

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
February 6, 2018

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on February 6, 2018 in the Central Office Board Room. Board of Education Chair, Joanne Nesti, called the meeting to order at 7:12 PM.

***Members Present:** Suzanne Sack, Maura Wallin, Peter Sonski, Eric Couture (Arrived 7:26 PM), Sue Twachtman, Joel D'Angelo, Eileen Blewett, Brenda Buzzi, Gerry Matthews, Kathleen Zandi and Joanne Nesti*

***Members Absent:** None.*

***Also Present:** Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Curriculum, Dr. Holly Hageman, Director of Finance, Martha Vaughn, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth High School, Donna Hayward, Student Representative, Nolan Serbent, RSD17 Facilities Department, Rob Albert, CREC Constructions Services, Doug Rogers, Public Building Committee Member, Chip Frey, and Board Clerk, Jamie Sciascia*

***Visitors:** Approximately 5*

Call to Order/Opening of Meeting:

Board of Education Chair, Joanne Nesti, called the meeting to order at 7:12 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Comment:

Chip Frey of Haddam addressed the Board. He spoke about how he noticed a Board Member kneeling before the Flag and felt that it was not the place to make a political statement because the Board was there for the education of our children which is the most important thing.

Approval of Minutes:

Approval of Minutes for the following Board Meetings:

- A. Approval of Minutes for the December 5, 2017 Board of Education Meeting
- B. Approval of Minutes for the December 19, 2017 Board of Education – Education Session Meeting
- C. Approval of Minutes for the January 9, 2018 Board of Education – Special Meeting
- D. Approval of Minutes for the January 16, 2018 Board of Education – Education Session Meeting
- E. Approval of Minutes for the January 23, 2018 Board of Education – Special Meeting

*Sue Twachtman **MOVED** and Peter Sonski **SECONDED** a motion to approve Minutes A-E as presented with corrections.*

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

Suzanne Sack YES √ NO A
 Peter Sonski YES √ NO A
 Maura Wallin YES √ NO A
 Eric Couture Absent
 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

Report from Student Representatives:

Nolan Serbent updated the Board. He spoke about the 2nd High School Prep Rally scheduled for Wednesday, February 14th and the Annual Mr. HK Pageant night.

Principal of Haddam-Killingworth High School, Donna Hayward, and Student Representative, Nolan Serbent, left the meeting at approximately 7:15 p.m.

*Peter Sonski **MOVED** and Brenda Buzzi **SECONDED** a motion to move up Item 7A under Old Business in the Agenda.*

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

Suzanne Sack YES √ NO A
 Peter Sonski YES √ NO A
 Maura Wallin YES √ NO A
 Eric Couture Absent
 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

Old Business:

A. High School Energy and Facilities Upgrade

a) Report from Public Building Committee

Doug Rogers from CREC updated the Board. He spoke about the Boiler Project bids being due, and how based on qualifications, MJ Daly was awarded the contract for the Boiler Project. There were 6 bidders in total and he pointed out the number of subcontractors that will be hired for this project. Doug also briefly spoke about the new duel boilers. The Board raised questions about if the bids were close, if there was a contingency plan in place and if there was a temperature setting on the transformer. Board Member, Sue Twachtman, stated that she is very much supportive of MJ Daly and how they have a good reputation.

Board Member, Eric Couture, arrived at approximately 7:26 p.m.

*Peter Sonski **MOVED** and Brenda Buzzi **SECONDED** a motion to approve the contract in the amount of \$2,185,000.00 to MJ Daly as the contractor for the Boiler Project.*

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

Board Committee Reports and Future Meetings:**A. Facilities Subcommittee**

Eric Couture updated the Board. He spoke about the Capital Plan Process, how the Facilities Department operates when there is a snow day, schools are closed and/or late opening. Lastly, he addressed the Barn estimated repair options and the Tier 1, 2, 3 Projects.

B. Finance Subcommittee

Suzanne Sack updated the Board. She spoke about the Budget and how Martha began to project year-end numbers. RFPs went out to several banks and they will make a decision based on rate.

C. Policy Subcommittee

Eric Couture updated the Board. He spoke about the new sets of 4000, 5000, 6000 Policy Series.

D. Communications Subcommittee

Gerry Matthews updated the Board. He spoke about communication being established to make sure everyone knows what is going on within the District. He embraced the hard work of the SCPC regarding the possible school closing and restructuring of the District. Lastly, he spoke about the Mission Statement of the Board and the Mission Statement of the District having two separate meanings; therefore, he would like to revisit the Board's Mission Statement. Board Member, Sue Twachtman, did express her concern with changing it. Board Members also discussed that if the Communications Subcommittee feels the Mission Statements are different then they should bring a presentation forward for the Board to review and discuss further.

E. Personnel and Evaluation Subcommittee

Suzanne Sack updated the Board. She spoke about Teacher's Contract Negotiations and how the Board needs to discuss the Insurance aspect of it.

F. Strategic Capital Planning Subcommittee

Update provided under Old Business, Item B.

Board Liaison Reports:**A. Healthy Communities – Healthy Kids Council**

No Report.

