

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
December 19, 2017**

*A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on December 19, 2017 in the Haddam-Killingworth Middle School Media Center. Board of Education Chair, Joanne Nesti, called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM.*

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

**Members Absent:** *Joel D'Angelo*

**Also Present:** *Superintendent of Schools, Howard Thiery, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Curriculum, Dr. Holly Hageman, 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 7:32 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.*

**Public Comment:** *None.*

*Maura Wallin **MOVED** and Brenda Buzzi **SECONDED** a motion to move up in the Agenda Item 6A set forth under New Business.*

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

Suzanne Sack	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	Joel D'Angelo	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	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"/>

**New Business:**

**A. HKHS Music Trip 2019**

*Tim D'Amato addressed the Board. He is the Music Director at the Haddam-Killingworth School who was seeking permission to hold his annual overnight Music Trip scheduled for the Spring of 2019 either in New York or Boston. The trip will consist of sightseeing, awards ceremony, and a banquet. The estimated cost is \$500-600 per person which includes coaches, chaperones and meals. There are also fundraising opportunities prior to the trip to help pay for the expenses. Roughly, 75-80% of students attend. Once the trip location has been confirmed, Mr. D'Amato will provide exact dates, location and itinerary details.*

Peter Sonski **MOVED** and Kathy Zandi **SECONDED** a motion to approve the Haddam-Killingworth High School Music Trip for 2019 as presented.

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	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	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 Liaison Reports:

### A. Curriculum Council

Eileen Blewett updated the Board. She spoke on the Financial Algebra Class, changing the full year course to a 6 month semester course; specifically, for Juniors and Seniors. The new course will also change its name to Personal Finance.

Kathy Zandi updated the Board. She spoke on a new math program for Grades 2-8. The first part is an assessment and the next would be an online learning portion. There is also teacher material for classroom learning. She also stated the course eliminates the gaps that students have and adapts the curriculum specifically to student's needs. This program is geared to the Common Core standards which are already in place. Lastly, Kathy briefly spoke on Burr Elementary School holding a preschool expo scheduled for January 17, 2018.

Dr. Holly Hageman updated the Board. She spoke briefly on the new math program; specifically, how the school books will be replaced at the Middle School Level. The teachers will be able to choose resources tailored to their classroom book which will be cost effective.

Superintendent Thiery spoke on the 27<sup>th</sup> year of the Special Haddam-Killingworth Holiday Telethon scheduled on Friday, December 22, 2017 from 8-11:30 a.m. live on Channel 18 for viewing. He said that this year they are raising money for the Patsy Kameron Scholarship Fund who was a respected teacher and coach within the Community. He also praised the students on how they do such an amazing job in raising money all over the world for such a wonderful cause.

### B. Curriculum Subcommittee:

No Report.

## Old Business:

### A. High School Energy and Facilities Upgrade

#### a. Public Building Committee

Eric Couture updated the Board. He spoke on bids for the Boiler Project being out and are expected to come back January 3. The Public Building Committee will review all bids to bring back a recommendation to the BOE for awarding a contract for this project targeted for the second meeting in January. Eric further spoke on the Lighting Project going out to bid in mid-January and the project will commence in April.

Lastly, Eric spoke on the Auditorium Project. The renovations will include refurbishing of seats, stage work, removing dust from curtains, painting, sound system

lights, stage resurfacing and sound aquatic work. Eric further spoke on the possibility of there being hazardous materials in the boiler room located in the ceiling and in the doors leading outside. Fuss and O'Neill who is an abatement monitoring asbestos company, recommended by the Public Building Committee, will provide their services in the amount of \$28,394.00. Questions were raised by some Board members that this price seems high. Eric Couture stated that this is only because students will be present on school grounds during the project. If the project takes place when students are not in school, then the cost will be drastically lower.

Superintendent Thiery briefly stated that Fuss & O'Neill makes a plan for containment for removal of asbestos, monitors the actual removal process, as well as daily monitoring as the project moves forward including both physical and air testing.

