

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
November 14, 2017

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on November 14, 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: *Kathy Brown, Maura Wallin, Peter Sonski, Suzanne Sack, Jeannie Young, Dan Chase, Susan Dean, Eric Couture, Joanne Nesti Sue Twachtman and Joel D'Angelo*

Members Absent: *None.*

Also Present: *Superintendent of Schools, Howard Thiery, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Curriculum, Dr. Holly Hageman, Director of Finance, Martha Vaughn, Director of Facilities, Michael Distefano, Representative from Capital Region Education Council, (CREC) Doug Rogers, Chairman for the Public Building Committee, Tom Hogarty, and Board Clerk, Jamie Sciascia*

Visitors: *Approximately 7*

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.

Public Comment:

Arthur Collins of Higganum addressed the Board. He asked how many members are on the SCP Committee and Suzanne confirmed it was 5 including Superintendent Thiery. He also spoke briefly on how he is leaning towards Scenario A and stated that getting this information out to the Community is very important.

Linda Butler of Killingworth addressed the Board. She spoke on how she came in follow up on one of the meetings held a few weeks back when there was a discussion of a student who was attending a magnet school and who is not allowed to play sports for HKHS. She spoke on how she followed up with other schools which do allow students to play; specifically, in the towns of Groton and Ledyard. These schools track their students through PowerSchool as well as monitor their behavior in order to participate in the town's sports programs. Superintendent Thiery stated that there is a policy in place in the Athletic Handbook in Chester, Essex and Deep River (Region #4) and they have been allowing students to participate, against their stated policy; they are reviewing their policy. Board Chair D'Angelo stated that since this athletic policy was not on the Agenda, that it can't legally be discussed at this meeting. Board Member, Dan Chase, stated that typically how the process works is in order for items to get placed on the Agenda that you need to email a Board member addressing their concerns. Board Chair D'Angelo advised that at the December 5th meeting it will not appear due to the structural shift with the new members coming on Board. This will require further Board discussion and will be added onto one of the BOE Agendas in the future.

Board Chair D'Angelo welcomed and congratulated all New Board Members and stated how he is looking forward to working with everyone starting at the next Board meeting scheduled in December.

Superintendent Thiery spoke on the Memorial Service of Patsy Kamercia. He spoke on the passing of dear friend and colleague Patsy Kamercia and wanted to share the touching Memorial Service that was held for her in the Field House with over 1,000 people in attendance. He stated she was an employee since 1972 and was a truly remarkable woman who will be missed dearly. Superintendent Thiery advised that a Christmas Memorial Scholarship Fund in Patsy Kamercia's name will be the recipient of this year's HKTV Holiday Show telethon. He believes that it will be the largest fundraiser that the Holiday Show has had. He further read into the record the speech that was given at Patsy's Memorial Service which is set forth below:

Resolution of the Regional School District 17
Board of Education

Whereas the Regional School District 17 Community will gather together on Saturday, November 11, 2017, to mourn the death and honor the memory of Patricia "Patsy" Kamercia.

Whereas Patsy Kamercia became employed at Haddam Junior High School in 1971, joined the faculty of RSD 17 when it was formed in 1975, and served its students continuously until her passing in November 2017.

Whereas Patsy Kamercia taught physical education in our community for 40 years until her retirement in 2011 and then continued to coach the HKHS Girls Field Hockey Team.

Whereas Patsy Kamercia was inducted in to the first class of the Haddam Killingworth Hall of Fame in 2009.

Whereas Patsy Kamercia was a trailblazer for women's athletics in the State of Connecticut, was the first woman to be named athletic director in a public school in Connecticut, and was inducted into the Connecticut Athletic Director's Hall of Fame.

Whereas Patsy Kamercia was one of the most distinguished and respected high school athletic, field hockey, coaches in the State of Connecticut and was inducted into the State Coach's Hall of Fame.

Whereas the HKHS Field Hockey teams coached by Patsy Kamercia won 461 games, 16 Shoreline Conference championships and 4 state championships.

Whereas Patsy Kamercia had a deep and positive impact on thousands of young people that carried far beyond their years as students or athletes.

Whereas Patsy Kamercia's passion for and commitment to all things HK served as an inspiration to her colleagues, students and the HK community at-large for more than four decades.

Whereas Patsy Kamercia was one of the most respected and beloved professionals ever to grace the campus of HKHS.

Resolved the Board of Education of Regional School District 17:

Recognizes the significant and lasting contributions of Patricia "Patsy" Kamercia over the course of her most distinguished career and honors her memory.

Gratefully acknowledges the deep and lasting impact that Patricia “Patsy” Kamercia had on our district and the inspiration that her life will provide for our community moving forward.

Extend their sincerest condolences to the family of Patsy Kamercia and to all of our community members who feel her loss deeply.

Adopted this 8th day of November 2017.

Joel D’Angelo
Chairman

Special Board Recognition:

Superintendent Thiery spoke on how the Board of Education is very important to us, and how he is grateful for their level of commitment and dedication. He further stated how he appreciated the Board for continuing to push him to support the District better and thanked all the outgoing Board members for their dedication and services throughout their years.

