

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
December 5, 2017**

*A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on December 5, 2017 in the Central Office Board Room. Board of Education Chair, Joel D'Angelo, called the meeting to order at 7:30 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:** *Kathleen Zandi*

**Also Present:** *Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Curriculum, Dr. Holly Hageman, Director of Finance, Martha Vaughn, Student Representatives, Kate Porter and Nolan Serbent and Board Clerk, Jamie Sciascia*

**Visitors:** *Approximately 17*

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

*Board of Education Chair, Joel D'Angelo, called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.*

*The meeting opened by all Board Members giving a brief introduction of themselves. The Board members are: Suzanne Sack, Peter Sonski, Maura Wallin, Eric Couture, Sue Twachtman, Joel D'Angelo, Eileen Blewett, Brenda Buzzi, Gerry Matthews, Kathleen Zandi and Joanne Nesti.*

**Nomination and Election of Board of Education Officers**

**A. BOE Chair**

*Suzanne Sack **MOVED** and Peter Sonski **SECONDED** a motion to appoint Joanne Nesti as Board Chair.*

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

Suzanne Sack	YES <u>√</u>	NO ___	A ___	Joanne Nesti	YES <u>√</u>	NO ___	A ___
Peter Sonski	YES <u>√</u>	NO ___	A ___	Eileen Blewett	YES <u>√</u>	NO ___	A ___
Maura Wallin	YES <u>√</u>	NO ___	A ___	Brenda Buzzi	YES <u>√</u>	NO ___	A ___
Eric Couture	YES <u>√</u>	NO ___	A ___	Gerry Matthews	YES <u>√</u>	NO ___	A ___
Sue Twachtman	YES <u>√</u>	NO ___	A ___	Kathleen Zandi	Absent		
				Joel D'Angelo	YES <u>√</u>	NO ___	A ___

*Board Chair, Joanne Nesti, thanked Joel D'Angelo for his calm and patient leadership for the past 2 years and appreciated how he had a great way of finding the best solutions for the District.*

**B. BOE Vice Chair**

*Eric Couture **MOVED** and Joel D’Angelo **SECONDED** a motion to appoint Suzanne Sack as Vice Chair.*

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

Suzanne Sack	YES <u>√</u> NO ___ A ___	Joel D’Angelo	YES <u>√</u> NO ___ A ___
Peter Sonski	YES <u>√</u> NO ___ A ___	Eileen Blewett	YES <u>√</u> NO ___ A ___
Maura Wallin	YES <u>√</u> NO ___ A ___	Brenda Buzzi	YES <u>√</u> NO ___ A ___
Eric Couture	YES <u>√</u> NO ___ A ___	Gerry Matthews	YES <u>√</u> NO ___ A ___
Sue Twachtman	YES <u>√</u> NO ___ A ___	Kathleen Zandi	Absent
		Joanne Nesti	YES <u>√</u> NO ___ A ___

**C. BOE Treasurer**

*Maura Wallin **MOVED** and Brenda Buzzi **SECONDED** a motion to appoint Peter Sonski as Treasurer.*

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

Suzanne Sack	YES <u>√</u> NO ___ A ___	Joel D’Angelo	YES <u>√</u> NO ___ A ___
Peter Sonski	YES <u>√</u> NO ___ A ___	Eileen Blewett	YES <u>√</u> NO ___ A ___
Maura Wallin	YES <u>√</u> NO ___ A ___	Brenda Buzzi	YES <u>√</u> NO ___ A ___
Eric Couture	YES <u>√</u> NO ___ A ___	Gerry Matthews	YES <u>√</u> NO ___ A ___
Sue Twachtman	YES <u>√</u> NO ___ A ___	Kathleen Zandi	Absent
		Joanne Nesti	YES <u>√</u> NO ___ A ___

**D. BOE Secretary**

*Suzanne Sack **MOVED** and Sue Twachtman **SECONDED** a motion to appoint Eileen Blewett as Secretary.*

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

Suzanne Sack	YES <u>√</u> NO ___ A ___	Joel D’Angelo	YES <u>√</u> NO ___ A ___
Peter Sonski	YES <u>√</u> NO ___ A ___	Eileen Blewett	YES <u>√</u> NO ___ A ___
Maura Wallin	YES <u>√</u> NO ___ A ___	Brenda Buzzi	YES <u>√</u> NO ___ A ___
Eric Couture	YES <u>√</u> NO ___ A ___	Gerry Matthews	YES <u>√</u> NO ___ A ___
Sue Twachtman	YES <u>√</u> NO ___ A ___	Kathleen Zandi	Absent
		Joanne Nesti	YES <u>√</u> NO ___ A ___

**Discussion of Board Committee Leadership and Membership:**

*Joel D’Angelo **MOVED** and Joanne Nesti **SECONDED** a motion to move down Agenda Item 3- Discussion of Board Committee Leadership and Membership and imbed it with Agenda Items 7 and 8.*

