

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION – EDUCATION SESSION MEETING
April 24, 2018

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on April 24, 2018 in the Haddam-Killingworth Middle School Media Center. Board of Education Chair, Joanne Nesti, called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

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

Members Absent: *None.*

Also Present: *Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Curriculum, Dr. Holly Hageman, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth High School, Donna Hayward, Haddam-Killingworth High School Athletic Director, Lynne Flint, Haddam-Killingworth High School Head Field Hockey Coach, Meagan Sears, Chairman of the Public Building Committee, Tom Hogarty, CREC Constructions Services, Doug Rogers, Public Building Committee Member, Chip Frey, 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 7:02 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Dedication of High School Field House – In Honor of Patsy Kamercia:

Board Chair, Nesti, spoke about Patsy Kamercia. She spoke about how we were all here tonight to honor Patsy, her hard work, dynamic presence and stated how much she is truly missed.

Dr. Holly Hageman spoke about Patsy Kamercia. She stated that she partnered with Patsy and always looked up to her. She was an amazing Field Hockey Coach and an exceptional Teacher. Dr. Hageman stated her presence will always be missed.

Dr. Holly Hageman read a brief statement from Superintendent Thiery who was out of the country at the time. The Superintendent wrote that he 100% supports the action of the Board of Education in dedicating the Field House in honor of Patsy Kamercia. Superintendent Thiery further said that it is a privilege to honor Patsy for such a tremendous impact she had at HK and that it is important to provide a memorial to ensure her legacy continues on.

Resolution of the Regional School District 17
Board of Education

Whereas *Patsy Kamercia became employed at Haddam Junior High School in 1971, joined the faculty of RSD 17 when it was formed in 1972, and served its students continuously until her passing in November 2017.*

Whereas Patsy Kamercia taught physical education in our community for 40 years until her retirement in 2011 and then continued to coach the HKHS Girls Field Hockey Team.

Whereas Patsy Kamercia was inducted into the first class of the Haddam Killingworth Hall of Fame in 2009.

Whereas Patsy Kamercia was a trailblazer for women's athletics in the State of Connecticut, was the first woman to be named athletic director in a public school in Connecticut, and was inducted into the Connecticut Athletic Director's Hall of Fame.

Whereas Patsy Kamercia was one of the most distinguished and respected high school athletic, field hockey, coaches in the State of Connecticut and was inducted into the State Coaches' Hall of Fame.

Whereas the HKHS Field Hockey teams coached by Patsy Kamercia won 461 games, 16 Shoreline Conference championships and 4 state championships.

Whereas Patsy Kamercia had a deep and positive impact on thousands of young people that carried far beyond their years as students or athletes.

Whereas Patsy Kamercia's passion for and commitment to all things HK served as an inspiration to her colleagues, students and the HK community at-large for more than four decades.

Whereas Patsy Kamercia was one of the most respected and beloved professionals ever to grace the campus of HKHS.

Resolved the Board of Education of Regional School District 17:

Recognizes the significant and lasting contributions of Patricia "Patsy" Kamercia over the course of her most distinguished career and honors her memory.

Gratefully acknowledges the deep and lasting impact that Patricia "Patsy" Kamercia had on our district and the inspiration that her life will provide for our community moving forward.

Dedicates the Haddam-Killingworth Field House in memory of Patricia "Patsy" Kamercia.

*Joanne Nesti **MOVED** and Brenda Buzzi **SECONDED** a motion to honor Patsy Kamercia by accepting the Resolution of the Regional School District 17 Board of Education as presented.*

Motion passed unanimously 11-0-0 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

Michael Kamercia spoke about Patsy Kamercia. Mike said he is honored and humbled by Patsy's honor. He said what Patsy gave to everyone, money can't buy. Her dedication, being a role model within the Community as a coach, teacher is second to none. He is forever grateful.

Board Chair, Nesti, said there will be a Ceremony scheduled to put Patsy's name sign up at the Field House and the date is To-Be-Determined.

Public Comment:

Board Chair, Joanne, Nesti, explained the Public Comment process to the Community members who were in attendance.

Sally Jordan addressed the Board. She spoke about how she is retired and taught in the District. She inquired how many Board of Education members were from Haddam, who voted no to closing HES, spoke about smaller school sizes and the upcoming Budget.

Vanessa Charrette of Higganum addressed the Board. She spoke about how she is concerned about HES being a vacant building and she is looking to move now because her house sales could potentially decrease with an empty building.

Arthur Collins of Higganum addressed the Board. He spoke about how he believed that closing the HES school was a bad idea for economic reasons and stated that it's the Board's responsibility to maintain the upkeep of the empty building. He also stated that voting "no" to the Budget is not the answer.