Board Chair, D’Angelo honored Kathy Brown, Dan Chase, Jeannie Young and Susan Dean for their hard work and dedication for serving on the Board of Education. He handed each member a beautiful Certificate of Recognition with the exception of Susan Dean who received a Plaque and a beautiful bouquet of flowers for her 51 years of service to the Community.

Superintendent Thiery further honored Board Chair, D’Angelo for his hard work and dedication serving as Board Chair for the Board of Education. He stated how the Board of Education chooses a distinguished leader and how it is so very important that the Superintendent and the Board Chair work well together. He said it was an honor to have him in that position and gave him a Certificate of Appreciation.

Approval of Minutes:

Approval of Minutes for the following Board Meetings:

- A. Approval of Minutes for the October 3, 2017 Board of Education Meeting
- B. Approval of Minutes for the October 17, 2017 Board of Education – Strategic Capital Planning (Board Workshop)
- C. Approval of Minutes for the October 17, 2017 Board of Education – Education Session Meeting

*Suzanne Sack **MOVED** and Eric Couture **SECONDED** a motion to approve the minutes as presented.*

Motion passed unanimously 11-0-0 by the following votes:

Kathy Brown	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"/>
Dan Chase	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"/>	Suzanne Sack	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	YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO	<input type="checkbox"/>	A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Susan Dean	YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO	<input type="checkbox"/>	A	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jeannie Young	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"/>

Report from Student Representatives:

No Report.

Eric Couture **MOVED** and Peter Sonski **SECONDED** a motion to move up in the Agenda Item 8B set forth under Old Business.

Motion passed unanimously 11-0-0 by the following votes:

Kathy Brown	YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO	<input type="checkbox"/>	A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dan Chase	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"/>
Susan Dean	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"/>
Peter Sonski	YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO	<input type="checkbox"/>	A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Suzanne Sack	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"/>
Jeannie Young	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"/>

Old Business:

High School Energy and Facilities Upgrade

a) Report from Public Building Committee

Eric Couture updated the Board. He stated the Committee met last Wednesday and approved two small Invoices: 1)Fuss & O'Neill and 2) DTC. Eric stated there was a discussion on the boiler project and the RP going out to bid soon. Lastly, Eric went over the Educational Specifications in the Photovoltaic Project which was further brought to the Board as a motion to approve same.

Eric Couture **MOVED** and Maura Wallin **SECONDED** a motion to approve the Educational Specifications set forth in the Haddam-Killingworth High School Photovoltaic Project.

Motion passed unanimously 11-0-0 by the following votes:

Kathy Brown	YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO	<input type="checkbox"/>	A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dan Chase	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"/>
Susan Dean	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"/>
Peter Sonski	YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO	<input type="checkbox"/>	A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Suzanne Sack	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"/>
Jeannie Young	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"/>

Superintendent Thiery updated the Board. He spoke on how we are ending a 3 year term purchasing electricity through a consortium. He further stated that the same broker is negotiating different rates for us and addressed each rate at 12 Months, 48 Months and 36 Months timeframe. A motion was brought to the table to lock in the 3 year electric rate which would be a cost savings of about 3% on the kw hour.

Maura Wallin **MOVED** and Jeannie Young **SECONDED** a motion to authorize the Administration to lock in the electric rate for 36 Months.

Motion passed unanimously 11-0-0 by the following votes:

Kathy Brown	YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO	<input type="checkbox"/>	A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dan Chase	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"/>
Susan Dean	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"/>
Peter Sonski	YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO	<input type="checkbox"/>	A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Suzanne Sack	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"/>
Jeannie Young	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"/>

Board Committee Reports and Future Meetings:

A. Facilities Subcommittee

No Report.

B. Finance Subcommittee

Suzanne Sack updated the Board. She spoke on Budget Transfers, and how the Committee adopted a new process when their meetings commence which would be to document questions they had to follow up with Martha and Howard.

C. Policy Subcommittee

Kathy Brown updated the Board. She stated they had two Committee meetings and spoke about the Shipman and Goodwin policies, all the ones that needed to be changed for Legal purposes. The Strategic Capital Planning Committee's new policy is in this group.

D. Communications Subcommittee

Susan Dean updated the Board. She briefly stated that whoever takes over the Committee that they should look into establishing a Community Pamphlet.

E. Personnel and Evaluation Subcommittee

Sue Twachtman updated the Board. She stated they are in Teachers Negotiations.

Board Liaison Reports:

A. Healthy Communities – Healthy Kids Council

No Report.

B. LEARN

Suzanne Sack updated the Board. She spoke on the \$15M dollar grant that LEARN received to make a new school for the region. They are purchasing an old synagogue in new London that had a school in it and the cost of renovations will be \$5M dollars.

C. Park & Recreation

No Report.

D. Haddam Board of Selectmen

No Report.

E. Killingworth Board of Selectmen

Eric Couture updated the Board. He spoke on meeting with the Board of Selectmen two weeks ago regarding the Budget, and stated it would be nice to have 2 elementary schools one for each town for character.