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

Suzanne Sack	YES <u>√</u> NO ___ A ___	Joel D’Angelo	YES <u>√</u> NO ___ A ___
Peter Sonski	YES <u>√</u> NO ___ A ___	Eileen Blewett	YES <u>√</u> NO ___ A ___
Maura Wallin	YES <u>√</u> NO ___ A ___	Brenda Buzzi	YES <u>√</u> NO ___ A ___

Eric Couture YES  NO \_\_\_ A \_\_\_  
Sue Twachtman YES  NO \_\_\_ A \_\_\_

Gerry Matthews YES  NO \_\_\_ A \_\_\_  
Kathleen Zandi Absent  
Joanne Nesti YES  NO \_\_\_ A \_\_\_

**Public Comment:**

*The Boy Scouts of Haddam - Troop #44 addressed the Board. They briefly spoke on how in order to receive their Merritt Badge the requirement was to be in to be in attendance at tonight's BOE meeting.*

**Approval of Minutes:**

*Approval of Minutes for the following Board Meetings:*

- A. Approval of Minutes for the November 14, 2017 Board of Education – Board Workshop Meeting
- B. Approval of Minutes for the November 14, 2017 Board of Education Meeting

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

*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 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 Absent  
Joanne Nesti YES  NO \_\_\_ A \_\_\_

**Report from Student Representatives:**

*Kate Porter updated the Board. She spoke on the passing of their field hockey coach, Patsy Kamercia, who worked within the District for over 40 years. Their holiday show this year will be sponsoring the Patsy Kamercia Scholarship Fund and the show will air on December 22<sup>nd</sup> from 8 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Also, Kate briefly spoke on the new Mission Statement which was created by the Core Values and Beliefs Committee which will eventually go in front of the Board for approval.*

*Nolan Serbent updated the Board. He spoke on Junior Parent Night scheduled for December 11<sup>th</sup>, Chorus Concert next Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m., and the Annual Holiday Show which is run largely by members of HK's Media Programs. Lastly, he spoke on Winter Sports and the Girls Basketball Season will begin on December 13<sup>th</sup> in North Branford at 7 p.m.*

**Board Committee Reports and Future Meetings:**

**A. Facilities Subcommittee**

*Eric Couture gave a brief overview of what the Committee entails. He spoke on how the Committee was formed to keep the Building and Grounds of the Schools in order and Director of Facilities, Mike Distefano, keeps the process running smoothly.*

**B. Finance Subcommittee**

*Suzanne Sack gave a brief overview of what the Committee entails. She spoke on reviewing the Budget numbers and financial records of the District. Suzanne also stated that the Committee meets the Wednesday prior to the first BOE meeting and she welcomes any new members that would like to join the team.*

**C. Policy Subcommittee**

*Eric Couture gave a brief overview of what the Committee entails. He stated that once a month*

*they have their meetings in the evenings, and they read through policies that need change. Also, he spoke on shifting away from CABE to Shipman and Goodwin which is very positive. Eric confirmed that the policy for the SCPC will be the first read at the next BOE business meeting.*

**D. Communications Subcommittee**

*Peter Sonski gave a brief overview of what the Committee entails. He spoke on how the Committee was established to get the important information out to the Community and make everyone aware of what is going on with the BOE.*

**E. Personnel and Evaluation Subcommittee**

*Sue Twachtman gave a brief overview of what the Committee entails. She spoke on how the Committee works on the Superintendent's contract and evaluation. She stated that the Committee establishes goals with the Superintendent and drafts his evaluation, which is then reviewed and approved by the Board of Education. The Committee also is in charge of contract negotiations with all Union groups. Lastly, Sue stated that the Committee is involved with interviewing the final candidates for all administrative positions which would go in front of the Board. The Committee meets on an as-needed basis.*

**F. Strategic Capital Planning Subcommittee**

*This is a special Committee put together to look at the school's enrollment projection as well as all resources that we have. The Committee took data and formed scenarios potentially looking at closing a school and creating new academic programs.*

**Board Liaison Reports:**

**A. Healthy Communities – Healthy Kids Council**

*Board Chair, Joanne Nesti, gave a brief overview of what the Committee entails. She stated Susan Dean who recently retired from the Board put together a wonderful Board handbook. Also, Joanne spoke on how Susan put together a wellness strategy to reduce substance abuse. These Committee meetings were typically held at 8 a.m.*

**B. LEARN**

*Suzanne Sack gave a brief overview of what the Committee entails. She spoke on how it is a Regional Service Center and 5 are in the State of Connecticut which ours is based out of Old Lyme.*

**C. Park & Recreation**

*Sue Twachtman gave a brief overview of what the Committee entails. She spoke on how they meet with Park and Rec to keep communication open regarding the use of the schools facilities.*

