

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION - EDUCATION SESSION**  
**January 16, 2018**

*A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on January 16, 2018 in the Haddam-Killingworth Middle School Media Center. Board of Education Chair, Joanne Nesti, called the meeting to order at 7:34 PM.*

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

**Members Absent:** *Kathy Zandi*

**Also Present:** *Superintendent of Schools, Howard Thiery, 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, Attorney Floyd Dugas, and Board Clerk, Jamie Sciascia*

**Visitors:** *Approximately 12*

**Call to Order/Opening of Meeting:**

*Board of Education Chair, Joanne Nesti, called the meeting to order at 7:34 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.*

**Public Comment:**

*James Clemente of Killingworth addressed the Board. He spoke about an incident involving his son and subsequent communication following the incident. Mr. Clemente indicated he would follow up with a letter to Board members.*

*Scott Perry of Killingworth addressed the Board. He spoke about how he is a Community member and is a parent of 4 children, all who love playing sports. He stated how important it is that the students who are enrolled in a magnet school be allowed to play sports at HKHS.*

*Divinna Schmitt of Killingworth addressed the Board. She spoke about how she has two children; her son struggled when he was in school. She stated that we should look at our Mission Statement, that with acceptance and dedication to students with needs they can have a successful future. It also takes the involvement of Community members and understanding to make this happen.*

**Board Liaison Reports:**

**A. Curriculum Council:**  
*No Report.*

**B. Curriculum Subcommittee:**  
*No Report.*

**Old Business:**

**A. High School Energy and Facilities Upgrade**

- a) Report from Public Building Committee

*No Report. Board Chair, Nesti, stated that the next PBC meeting will be held on January 31<sup>st</sup>.*

**B. Strategic Capital Planning Committee Report**

*Suzanne Sack updated the Board. She spoke about how the Committee created a project plan and each item is being managed by a different member. She stated that there will be two Community Meetings scheduled: one for February 8, 2018 located at the Haddam-Killingworth Middle School at 7:00 p.m. and the second one scheduled for February 21, 2018 located at the Haddam-Killingworth High School at 6:00 p.m. Both of these public meetings are being held to discuss the consideration of implementing Scenario A in restructuring the District to include the introduction of an Intermediate Education Program and Primary Program and the consolidation of two primary schools. A PowerPoint presentation will be given by Suzanne and Superintendent Thiery.*

*Superintendent Thiery updated the Board. He briefly touched on how he is meeting with the PTO's in the District to keep them abreast of what is going on.*

**New Business:**

**A. HKEA Teachers Contract**

*Board Chair, Joanne Nesti, TABLED the discussion regarding HKEA Teachers Contract.*

**B. Magnet School Athletics**

*Superintendent Thiery spoke on the Policy Background – Athletic Participation. He briefly gave a short background of the history of the policy, explained that you need to be a student enrolled in Haddam-Killingworth High School in order to play sports within the Community and also gave specific reasons of why this stands. He stated that our obligations are to the students of Haddam-Killingworth High School. Superintendent Thiery briefly touched on the policy that was in place years ago, which consisted of small teams of different schools students. He gave Morgan High School as an example, who at the time didn't have a swim coach, so they were able to Co-op their practices and use our facility but compete as Morgan. He also spoke on an incident that occurred years ago from a communication error that put our school at risk and our students in harms way hence why the Athletics Policy changed. You can't guarantee the communication would be seamless 100% of the time; therefore, it would leave the door open for the District to be liable if something were to happen. There is a lot to look at especially, Attendance, Behavior and Academics eligibility being the qualifying factors. Superintendent Thiery also stated that it is the parents' choice to send their child to a magnet school.*

*The Board Members discussed looking at the policy on an individual basis because a person could have a valid reason of why they aren't enrolled in the District. Also, use of PowerSchool and using Daily tickets signed off by principals were discussed. Lastly, the Board discussed if someone wanted the Policy to change to bring a draft to the Board for further discussion.*

*Board Chair, Nesti, stated that this School Athletics Policy works and is in the best interests of the students.*

*Board Chair, Nesti, asked the Board for a consensus indication by Show of Hands in support of the Athletics Policy as presented. The majority of the Board members raised their hands in consensus to support the current policy.*

**Public Comments:**

Scott Perry addressed the Board. He spoke again about the HKHS Athletics Policy and was upset about the Magnet students not being able to play within the HKHS Community.

Linda Butler addressed the Board. She spoke on how she has five children, three who attend a magnet school. She stated that there needs to be open communication between both schools via PowerSchool on a daily basis with attendance, behavior and grades in order to play with the HK Community.

Jen Kamoen addressed the Board. She spoke on her son being enrolled in a magnet school. She believes that the magnet school has a responsibility to communicate what is needed in order for the children to play sports within the HK District.

Board Chair, Nesti, stated there will be a short recess and then the Board will reconvene to a non-meeting for discussion of Teachers Contract.

**Board went into recess at approximately 8:33 PM.**

**The Board reconvened the meeting at approximately 8:43 PM.**

Joel D'Angelo **MOVED** and Maura Wallin **SECONDED** a motion to approve the contract between the BOE of Regional School District Number 17 and the Haddam-Killingworth Education Association.

Motion passed unanimously 10-0-0 by the following votes:

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	Absent		
				Joanne Nesti	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>

**Adjournment:**

Board Chair, Joanne Nesti, called for the meeting to adjourn at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jamie Sciascia  
Board Clerk

Approval:   
Eileen Blewett, Secretary

Date: 2/6/18