Shawna Goldfarb of Haddam addressed the Board. She spoke on how she feels the Community's voices on the closing of HES weren't listened to, and how she received the data that was requested from Superintendent Thiery. She also said she is excited about the restructuring of the District. She briefly spoke about HES being vacant, increasing student population, and how we can build the town. Lastly she stated she is not satisfied with the information that was provided to her.

Sean Donnelly of Haddam addressed the Board. He stated that his daughter goes to HES, and was upset about her school closing.

Katheryn Rizzo of Killingworth addressed the Board. She stated that the Board of Education is doing a fantastic job and she was there because she had concerns about HES being left as an empty building in the center of Higganum.

Myles Crete of Higganum addressed the Board. He spoke about how the Board of Education is the voice for our children's education and feels that no one is listening to the Community in wanting HES not to close.

Katie Packtor of Higganum addressed the Board. She spoke about her concerns with 18 months of findings, the data she received from the District along with enrollment projection. She also didn't understand as to why the information wasn't put on the RSD17 Website. Further, she wanted to know if it was possible to revisit the Board's decision in closing HES, and also briefly spoke about speaking to the Town's Planner regarding the empty building.

Board Liaison Reports:

A. Curriculum Council

Kathy Zandi updated the Board. She spoke about the new Seal of bi-literacy award for 11th and 12 graders and briefly went over the course requirements for English and Foreign Language. Also, Kathy went over the blended learning transitional program at HKHS which is instructor-

led. This program has a limited number of seats, roughly 30 students a year. It is blended, classroom, collaborated as well as online. This is expected to be rolled out next school year.

B. Curriculum Subcommittee:
No Report.

Old Business:

A. High School Energy and Facilities Upgrade

a. Public Building Committee

Tom Hogarty updated the Board. He spoke about how the Board approved a limit of \$25,000 for the Committee to spend. He said there are currently 4 projects going, and he was there to make a suggestion to move the Change Order threshold up to \$50,000 so it doesn't interfere with the timing of the projects going forward.

Doug Rogers updated the Board. Doug spoke about the \$2M Roof Project, the fireproofing replacement monies. He stated that the Boiler project is going on right now and he was there to ask for the Change Order threshold to move up so there are no project delays.

There were questions brought up by Board Members about the Change Order Limit last summer, how often the PBC Committee meets, contingencies in place, and if the Board Members who were also on the PBC Committee were comfortable with moving this threshold up, which they all were in agreement that they were.

Chip Frey updated the Board. He spoke about how he is licensed contractor and currently is working at the New Firehouse changing all the existing lights to LED. Further, he spoke about how there are Change Orders present at this job.

Board Chair, Nesti, did state that the PBC Contract awards and invoices would still come before the Board, this is only for Change Orders.

Doug Rogers further spoke about the Solar Project, and bids going out tomorrow. Also stated that June 5th will be a recommendation by the PBC for the award to the contract. He further addressed the Boiler project and Phase I is complete. Fuss & O'Neill has been monitoring every step, and doing a fantastic job. Doug also gave a brief update on the Lighting Project and Mercury Electric being one of the bidders. Lastly, he addressed the Auditorium update and the job going out to bid next week.

B. Strategic Capital Planning Committee Report

Suzanne Sack updated the Board. She spoke about how she laid out an outline for the intermediate plan, and spoke about the steps in repurposing the HES building to see what we can do with it.

New Business:

A. HKSSA Support Union Contract:

*Eric Couture **MOVED** and Gerry Matthews **SECONDED** a motion to enter into Executive Session regarding negotiations.*

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 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

Sue Twachtman left the meeting at approximately 8:06 p.m.

The Board went into Executive Session at 8:14 p.m.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:34 p.m.

The Board reconvened the regular meeting at 8:34 p.m.

Brenda Buzzi **MOVED** and Maura Wallin **SECONDED** a motion to accept the Regional School District 17 Support Services Association Contract as written.

Motion passed unanimously 10-0-0 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 Absent

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

Public Comments:

None.

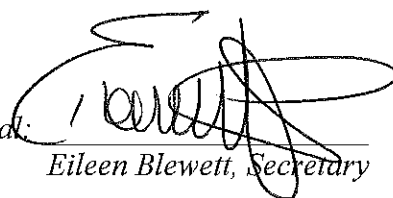
Adjournment:

Board Chair, Joanne Nesti, called for the meeting to adjourn at 8:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



*Jamie Sciascia
Board Clerk*

Approval: 
 Eileen Blewett, Secretary

Date: 6/15/18