**D. Haddam Board of Selectmen**

*Peter Sonski gave a brief overview of what the Committee entails. He spoke on how it is a Multi School District, 6 members from the Town of Haddam and 5 from the Town of Killingworth get elected. Board of Selectman offers an informational report to them for development and Peter updates the Board at their business meetings. The Committee meets one time a month.*

**E. Killingworth Board of Selectmen**

*Eric Couture gave a brief overview of what the Committee entails. Eric explained that this Committee covers exactly what the Haddam Board of Selectman covers.*

### **Curriculum Council**

*Dr. Holly Hageman gave a brief overview of what the Committee entails. She spoke on how they meet 6 times a year on Tuesday afternoons. She stated the next meeting will be December 19<sup>th</sup> regarding stakeholders, curriculum programs and developments.*

### **Curriculum Subcommittee**

*Dr. Holly Hageman gave a brief overview of what the Committee entails. She spoke on how they report the 2<sup>nd</sup> BOE meeting of each month and meets on an as needed basis 2-3 times a year. She briefly touched on the textbooks and new course approvals.*

### **Discussion of Board Committee Leadership and Membership:**

*Board Chair, Joanne Nesti, updated the Board. She encouraged new Board Members to take a role in any of the Committees that sparks interest to them. She also briefly stated that she is looking to have a tentative Committee list with role assignments by next week.*

### **Old Business:**

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

##### **a) Report from Public Building Committee**

*Board Chair, Joanne Nesti, updated the Board. She briefly spoke on the roof project that was recently replaced. The job was well done and way under budget. She stated that there will be many projects going on within the next few months: Auditorium Renovations, Boiler Project and Lighting/Solar Project.*

#### **B. Strategic Capital Planning Committee:**

*Suzanne Sack updated the Board. She spoke on the SCP recommending “vetting” of specific data which involves testing the educational efficacy improvements of Scenario A; proving “what if” scenarios for current and/or unexpected enrollment trends; detailed financial review; outlining anticipated risks associated with implementation and explore mitigation; and putting together a process for Community input meetings in late January or early February. Suzanne did state that there will be two District meetings one in the Town of Killingworth and one in the Town of Haddam to keep the Communities abreast of what is happening. Also, meetings will take place at the PTO regarding same. Maura Wallin did raise a question on whether or not at the PTO meetings in January if all parents will be able to attend. Since Superintendent Thiery was not present, Board Chair Nesti, stated that she will confirm and update at the next meeting. She also stated that if a school does close, there is no specific one that has been decided one.*

*Lastly, Gerry Matthews encouraged the use of Social Media like Facebook for up to date information as well as a Q&A’s for the Community.*

### **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.*

Acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$33.62 from Lathrop Vending, Inc. Submitted by Principal Donna L. Hayward, Haddam-Killingworth High School

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

*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 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 Absent  
 Joanne Nesti YES  NO  A

**New Business:**

**A. Budget Timeline 2018/2019: First Read**

*Board Chair, Joanne Nesti, updated the Board. She went over the Budget Timeline as presented and advised to look it over since this is only the First Read. If anyone has any questions, feel free email or contact her.*

**B. School Calendar 2019/2020: First Read**

*Board Chair, Joanne Nesti, updated the Board. She spoke on the School Calendar as presented for 2019-2020 and advised that this is the First Read and email her if anyone has any questions. There were questions/suggestions raised by Board Members regarding making the day after Halloween a day off for students and starting school after Labor Day but nothing was decided on.*

**From the Superintendent:**

**A. Legislative Update**

*Dr. Holly Hageman updated the Board. She briefly spoke on the Budget and holding an upcoming meeting with the State Legislators.*

**B. Personnel Report**

*Dr. Holly Hageman advised that the Personnel Report has been provided in the BOE Packet. She stated if anyone had any questions on the report, please feel free to contact her.*

**C. Enrollment Report**

*Dr. Holly Hageman advised that the Enrollment Report has been provided in the BOE Packet. She stated if anyone had any questions on the report, please feel free to contact her.*

**From the Director of Fiscal Operations:**

**A. Budget Transfers**

*No Report.*

**Board Discussion/News/Suggestions:**

*Joanne Nesti spoke briefly regarding her newly appointed position of Board Chair. She stated that she is fully 100% committed to the Board of Education in her position and will do her best to make the BOE run more efficient. She is looking forward to doing a great job for the Community and working with the Board Members and Superintendent Thiery.*

*Board Chair, Joanne Nesti, stated that the next Board of Education - Education Session Meeting is scheduled on Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Haddam-Killingworth Middle School. She also advised that the change of start time to 7:00 p.m. will be at the first BOE meeting scheduled on January 2, 2018.*

**Public Comments:** *None.*

**Adjournment:**

*Board Chair, Joanne Nesti, called for the meeting to adjourn at 8:43 PM.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Jamie Sciascia*

*Board Clerk*

*Approval:* \_\_\_\_\_ *Date:* \_\_\_\_\_  
*Eileen Blewett, Secretary*