Old Business:

A. 2017-18 Budget Update

Superintendent Thiery updated the Board. He briefly spoke on the Budget Timeline which was provided in the packets in error but stated that once the new Board Members come on in December this will be addressed at that point.

Secondly, Superintendent Thiery spoke on the Budget that was recently passed; however, he mentioned that there were currently no specific numbers and to trend carefully. He spoke on how

he is not lifting the spending cap and hiring freeze and also stated that he will be meeting with the First Selectmen and discussing District and Town numbers to have the ability to move forward.

B. Board of Education 2018 Meeting Schedule

Peter Sonski **MOVED** and Maura Wallin **SECONDED** a motion to approve the Board of Education 2018 Meeting Schedule.

Suzanne Sack made a motion for an **AMENDMENT** to change the start time of the 2018 Board of Education Meetings to 7:00 p.m.

Peter Sonski and Maura Wallin **ACCEPTED** the **AMENDMENT** to the original motion set forth above.

Motion passed unanimously 11-0-0 by the following votes:

Kathy Brown	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"/>
Dan Chase	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"/>	Suzanne Sack	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	YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO	<input type="checkbox"/>	A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Susan Dean	YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO	<input type="checkbox"/>	A	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jeannie Young	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"/>

Superintendent Thiery did note that the March 6, 2018 date as listed on the Board of Education Meeting Schedule will also be changed to 7:00 p.m.

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 \$25.96 from Lathrop Vending, Inc. Submitted by Principal Donna L. Hayward, Haddam-Killingworth High School.
- B. Acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$95.60 from the Benevity Community Impact Fund to be deposited into the Student Activity Fund (spilt evenly between the Music Department and Library). Submitted by Principal Donna L. Hayward, Haddam-Killingworth High School.
- C. Acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$42.00 from Coca-Cola Vending Machine Sales to be deposited into the Student Activity Account – Principal Account. Submitted by Principal Dennis J. Reed, Killingworth Elementary School.
- D. Acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$500.00 from the KES PTO to be deposited into the Student Activity Account – Field Trips Submitted by Principal Dennis J. Reed, Killingworth Elementary School.

Susan Dean **MOVED** and Sue Twachtman **SECONDED** a motion to accept Items A-D listed on the Consent Agenda with great appreciation.

Motion passed unanimously 11-0-0 by the following votes:

Kathy Brown	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"/>
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Dan Chase YES NO ___ A ___
 Maura Wallin YES NO ___ A ___
 Eric Couture YES NO ___ A ___
 Susan Dean YES NO ___ A ___

Peter Sonski YES NO ___ A ___
 Suzanne Sack YES NO ___ A ___
 Sue Twachtman YES NO ___ A ___
 Jeannie Young YES NO ___ A ___
 Joel D'Angelo YES NO ___ A ___

New Business:

A. Inventory Disposal Request – Haddam Killingworth High School:

Superintendent Thiery updated the Board. He briefly spoke on the Inventory Disposal request from HKHS which was for outdated equipment for items like an old table saw, old metal lathe and an old binko paint booth. The new equipment will be taken from the Capital Assets account.

*Peter Sonski **MOVED** and Eric Couture **SECONDED** a motion to approve the Inventory Disposal Request as presented.*

Motion passed unanimously 11-0-0 by the following votes:

Kathy Brown YES NO ___ A ___
 Dan Chase YES NO ___ A ___
 Maura Wallin YES NO ___ A ___
 Eric Couture YES NO ___ A ___
 Susan Dean YES NO ___ A ___

Joanne Nesti YES NO ___ A ___
 Peter Sonski YES NO ___ A ___
 Suzanne Sack YES NO ___ A ___
 Sue Twachtman YES NO ___ A ___
 Jeannie Young YES NO ___ A ___
 Joel D'Angelo YES NO ___ A ___

From the Superintendent:

A. Legislative Update:

Superintendent Thiery updated the Board. He spoke briefly on the Budget implemental bill.

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.

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.

From the Director of Fiscal Operations:

A. Budget Transfers

Martha Vaughn updated the Board. She spoke on the Budget Transfers that were provided to the Board, which were renewed and adopted by the Finance Department.

*Peter Sonski **MOVED** and Maura Wallin **SECONDED** a motion to accept the Budget Transfers as presented.*

Motion passed unanimously 11-0-0 by the following votes:

Kathy Brown YES NO ___ A ___
 Dan Chase YES NO ___ A ___
 Maura Wallin YES NO ___ A ___
 Eric Couture YES NO ___ A ___
 Susan Dean YES NO ___ A ___

Joanne Nesti YES NO ___ A ___
 Peter Sonski YES NO ___ A ___
 Suzanne Sack YES NO ___ A ___
 Sue Twachtman YES NO ___ A ___
 Jeannie Young YES NO ___ A ___

Joel D'Angelo

YES NO A

Board Discussion/News/Suggestions:

None.

Public Comments: *None.*

Adjournment:

Board Chair, D'Angelo, called for the meeting to adjourn at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Jamie Sciascia

Board Clerk

Approval: 
Kathy Brown, Secretary

Date: 12/5/17