Board Chair, Joanne Nesti, spoke on the three firms that bid on the Photovoltaic Design Project and how the Public Building Committee carefully reviewed numerous factors including cost, experience and presentation before they came to their recommendation of awarding the contract to Friar. Again, questions were raised by Board Members of choosing Friar at a \$20,000 bid difference.

Board Chair, Joanne Nesti, stated for the record that she and the Public Building Committee will do a better job to make the Board feel comfortable in the contracts being awarded process. Superintendent Thiery suggested bringing members of the Public Building Committee in to meet with the Board as well as CREC and Project Managers.

Eric Couture **MOVED** and Sue Twachtman **SECONDED** a motion to award the contract to Fuss & O'Neill for the asbestos abatement and monitoring on the Haddam-Killingworth Boiler Renovation Project in the amount of \$28,394.00

Motion passed 7-2-1 by the following votes:

Suzanne Sack	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	Joel D'Angelo	Absent		
Peter Sonski	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Eric Couture	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	Gerry Matthews	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" 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 of Education Member, Sue Twachtman, left the meeting at approximately 8:15 p.m.

Maura Wallin **MOVED** and Peter Sonski **SECONDED** a motion to award Friar Architecture Engineering the Photovoltaic Project Design work in the amount of \$57,200.

Motion passed 8-0-1 by the following votes:

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

**B. Budget Timeline 2018/2019**

*Peter Sonski **MOVED** and Eric Couture **SECONDED** a motion to approve the 2018-2019 Budget Timeline as presented.*

*Motion passed unanimously 9-0-0 by the following show of hands:*

Suzanne Sack	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"/>
Maura Wallin	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"/>
Sue Twachtman	Absent		

Joel D'Angelo	Absent		
Eileen Blewett	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"/>
Gerry Matthews	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"/>

**C. School Calendar 2019/2020-Second Read**

*Joanne Nesti updated the Board. She briefly spoke on the School Calendar being a second read and wanted to make sure the Board felt comfortable moving forward for approval.*

*Questions were raised by Kathy Zandi regarding February vacation being eliminated and Superintendent Thiery stated that a State law came into effect to eliminate it. Superintendent Thiery also stated that we must go to school 180 days of the 182 contractual mandated days. Suzanne Sack did suggest that the review of the School Calendar get delegated next year to Curriculum Council.*

*Gerry Matthews **MOVED** and Eric Couture **SECONDED** a motion to approve the 2019-2020 School Calendars as presented.*

*Motion passed unanimously 9-0-0 by the following show of hands:*

Suzanne Sack	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"/>
Maura Wallin	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"/>
Sue Twachtman	Absent		

Joel D'Angelo	Absent		
Eileen Blewett	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"/>
Gerry Matthews	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"/>

**D. Board of Education Committees**

*Board Chair, Joanne Nesti, updated the Board on the new members of each Committee. She read them into the record as follows:*

**FINANCE:**

- Suzanne Sack (Chair)*
- Peter Sonski*
- Joanne Nesti*
- Eileen Blewett*

**FACILITIES:**

*Eric Couture (Chair)*  
*Joanne Nesti*  
*Peter Sonski*

**POLICY:**

*Eric Couture (Chair)*  
*Joel D'Angelo*  
*Maura Wallin*

**STRATEGIC CAPITAL PLANNING:**

*Suzanne Sack (Chair)*  
*Joel D'Angelo*  
*Joanne Nesti*  
*Peter Sonski*  
*Eileen Blewett*

**CURRICULUM:**

*Kathy Zandi (Chair)*  
*Eric Couture*  
*Eileen Blewett*  
*Maura Wallin*  
*Brenda Buzzi*

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

*Gerry Matthews (Chair)*  
*Sue Twachtman*  
*Brenda Buzzi*

**PERSONNEL & EVALUATION:**

*Suzanne Sack (Chair)*  
*Sue Twachtman*  
*Joel D'Angelo*  
*Maura Wallin*  
*Brenda Buzzi*

