, Nesti, updated the Board. She spoke about how the Solar Panels have arrived, and Shea Electric will spend all day on April 6th moving the panels on the roof and then begin the installation process. Further, she spoke about how the boilers have been relocated in the mechanical room and stated that they may not need to relocate the panels which could be a potential savings. Superintendent Thiery briefly touched on the Commission of the Boilers.

Board Member, Sue Williams, left the meeting at approximately 9:10 p.m.

B. Report from the Facilities Sub-Committee

a.) Discussion and Possible Action on Proposed Capital Fund Expenditures

Eric Couture updated the Board. He stated that the Facilities Committee met yesterday and brought forward the Capital recommendations for this coming year. He handed out a list to the Board for review. The Capital requests are related to the presentation that John Mercier gave for phone service. Eric explained that the microphone replacements are due to the change in band width.

Superintendent Thiery updated the Board. He spoke about how certain devices are linked at certain frequencies, and have a certain band width which are licensed by the FCC. The FCC has mandated that all these current devices go off air.

Eric further spoke on the middle of the Capital Fund requests for things like: Auto Shop Floor replacement which totals \$25,000; Painting the Auto Shop wing; security maintenance upgrades; BES Oil Tank replacement; playground for HKIS. Superintendent Thiery stated that in May we will know more on final numbers and that we are in the allotted time in order for a company to install it before school opens in the Fall. Other expenditures: Moving costs for HES which Mr. Albert is in the process of working on and the Field House Floor replacement. Superintendent Thiery spoke briefly on receiving an estimate of removing and demolishing the old floor and laying the new floor was roughly \$225-300,000 depending on if there is any environmental hazards under the floor like Mercury and/or Asbestos. Fuss and O'Neill came in and tested it

and he stated they will have other companies come in to give options, costs, etc. This will be put out for one year.

The Board had further discussions regarding the items that weren't on the list and the Facilities Committee reviewing the estimates/quotes received. Vice Chair, Suzanne Sack, raised concerns that the Facilities be comfortable and do their due diligence with the items brought forward on the list before they come to the Board for approval. Also, concerns were raised with the timing of getting the items accomplished.

Joel D'Angelo **MOVED** and Maura Wallin **SECONDED** a motion to approve to spend but not exceed \$355,316,29 for the items listed in the Capital Requests.

Motion passed 9-1-0 by the following votes:

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

New Business:

A. Set High School Graduation Date – June 2019

Superintendent Thiery updated the Board. He spoke about due to Statute, the Board is allowed to set in stone after April 1st the High School Graduation Date. He explained that the last day of school is Tuesday, June 11, 2019 which marks the 180 day.

Gerry Matthews **MOVED** and Kathleen Zandi **SECONDED** a motion to set the High School Graduation Date as Tuesday, June 11, 2019.

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

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

Board Member, Joel D'Angelo, left the meeting at approximately 9:35 p.m.

B. Board Action Regarding Workforce Reduction

Superintendent Thiery updated the Board. He spoke about the RIF list which were part of the restructuring. Superintendent Thiery handed out the RIF list to the Board which is also accurate in the budget. In order for the employees to get their official letter the Board needs to approve the list as proposed. Superintendent Thiery stated that he anticipates call backs within the next few weeks.

Gerry Matthews **MOVED** and Eileen Blewett **SECONDED** a motion to approve the RIF List as presented.

Motion passed 7-2-0 by the following votes:

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 type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Eric Couture	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Sue Williams	Absent		

Joel D'Angelo	Absent		
Eileen Blewett	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Brenda Buzzi	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
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"/>

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 9:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Jamie Sciascia
Board Clerk

Approval:  Date: 7/2/19
Eileen Blewett, Secretary