

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
October 2, 2018

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on October 2, 2018 at Central Office in the Board Room. Board of Education Chair, Joanne Nesti, called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

Members Present: *Eric Couture (Arrived at 7:07 PM), Peter Sonski, Eileen Blewett, Brenda Buzzi, Gerry Matthews, Kathleen Zandi and Joanne Nesti*

Members Absent: *Sue Twachtman, Joel D'Angelo, Suzanne Sack and Maura Wallin*

Also Present: *Superintendent of Schools, Howard Thiery, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Holly Hageman, Assistant Principal of Haddam-Killingworth High School, Sheila Ward, Principal of Haddam Elementary School, Brienne Whidden, Principal of Burr Elementary School, Eric Larson, Principal of Killingworth Elementary School, Dennis Reed, Director of Food Services, Sharon Shettleworth, Director of Construction and Facilities for CREC, Doug Rogers, Friar Architecture, Michael Sorano, CES, Scott Sullivan, 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 7:03 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Comment:

Jennifer Petrillo of Haddam addressed the Board. She spoke about her concerns and what she says the impact of HES closing will be: decreasing real estate values nearby, Citizen Bank closing, crossing guard will be losing her job. She also spoke about how the First Selectman of Haddam is still assessing whether the town has an interest in acquiring the HES site for municipal use. Ms. Petrillo said she feels like the Community's voices have not be heard, and asked that the Board rescind the vote to close HES.

Melissa Moore of Haddam addressed the Board. She spoke about how she has two children, and moved close to a town center. She stated that the value of her home has depreciated 105% since learning of the pending schools closing. She cited several locations in the vicinity of HES that would be adversely affected, and asked for reconsideration of the Board's vote to close HES.

Katie Packtor of Haddam addressed the Board. She spoke about she was in attendance on behalf of parents and friends within the HK Community. She believes that the HES closing is affecting the education of the children, and she is concerned about paraprofessional and teacher positions being eliminated. She also spoke about the data that was provided to her with having little or no information on restructuring costs, numbers in the data may be flawed, local businesses will suffer, house sales decreasing and that she is really concerned that this is the wrong move and asked the Board to stop and reassess all the facts.

Jesse Morin of Higganum addressed the Board. She spoke about how she is concerned with having an empty building in town, the enrollment decline, asked to consider the impact it will have on the local businesses because the school system was a draw to traffic in the town. Lastly, she stated that people are looking to move out of town to find a better school system.

Myles Crete of Haddam addressed the Board. He spoke about how he feels that it is a political issue to close HES and feels strongly to keep the school open.

Superintendent Thiery addressed the enrollment report numbers and that they are below projected numbers. Also, we will be updating the enrollment reports to the RSD17 website so people can view them on a monthly basis.

Approval of Minutes:

Approval of Minutes for the following Board Meetings:

- A. Approval of Minutes for the August 7, 2018 Board of Education
- B. Approval of Minutes for the September 4, 2018 Board of Education

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

Motion passed unanimously 7-0-0 by the following show of hands:

Suzanne Sack	Absent	Joel D'Angelo	Absent
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	Absent	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	Absent	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"/>

Report from Student Representatives:

Assistant Principal of Haddam-Killingworth High School, Sheila Ward, introduced Nolan Serbent and welcomed Lauren Miller to her first Board of Education Meeting.

Lauren Miller updated the Board. She spoke about PSAT's for Sophomores and Juniors that are scheduled for next Wednesday October 10th, and Seniors will be working on college applications and post-secondary planning. Lastly, Lauren spoke about the 8th grade preview night which is to introduce the Blue Ribbon Program scheduled for October 22, 2018. This is for the 8th Grade Middle School parents.

Nolan Serbent updated the Board. He spoke about the Homecoming Dance that is scheduled for October 26th but they are looking to move it to November 16th due to conflicts with athletic teams. There is a Fall Drama Production called "It's a Wonderful Life, A Live Radio Play" on November 2nd and 3rd.

Gerry Matthews **MOVED** and Eric Couture **SECONDED** a motion to move up Item 9B State Healthy Foods Certification set forth under new Business.

Motion passed unanimously 7-0-0 by the following show of hands:

Suzanne Sack	Absent	Joel D'Angelo	Absent
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	Absent	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	Absent	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"/>

State Healthy Foods Certification:

Sharon Shettleworth updated the Board. Ms. Shettleworth was in attendance to get approval from the Board for the agreement to participate in the school's nutrition program which was already brought to the Board months prior. Superintendent Thiery stated this was not a change in the program itself; however, the State revised the program language and the Board needed to bring a motion and vote on it for state purposes.

