

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
March 20, 2018

A special meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on March 20, 2018 in the Haddam-Killingworth High School Auditorium. Board of Education Chair, Joanne Nesti, called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM.

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

Members Absent: *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, Assistant Principal of Haddam-Killingworth Middle School, Ryan Mackenzie, 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, RSD7 IT Manager, Scott Butson, Haddam Resident State Trooper, Enrico Milardo, and Board Clerk, Jamie Sciascia*

Visitors: *Approximately 3*

Call to Order/Opening of Meeting: *Board of Education Chair, Joanne Nesti, called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.*

Public Input on the Superintendent's Proposed Budget 2018-2019:

The following Community members addressed the Board regarding their concerns in the 2018-2019 Proposed Budget:

Arthur Collins of Higganum addressed the Board. He spoke about the possibility of selling the Haddam Elementary School, asked if we could bring back late buses and suggested use of bus seatbelts. He also asked what the cost per student is for a child to go to a different school. Further, he spoke about course elective options a student has available to them; for instance, shop classes, electrical classes, etc. He asked if the students are aware of their course options order to pursue their interest.

Superintendent Thiery advised that we do pay a tuition for each student to go to a magnet/vocational school which is approximately \$15,000 per student. Further, he spoke about how HK has auto shop, manufacturing design class and culinary arts. The students do sit down with a counselor to address what avenue they would like to take and how they would need to get there.

Board Chair, Nesti, briefly went over the timeline of the Budget. She explained that Superintendent Thiery presented the 2018-2019 Proposed Budget on March 6, 2018, followed by a Budget Workshop. A second Budget Workshop was held on Thursday, March 15th. On Thursday, March 22nd there is a meeting with the Boards of Finance and Boards of Selectmen for the Towns of Haddam and Killingworth followed by another Budget Workshop. The last Budget Workshop will be held on Tuesday, March 27th and then the Annual Meeting will take place on April 3rd. Some of these dates were rescheduled due to the weather.

Adjournment

Board Chair, Joanne Nesti, called for the meeting to adjourn at 6:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



*Jamie Sciascia
Board Clerk*

Approval:  Date: 4/3/18
Eileen Blewett, Secretary