

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
September 4, 2018**

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on September 4, 2018 at Central Office in the Board Room. Board of Education Chair, Joanne Nesti, called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

Members Present: *Eric Couture, Peter Sonski, Eileen Blewett, Brenda Buzzi, Gerry Matthews, Maura Wallin, Kathleen Zandi and Joanne Nesti*

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

Also Present: *Superintendent of Schools, Howard Thiery, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Holly Hageman, Director of Finance, Martha Vaughn, Vice President of HK Education Association, Robin Duffield, and Board Clerk, Jamie Sciascia*

Visitors: *Approximately 1*

Call to Order/Opening of Meeting:

Board of Education Chair, Joanne Nesti, called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Comment:

Arthur Collins from Higganum addressed the Board. He inquired whether or not the District had hired a real estate agent to find out the value of the HES school. He also addressed his concerns with leasing the building. Lastly, he asked whether the HES building could be given back to the Town of Haddam.

*Gerry Matthews **MOVED** and Eric Couture **SECONDED** a motion to approve the Minutes A-C as presented:*

Motion passed unanimously 8-0-0 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	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"/>
		Joanne Nesti	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>

Approval of Minutes:

Approval of Minutes for the following Board Meetings:

- A. Approval of Minutes for the July 24, 2018 Board of Education – Special Meeting
- B. Approval of Minutes for the July 31, 2018 Board of Education – Special Meeting
- C. Approval of Minutes for the August 21, 2018 Board of Education – Special Meeting

Board Committee Reports and Future Meetings:

A. Facilities Subcommittee

Eric Couture updated the Board. He spoke about state of Capital projects and stated that most projects have been completed. Further, Eric spoke about the underground tanks being delayed due to the number of school districts that are seeking a tank replacement at the same time is high; therefore, manufacturing them is an issue. He stated that Facilities Director, Michael Distefano, will be seeking an extension to the Department of Energy and Environment Projection for this project. Lastly, Eric spoke about seeking lower cost estimates for the HK High School scoreboard replacements.

B. Finance Subcommittee

Board Chair, Joanne Nesti, updated the Board. She briefly spoke about the Finance Committee meeting next Tuesday and stated that the last meeting was about borrowing short term on the High School Renovation Project.

C. Policy Subcommittee

No Report.

D. Communications Subcommittee

No Report.

E. Personnel and Evaluation Subcommittee

No Report.

Board Liaison Reports:

A. Healthy Communities – Healthy Kids Council

Superintendent Thiery updated the Board. He briefly spoke about how they have hired an Executive Director.

B. LEARN

No Report.

C. Park & Recreation

Peter Sonski updated the Board. Peter said they met two weeks ago, spoke about how the Park and Rec team was satisfied as far as how the summer activities on the school property moved forward. Peter briefly spoke about the low temperature in the Haddam Killingworth pool due to the Boiler Project and impact it could have on the ability to use the pool.

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, Joanne Nesti, updated the Board. She circulated an invoice to the Board from Shea Electric which included details of the work that was performed. Board Chair, Nesti, also spoke about revisiting the \$50,000 threshold that is currently in place for all Change Orders that the PBC has to seek approval for, back to \$25,000.

Superintendent Thiery addressed the change orders, not having a lot of wiggle room with funds. Also, he suggested to break out the threshold by individual and accumulative. He addressed the change order process, the PBC bidding process, and requests to the state to authorize the budget to get reimbursement on.

Board Member, Eileen Blewett, made a suggestion to lower the threshold to \$20,000 for individual change orders and \$40,000 for cumulative change orders. Also, Ms. Blewett raised the concern that the Board should be seeing final numbers to see what been accounted for so we are not paying more than what was projected. She suggested putting a freeze on any further change orders until numbers are provided.

Maura Wallin **MOVED** and Eileen Blewett **SECONDED** a motion to approve payment in the amount of \$110,295 to Shea Electric as presented.

Motion passed unanimously 8-0-0 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"/>
		Joanne Nesti	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>

Eileen Blewett **MOVED** and Gerry Matthews **SECONDED** a motion to change the Public Building Committee's threshold for seeking Board approval of individual change orders to \$20,000, and/or a cumulative total of \$40,000.

Motion passed unanimously 8-0-0 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"/>
		Joanne Nesti	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>

Eileen Blewett **MOVED** and Eric Couture **SECONDED** a motion to put a freeze on any approval for change orders regarding the Public Building Committee projects until advised by the Finance Committee.

Motion passed unanimously 8-0-0 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"/>
		Joanne Nesti	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>

B. Report from the Strategic Capital Planning Subcommittee

Board Chair, Joanne Nesti, updated the Board. She spoke about how there is a meeting in two weeks regarding District restructuring and the future use of Haddam Elementary School. The SCP Committee is still in the process of how to appraise it as well as find someone who is interested in pursuing it. A letter was sent to the Town of Haddam's First Selectwoman to see if they had any interest in the property which right now is uncertain.

