

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**January 8, 2019**

*A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on January 8, 2019 at the Central Office Board Room. Board of Education Chair, Joanne Nesti, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.*

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

**Members Absent:** *Suzanne Sack*

**Also Present:** *Superintendent of Schools, Howard Thiery, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Holly Hageman, Director of Finance, Martha Vaughn, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth High School, Donna Hayward, Student Representatives, Lauren Miller and Nolan Serbent, and Board Clerk, Jamie Sciascia*

**Visitors:** *Approximately 20*

**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:**

*Rachel Donnelly of Haddam addressed the Board.*

*Ming, Owner of the Higganum Village Market, addressed the Board.*

*Jane Baird of Higganum addressed the Board.*

*Joe Rizzo of Higganum addressed the Board.*

**Approval of Minutes for the following Board Meetings:**

- A.** Approval of Minutes for the November 06, 2018 Board of Education Meeting
- B.** Approval of Minutes for the December 4, 2018 Board of Education – Special Meeting
- C.** Approval of Minutes for the December 4, 2018 Board of Education Meeting
- D.** Approval of Minutes for the December 17, 2018 Board of Education – Special Meeting
- E.** Approval of Minutes for the December 20, 2018 Board of Education – Special Meeting

*Gerry Matthews **MOVED** and Brenda Buzzi **SECONDED** a motion to approve the Minutes A-E as presented:*

*Motion passed unanimously 10-0-0 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>	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 Twachtman YES  NO  A

Kathleen Zandi YES  NO  A

Joanne Nesti YES  NO  A

**Report from Student Representatives:**

*Student Representatives, Lauren Miller, and Nolan Serbent, updated the Board.*

*Principal Donna Hayward, and Student Representatives, Nolan Serbent and Nicole Miller, left the meeting at approximately 7:30 p.m.*

**Board Committee Reports and Future Meetings:**

**A. Facilities Subcommittee**

*No Report.*

**B. Finance Subcommittee**

*Superintendent Thiery updated the Board.*

**C. Policy Subcommittee**

*No Report.*

**D. Communications Subcommittee**

*No Report.*

**E. Personnel and Evaluation Subcommittee**

*Superintendent Thiery updated the Board.*

**Board Liaison Reports:**

**A. Healthy Communities – Healthy Kids Council**

*Gerry Matthews updated the Board.*

**B. LEARN**

*No Report.*

**C. Park & Recreation**

*No Report. Superintendent Thiery updated the Board.*

**D. Haddam Board of Selectmen**

*No Report.*

**E. Killingworth Board of Selectmen**

*No Report.*

**Old Business:**

**A. High School Energy and Facilities Upgrade**

**a) Report from Public Building Committee**

*Board Chair, Nesti, updated the Board.*

*Superintendent Thiery updated the Board.*

*Peter Sonski **MOVED** and Brenda Buzzi **SECONDED** a motion to approve the recommendation of the Finance Committee that all future Change Orders in connection with the High School Renovation Project be exclusive purview of the Board of Education.*

Motion passed 9-0-1 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"/> 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 type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gerry Matthews	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Sue Twachtman	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"/>

**b) Approval of Invoice for Photovoltaic Project**

Sue Twachtman **MOVED** and Eileen Blewett **SECONDED** a motion to approve the invoice in the amount of \$318,477.52 to Shea Electric as presented:

Motion passed unanimously 10-0-0 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 Twachtman	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"/>

**B. Report of the Strategic Capital Planning Committee**

*Superintendent Thiery updated the Board.*

**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 \$66.00 from Lathrop Vending, Inc. and funds will be deposited into the Principal's Discretionary Account. Submitted by Donna Hayward, Principal at Haddam-Killingworth High School.
- B. Acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$1,000.00 from CT Street Rod Association to be used for the purchase of supplies and equipment for the electrathon engineering project. Submitted by Donna Hayward, Principal at Haddam-Killingworth High School.

Eric Couture **MOVED** and Kathy Zandi **SECONDED** a motion to accept Items A-B listed on the Consent Agenda with great appreciation.

Motion passed unanimously 10-0-0 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 Twachtman	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"/>

**New Business:**

**A. Asset Disposal Request from HKHS**

*Superintendent Thiery updated the Board.*

*Gerry Matthews **MOVED** and Eileen Blewett **SECONDED** a motion to approve the Asset Disposal Request from HKHS as presented.*

*Motion passed unanimously 10-0-0 by the following show of hands:*

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

**From the Superintendent:**

**A. Legislative Update**

*Superintendent Thiery updated the Board.*

**B. Personnel Report**

*Superintendent Thiery advised that the Personnel Report has been provided in the BOE Packet. He stated if anyone had any questions on the report, please feel free to contact him directly.*

**C. Enrollment Report**

*Superintendent Thiery advised that the Personnel Report has been provided in the BOE Packet. He stated if anyone had any questions on the report, please feel free to contact him directly. Also, the monthly Enrollment Report is available on the RSD17 Website for public viewing.*

**From the Director of Fiscal Operations:**

**A. Budget Transfers**

*No Report.*

**Board Discussion/News/Suggestions:** *Board Member, Brenda Buzzi, spoke about revisiting the decision of the Board of Education regarding the closure of Haddam Elementary School.*

**Public Comment:**

*Christine Palm, State of CT Representative for Haddam, Chester, Deep River and Essex, addressed the Board.*

*Pam Crum of Higganum addressed the Board.*

*Steve Abbatello of Higganum addressed the Board.*

*Dagmara Pypa of Higganum addressed the Board.*

*Jeff Sturges of Haddam addressed the Board.*

*Shawna Goldfarb of Haddam addressed the Board.*

**Adjournment:**

*Board Chair, Joanne Nesti, called for the meeting to adjourn at 9:03 PM.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Jamie Sciascia  
Board Clerk*

*Approval: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_*  
*Eileen Blewett, Secretary*