B. LEARN

Suzanne Sack updated the Board. She spoke about the East Haddam Superintendent's Presentation regarding their STEM program.

C. Park & Recreation

No Report. Superintendent Thiery will be getting Peter Sonski the contact information for the Committee.

D. Haddam Board of Selectmen

No Report.

E. Killingworth Board of Selectmen

No Report.

B. Strategic Facilities Planning Committee

Suzanne Sack updated the Board. She spoke about how they are still in the "vetting" process and how they will be getting input from the Community at the upcoming scheduled meetings. Also, she briefly spoke about once the "vetting" is finished, that the SCPC will bring a recommendation to the Board for approval. Suzanne reiterated that no decisions have been made and when, and if, the Board approves what is being brought forth, then this will be implemented by the 2019/2020 Calendar Year. The Board members were encouraged to get people to attend these two meetings. There was also mention of how all the restructuring information is up under our RSD17 website and there is a link to submit questions. You will also find questions that have already been answered located there as well.

Suzanne stressed the importance of attending the two Community meetings scheduled for this Thursday, February 8, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at the Haddam-Killingworth Middle School Auditorium and the second one is scheduled for Wednesday, February 21, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at the Haddam-Killingworth High School Auditorium. Suzanne as well as Superintendent Thiery will be giving a presentation followed by a Q & A. Suzanne stated that both these meetings are designed to raise awareness, answer any all questions, get Community input and dispel misinformation.

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 of a drum set valued at \$400.00 from Joe Laurenza (grandfather of a former student) to be used for the HK Drama Club. Submitted by Principal Donna L. Hayward, Haddam-Killingworth High School.
- B. Acceptance of a donation of stained glass valued at approximately \$100.00 and a homemade light table valued at \$25.00 from Trish and Mark Hale (parents of a former student) to be used for crafts projects in the HKHS Fine Arts Department. Submitted by Principal Donna L. Hayward, Haddam-Killingworth High School.
- C. Acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$26.00 from Lathrop Vending, Inc. Submitted by Principal Donna L. Hayward, Haddam-Killingworth High School.
- D. Acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$50.00 from Beverly Hitchman (grandmother of a student) in lieu of attending the mattress fundraiser held on December 2, 2017 and will be deposited into the Class of 2021 SAF account. Submitted by Principal Donna L. Hayward, Haddam-Killingworth High School.
- E. Acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$1,000.00 from CT Street Rod Assoc., Inc. for purchasing supplies and equipment as necessary for the Electrathon Engineering projects. Submitted by Principal Donna L. Hayward, Haddam-Killingworth High School.
- F. Acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$44.00 from Lathrop Vending, Inc. Submitted by Principal Donna L. Hayward, Haddam-Killingworth High School.
- G. Acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$250.00 from the Connecticut Association of Schools, Inc. for the 2017-2018 Arthur Director Leadership Award presented to the Allies in Diversity Group and will be deposited into the Student Activity Fund. Submitted by Principal Dr. Jennifer Olsen, Haddam-Killingworth Middle School.

*Gerry Matthews **MOVED** and Eric Couture **SECONDED** a motion to accept Items A-G listed on the Consent Agenda.*

Motion passed unanimously 11-0-0 by the following show of hands:

Suzanne Sack YES NO A Joel D'Angelo YES NO A

Peter Sonski YES √ NO A
 Maura Wallin YES √ NO A
 Eric Couture YES √ NO A
 Sue Twachtman 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

New Business:

A. BOE Policy 5000 Series Sexual Harassment Policy

Superintendent Thiery updated the Board. He went over the new Sexual Harassment Policy, a draft of which was handed out to the Board. Board Member, Kathy Zandi raised several questions which Superintendent Thiery will bring back to the District's attorney to amend the draft and make a clean copy available to the Board.

*Sue Twachtman **MOVED** and Maura Wallin **SECONDED** a motion to waive the second read of the Policy.*

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

*Brenda Buzzi **MOVED** and Kathy Zandi **SECONDED** a motion to approve the Policy reflecting the amended changes by the Board.*

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

From the Superintendent:

A. Legislative Update

Superintendent Thiery updated the Board. He spoke on the Budget, the new ECS Formula, and told everyone to continue speaking with our Legislators.

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 Enrollment 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

Martha Vaughn updated the Board. She spoke on the Budget Transfers which were presented to the Board and a motion was made to approve them.

*Joel D'Angelo **MOVED** and Sue Twachtman **SECONDED** a motion to approve the Budget Transfers as presented.*

Motion passed unanimously 11-0-0 by the following show of hands:

Suzanne Sack	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	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"/>

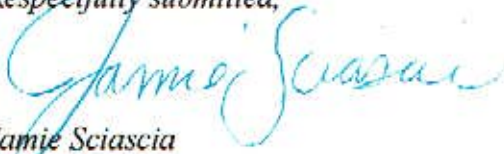
Board Discussion/News/Suggestions: *None.*

Public Comments: *None.*

Adjournment:

Board Chair, Joanne Nesti, called for the meeting to adjourn at 9:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Jamie Sciascia
Board Clerk

Approval: 
Eileen Blewett, Secretary Date: 3/6/18