

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION - SPECIAL MEETING**  
**March 25, 2019**

*A special meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on March 25, 2019 at the Central Office Board Room. Board of Education Chair, Joanne Nesti, called the meeting to order at 6:12 PM.*

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

**Members Absent:** *Peter Sonski and Joel D'Angelo*

**Also Present:** *Superintendent of Schools, Howard Thiery, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Holly Hageman, Director of Finance, Martha Vaughn, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth High School, Donna Hayward, 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, Director of Student Services, Dr. Kris Lindsay, Student Services Coordinator, Tonya Gorgone, RSD7 IT Director, John Mercier, and Board Clerk, Jamie Sciascia*

**Call to Order/Opening of Meeting:** *Board of Education Chair, Joanne Nesti, called the meeting to order at 6:12 PM.*

**Discussion of the Superintendent's Proposed 2019-2020 Budget:**

*Board Member, Gerry Matthews, spoke on the Budget Process, the Board's best efforts to make a savings to the Budget and the wonderful group of individuals from, Friends of HES.*

*Superintendent Thiery passed out possible budget scenarios/adjustments to the Board for review. He spoke on TRB contributions, fuel, electricity and the removal of Microsoft License Renewal. He addressed items like Volleyball net replacement which included replacement of rubber floor at the High School Level, oven replacement in the Culinary Art Classroom of the High School, BES Carpet replacement in two rooms, Coral Rises that don't meet code, furniture for Blended Learning spaces, Field House fiber floor and painting of the Auto Shop Tech wing all items that can be considered as expenditures from Capital Funding. Principal Eric Larson and Superintendent Thiery spoke on the HKIS playground, the location of same as well as the student requests for Playground equipment like swings, wall climbing and gaga pit. The Board discussed fuel, the rate per gallon per New Haven Harbor rates and the amount budgeted for the 19-20 year. The Board further discussed electrical projection, KW used a year, costs, and ZREC Dollars. New Boilers were discussed at length with them being more efficient. The Consensus of the Board was to make a reduction to the Proposed Budget of oil by \$40,000, a reduction to Electricity/Solar by \$100,000, and increase revenue by ZREC dollars \$38,610, moving the Microsoft License Renewal out of the Operating Budget as well as the other items that Superintendent Thiery listed on his adjustment sheet. There was a net reduction to the gross Proposed Budget of \$199,0672 and increase to Revenue of \$38,610.*

*The Board discussed Teacher Retirement Funds and the possibility of sitting with the Towns to see what they are budgeting. Insurance, Bond Interest for the High School project, Operating Budget interest for next year was also addressed. Consensus of the Board was to leave Insurance in the Operating Budget at 8%.*

*Board Members took a look at why salaries increased since there were 10 teacher layoffs and new positions contributed to that increase. Dean of Student Life will now be called Lead Teacher due to State requirements. Certified Salaries and Substitutes salaries was discussed at length. Board Members*


discussed the number of Social Workers, Psychologists, School Counselors at the Elementary, Intermediate, Middle and High School Levels. Dr. Kris Lindsay spoke briefly about the number of counselors/psychologists at the Intermediate Level. Other areas of discussion were the new Math position at the High School Level, and the addition of a Track Coach and Assistant Football Coach. Principal Donna Hayward spoke on the increase of Students enrolled this year in Football. Other areas of discussion were Athletic Supplies, items coming from 690 and 611 and the Custodial Supplies increase of 19% at Burr and the Middle School Levels. Superintendent Thiery will follow up and update the Board on that item. Waste Removal Contract, Special Education Transportation for Pre-K Level, Technology at the High School Level, Life Insurance, Workers Comp and Magnet/Vocational School student outplacement funds were discussed at length. Dr. Kris Lindsay spoke about OT/PT and Medicaid Reimbursement. Books at HKIS and the Middle School were addressed, and Dr. Jennifer Olsen and Principal Eric briefly touched on the topic of students books, communication to parents regarding same, and Reading Clubs. Principal Donna Hayward spoke briefly about the new Anatomy textbook that was approved by the Board back in 2015 but was reduced from the proposed Budget; therefore, still needs replacement. Lastly, Table and Chairs for the Blended Learning section was identified to be moved from Capital. College Financial Aid Presenter, reduction of 2 ½ Custodians and online courses at the High School Level were reviewed. The reduction to the Gross Proposed Budget came to approximately \$199,000.

The next Budget Workshop is scheduled for tomorrow, Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at Central Office.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jamie Sciascia  
Board Clerk

Approval:  Date: 5/7/19  
Eileen Blewett, Secretary