Superintendent Thiery updated the Board. He spoke about how the School Program design continues as planned, outlined the various parts of the projects, core subjects, small class sizes, etc. Superintendent Thiery stated that this Fall he will be working with Dr. Holly Hageman and Committees, with different modules, ideas and raw material. He reviewed the different types of Committees/Subcommittees for the design of the primary school.

Peter Sonski updated the Board. He spoke about how he met with three commercial real estate firms, which had their assessment of the property, market and region for what they would use the property for. He further spoke about marketing the property, consulting with their attorney on how to approach it and interested buyers, what would they pay for the building and what would they use the property for. Peter stated they are evaluating everything, and all options are on the table.

There will be a Community update/meeting sometime in September.

C. BOE Meeting Calendar - Second Read

Superintendent Thiery updated the Board. Superintendent Thiery spoke about the BOE Calendars being mandated with the Towns and the regular and special meeting requirements under FOI.

The Board had discussion about the Budget Workshops and removing them from the draft meeting schedule.

*Maura Wallin **MOVED** and Eileen Blewett **SECONDED** a motion to approve the 2019 Board of Education Meeting Schedule minus the Budget Workshops as presented by the draft schedule.*

Motion passed unanimously 7-0-1 by the following votes:

Suzanne Sack	Absent	Joel D' Angelo	Absent
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 Twachtman	Absent	Kathleen Zandi	YES <u>√</u> NO <u> </u> A <u> </u>
		Joanne Nesti	YES <u> </u> NO <u> </u> A <u>√</u>

New Business:

A. Opening of Schools Update from the Superintendent

Superintendent Thiery updated the Board. He briefly went over the exciting events that happened prior to the First Day of School, and spoke about how he was at HES for the first day of school, greeted students and celebrated the ringing of the bell.

B. General Update-Enrollment and Hiring

Superintendent Thiery updated the Board. He stated how the Opening of School they were fully staffed, there were no spikes in Kindergarten enrollment this year, KES had an additional 20 students enroll within their school, and class sizes remain on the low side.

C. Textbook Disposal Request – HES and HKMS

Superintendent Thiery updated the Board. He briefly spoke about how both sets of Textbook Disposal Requests were regarding old books that are in storage and they are looking to dispose of them. Board Member, Eileen Blewett, will be placing a phone call where she works to see if they would be interested in taking the books before they will be disposed of.

Peter Sonski **MOVED** and Eric Couture **SECONDED** a motion to dispose of the HES and HKMS textbooks as presented.

Motion passed unanimously 8-0-0 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	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"/>
		Joanne Nesti	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>

From the Superintendent:

A. Legislative Update

Superintendent Thiery updated the Board. He briefly spoke about how does the Legislative impact our requirement services that we provide to expel students.

B. Personnel Report

Superintendent Thiery discussed under New Business 7B.

C. Enrollment Report

Superintendent Thiery discussed under New Business 7B.

From the Director of Fiscal Operations:

A. Budget Transfers

No Report.

Board Discussion/News/Suggestions:

Board Member, Maura Wallin, brought a suggestion to the Board. She spoke about possibly having decals made; specifically, positive affirmative decals, suicide awareness to put in the HK schools. Ms. Wallin spoke about price details and would send Superintendent Thiery all the information.

Public Comment: None.

Peter Sonski **MOVED** and Kathleen Zandi **SECONDED** a motion to enter into Executive Session regarding a Personnel Matter.

Motion passed unanimously 8-0-0 by the following show of hands:

Suzanne Sack	Absent	Joel D' Angelo	Absent
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Peter Sonski YES NO A
 Maura Wallin YES NO A
 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

The Board went into Executive Session at 8:35 p.m.

Executive Session:

Howard discussed the resignation of Ryan Mackenzie, Assistant Principal at HKMS and the procedure that is underway to hire an interim Assistant Principal. Howard and Holly expressed the impressive pool of applicants for the position. Also that they have had a large number of people apply with varying backgrounds.

Howard discussed his decision on leadership changes that will be made with the restructuring. Howard will make his decision public sometime at the end of September.

Howard informed the BOE that he is keeping a close watch on the serious weather condition. Each of the schools that do not have air conditioning have adjusted parts of the day to accommodate the heat.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:58 p.m.

Adjournment:

Board Chair, Joanne Nesti, called for the meeting to adjourn at 8:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



*Jamie Sciascia
Board Clerk*

Approval: 
Eileen Blewett, Secretary

Date: 10/2/18