**PUBLIC BUILDING COMMITTEE:**

*Tom Hogarty (Chair)*  
*Joanne Nesti*  
*Eric Couture*  
*Sue Twachtman*  
*Bob Braren*  
*Bill Leahy*  
*Chip Frey*  
*Karen Perry*  
*Colleen Fitzpatrick*

**LIAISONS:**

*LEARN – Suzanne Sack*  
*Haddam Board of Selectman – Brenda Buzzi*  
*Killingworth Board of Selectmen – Eric Couture*

Park & Recreation – Peter Sonski

Healthy Communities/Healthy Kids – Gerry Matthews

Curriculum Council – Maura Wallin, Kathy Zandi and Eileen Blewett

Superintendent Thiery briefly addressed the posting requirements for the BOE Agendas, and Minutes as well as the locations of meetings have to be publicly assessable.

Board Chair, Joanne Nesti, stated that the new Committee Chairs and Members will be put on the RSD17 website. Their home addresses will no longer appear. Kathy Zandi suggested putting the Town of where each Board Member is located would be helpful in case any Community member had questions they would know who to turn to.

**E. Strategic Capital Planning Committee Report**

Suzanne Sack updated the Board. She spoke on the High School Building Project will be a standing item now listed on the Agenda. In addition, the new Board Members received a folder of all data from last spring that included all enrollment studies. She advised if anyone had any questions to call her directly. Gerry Matthews suggested using social media like Facebook for the Community's questions and for us to share important Committee information. Lastly, Suzanne advised that the next SCP meeting will be held on January 2, 2018.

Superintendent Thiery updated the Board. He spoke on how the teachers will be involved with the design of the intermediate level school at the appropriate stage and time. He also spoke on having two community meetings as well as meetings with the PTOs to talk about what is going on. He stated he just met with the PTO leadership to update them as well.

**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 in the amount of \$500.00 from Associated Teachers of Math CT, c/o Joseph Klimaszewski to be spent on “anything for the classroom.” Submitted by Principal Donna L. Hayward, Haddam-Killingworth High School.
- B. Acceptance of a generous donation of school supplies (pencils, notebooks, gluesticks...) from Guilford Savings Bank to be used to replenish classroom supplies. Submitted by Principal Eric D. Larson, Burr Elementary School.

Maura Wallin **MOVED** and Peter Sonski **SECONDED** a motion to accept Item A-B listed on the Consent Agenda with great appreciation.

Motion passed unanimously 9-0-0 by the following show of hands:

Suzanne Sack	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u>   </u>	A <u>   </u>	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**

- B. **Special Education/Student Services Workshop Date**

*Superintendent Thiery updated the Board. He spoke on how this Board Workshop for Pupil Services is open to the public and the first meeting will be held on February 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. at Central Office.*

*Board Chair, Joanne Nesti, briefly spoke on the orientation for new Board Members scheduled in January.*

**C. BOE Facility Tours**

*Board Chair, Joanne Nesti, updated the Board. She spoke on how Director of Facilities, Mike Distefano, will be taking the New Board Members on a tour of the new roof, boiler room, as well as showing them the new lightening project.*

*Superintendent Thiery updated the Board. He advised that Mike Distefano will reach out to each Board Member individually to schedule a time during school hours to take them on these facilities tours. Also, he advised that if any new Board member has a problem with getting into their RSD17 email to contact Pamela Hensel directly.*

**D. Support Services Contract\***

*Board Chair, Joanne Nesti, **MOVED** to **TABLE** the discussion regarding Support Services Contract to a later date.*

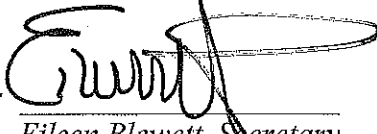
**Public Comments:** *None.*

**Adjournment:**

*Board Chair, Joanne Nesti, called for the meeting to adjourn at 9:32 PM.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

  
Jamie Sciascia  
Board Clerk

Approval:  Date: 2/6/18  
Eileen Blewett, Secretary