Eric Couture **MOVED** and Eileen Blewett **SECONDED** a motion to accept the Permanent Single Agreement for the Connecticut State Department of Education's (CSDE) Child Nutrition Programs and to authorize The Board of Education Secretary, Eileen Blewett, to certify action of the Board of Education that authorizes Howard Thiery, Superintendent of Schools, and Martha Vaughn, Business Manager, as signers of the CSDE reimbursement claims submitted on behalf of the Regional School District No. 17 Public Schools.

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

Suzanne Sack	Absent	Joel D'Angelo	Absent
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	Absent	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	Absent	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"/>

Peter Sonski **MOVED** and Kathleen Zandi **SECONDED** a motion to move up Item 7A, High School Energy and Facilities Upgrade set forth under Old Business

Motion passed unanimously 7-0-0 by the following show of hands:

Suzanne Sack	Absent	Joel D'Angelo	Absent
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	Absent	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	Absent	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"/>

Old Business:

A. High School Energy and Facilities Upgrade

a) Report from Public Building Committee

Doug Rogers updated the Board. He spoke briefly about the Boiler clearance concerns in the Mechanical Room with the installation of the six new boilers. DTC and MJ Daly have been asked to review the layout to address the concerns.

Mike Sorano updated the Board. He addressed the need for 300 additional anchors to be used to secure the racks on which the solar panels will sit. A miscount of the anchors was the reason given for the additional expense.

Eileen Blewett **MOVED** and Eric Couture **SECONDED** a motion to approve the \$76,539.00 Change Order for additional anchors for the Solar Project.

Motion passed 5-1-1 by the following votes:

Suzanne Sack	Absent	Joel D'Angelo	Absent
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Peter Sonski YES NO A
 Maura Wallin Absent
 Eric Couture YES NO A
 Sue Twachtman Absent

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

Board Committee Reports and Future Meetings:

A. Facilities Subcommittee

Eric Couture updated the Board. He spoke about the Boiler Room Tour, Underground Tank on HES property, the Athletic Fields conditions have improved, White House having a mold issue in the basement which is where the Park and Rec office is currently being held. Superintendent Thiery stated that the White House has is a typical basement that has moss and mold in it but does not require mandatory remediation and also is not a health concern.

B. Finance Subcommittee

Board Chair, Joanne Nesti, updated the Board. She spoke about how the Finance Subcommittee met on September 25th and discussed 17/18 year end numbers and discussed the 18/19 budget thus far. Board Chair, Nesti, said the Auditors have begun field work for the fiscal year ending this past June. Lastly, she mentioned the award-winning education budget in North Kingstown, RI, which the Committee reviewed and found to be very clear and user friendly. The Committee may consider incorporating some of its aspects as the RSD17 budget is prepared for 2019-2020.

C. Policy Subcommittee

No Report.

D. Communications Subcommittee

Gerry Matthews and Brenda Buzzi updated the Board. They gave a brief presentation via Facebook on their new website page called Haddam-Killingworth Board of Education. It was discussed to change the name because we are not HK BOE we are Regional School District 17 BOE. This site is intended to be a place where the HK Community can find positive news, dialog about Board Meetings, new hires, cross-postings etc. Only the administrator can post on the page and no one will be able to leave comments.

E. Personnel and Evaluation Subcommittee

No Report.

Board Liaison Reports:

A. Healthy Communities – Healthy Kids Council

Superintendent Thiery updated the Board. He spoke about how a new Executive Director was hired and how he recently met with her.

B. LEARN

No Report.

C. Park & Recreation

No Report.

D. Haddam Board of Selectmen

No Report.

E. Killingworth Board of Selectmen

No Report.

B. Report from the Strategic Capital Planning Subcommittee

Update provided under New Business, Item A, District Restructuring Update.

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 \$650.00 from a former student who wishes to remain anonymous to be used for the Math League for their annual banquet, snacks, dues and t-shirts.
- B. Acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$19.22 from Lathrop Vending, Inc. to be deposited in the Principal's Discretionary Fund Account. Submitted by Donna Hayward, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth High School.
- C. Acceptance of a donation in the amount \$1061.15 from a 1985 HK alumni for use in the Robotics Program. Submitted by Donna L. Hayward, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth High School.
- D. Acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$2,000 from the HKMS PTO to be used as follows: \$1,000 to offset the costs of Grade 6 Field Trips and \$1,000 to offset the costs of Grade 7 Field Trips. Submitted by Dr. Jennifer Olsen, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth Middle School.

*Gerry Matthews **MOVED** and Kathy Zandi **SECONDED** a motion to accept Items A-D listed on the Consent Agenda with great appreciation.*

Motion passed unanimously 7-0-0 by the following show of hands:

Suzanne Sack	Absent	Joel D'Angelo	Absent
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	Absent	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	Absent	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. District Restructuring Update:

Superintendent Thiery updated the Board. He handed out a timeline folder to the Board which was color coded by early, mid and late phases. He gave a brief summary update: spoke about Dr. Hageman's design team and what the committee has done, and addressed what the next steps will be. Superintendent Thiery further spoke about how a plan for restructuring has been in place, they identified the school to close, spoke about leadership positions, staffing changes moving around, the intermediate design team committees, primary programs K-3, budget development software as far as location codes, budget codes etc. on the state and local levels, and a new primary structure building in the system. He further addressed the transportation of children via bus schedule and start times. The merger of schools is being planned with parents, students and teachers and addressed the pre-school location which could be at KES next year. He addressed the certain kinds of staffing positions

that will be needed, and the assignment of personnel, identifying FFE (fixtures, furniture and equipment), developing a budget, having a celebration in August/September for the joining of two schools, and the new primary. There will be a summer orientation which is multi-layered, the different types of committees that will be involved on all levels, and briefly addressed the K-3 Program. Lastly, Superintendent Thiery addressed designing values and goals, library research, and social, emotional growth for students and having a strong community connection.

Superintendent Thiery congratulated all three elementary school principals and updated their new roles as follows for the 2019/2020 school year: Principal Eric Larson of the Intermediate Program Grades 4-5 located at the Middle School, Principal Brienne Whidden will be the new principal at Burr Elementary School Grades-K-3 and Principal Dennis Reed will be continuing his role as the Principal of Killingworth Elementary School.

Dr. Holly Hageman updated the Board. She spoke about BES structure, how there is a record after each meeting, design program in order to get staffing, areas of focus, specials, enrichment intervention programs. She spoke about the science and social studies courses, phase 1 program of design, cell phone policy at the elementary, middle and high school levels, recess and lunch, and different types of sub-committees that are involved in the process. She stated that the design process will be open to all parents and students for a subcommittee to be involved with the design. The next phase of design work is scheduled for November 2018.

Brenda Buzzi read a letter into the record from Haddam Elementary School Student, Kaitlin Donnelly.

"I Love HES. Do not close down HES! If you do not close down HES, I will be happy. Thank you" from Kaitlin Donnelly

In response to the presentation from Superintendent Thiery and Dr. Hageman, Brenda Buzzi **MOVED** to rescind the vote to close Haddam Elementary School.

Motion **FAILED** due to not having a **SECOND** to the motion.

C. HES Underground Storage Tank Proposal

Eric Couture updated the Board. He spoke about the removal and replacement of the HES Underground Storage Tank, and how the project is slightly over budget. Also, spoke about Rivco Construction Company being awarded the contract to do the removing and replacing of the tank. Two motions were brought to the table for approval.

Eric Couture **MOVED** and Gerry Matthews **SECONDED** a motion to approve Haddam Elementary Underground Storage Tank Project coming from the Capital Account as presented.

Eric Couture **AMENDED** the motion to award Rivco Construction the contract for removal and replacement of Haddam Elementary School Underground Storage Tank for \$81,250.

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

Suzanne Sack	Absent	Joel D'Angelo	Absent
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	Absent	Kathleen Zandi	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>

D. 2020-2021 Calendar (First Read)

Superintendent Thiery updated the Board. Superintendent Thiery briefly spoke about the 2020-2021 Calendar and asked the Board to review it as this is the First Read.

From the Superintendent:

A. Legislative Update

Superintendent Thiery updated the Board. He briefly spoke about how he will be attending a conference tomorrow in Fairfield with Shipman and Goodwin regarding the legislation report from last year.

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.

From the Director of Fiscal Operations:

A. Budget Transfers

Superintendent Thiery updated the Board. He went over the Budgets Transfers that were provided in the BOE packet by Director of Finance, Martha Vaughn.

Gerry Matthews **MOVED** and Eileen Blewett **SECONDED** a motion to accept the Budget Transfers as presented.

Motion passed unanimously 7-0-0 by the following show of hands:

Suzanne Sack	Absent	Joel D'Angelo	Absent
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	Absent	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	Absent	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"/>

Board Discussion/News/Suggestions: None.

Public Comment: None.

Eric Couture **MOVED** and Kathleen Zandi **SECONDED** a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss contractual issues.

Motion passed unanimously 7-0-0 by the following show of hands:

Suzanne Sack	Absent	Joel D'Angelo	Absent
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	Absent	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 Absent

Kathleen Zandi

YES √ NO A

Joanne Nesti

YES √ NO A

The Board went into Executive Session at 9:44 p.m.

Executive Session:


Superintendent Howard Thiery updated the Board on the state on the High School renovation projects and the contractual obligations of CREC to complete the projects.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 10:05 p.m.

Adjournment:

Board Chair, Joanne Nesti, called for the meeting to adjourn at 10:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Jamie Sciascia
Board Clerk

Approval:  Date: 8/6/19
Eileen Blewett, Secretary