

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION - EDUCATION SESSION
October 17, 2017

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on October 17, 2017 in the Haddam-Killingworth Middle School Media Center. Board of Education Chair, Joel D'Angelo, called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM.

Members Present: *Kathy Brown, Jeannie Young, Sue Twachtman, Suzanne Sack, Maura Wallin, Dan Chase, Joanne Nesti, Peter Sonski, Eric Couture and Joel D'Angelo*

Members Absent: *Susan Dean*

Also Present: *Superintendent of Schools, Howard Thiery, Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Holly Hageman, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth High School, Donna Hayward, Assistant Principal of Haddam-Killingworth High School, Shelia Ward, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth Middle School, Dr. Jennifer Olsen, Assistant Principal of Haddam-Killingworth Middle School, Ryan Mackenzie, Principal of Burr Elementary School, Eric Larson, Principal of Haddam Elementary School, Brienne Whidden, Principal of Killingworth Elementary School, Dennis Reed, Director of Student Services, Dr. Kris Lindsay, Special Education Coordinator, Tonya Gorgone, and Board Clerk, Jamie Sciascia*

Visitors: *Approximately 12*

Call to Order/Opening of Meeting: *Board of Education Chair, Joel D'Angelo, called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.*

Public Comment:

Arthur Collins of Higganum addressed the Board. He spoke on the 1st SCP Board Meeting; specifically, the 1st Scenario that was given to the Board. He raised the question if we were to sell a school what would happen to those monies -- would it be given to State Agencies. Superintendent Thiery stated he would have to consult our attorney as far as how funds would flow into the District and how they would be kept.

Rene Digiacommo of Higganum addressed the Board. She spoke regarding her son Devin, who was diagnosed with Autism. She addressed her son's transition program and the internship he didn't receive until his Junior Year. She stressed her frustration on the process and how there was such lack of communication from the Haddam-Killingworth High School Special Education Department in terms of contact information for this program, proper support and transportation for her son. She stated that Devin expressed his interest in being a Welder but did start his employment program until the Fall of his senior year. She advised how she recently filed a formal complaint against the Special Education Department.

Board Chair Joel D'Angelo appreciated and thanked Ms. Digiacommo for coming out to speak about this hard topic.

Michael Civiello of Killingworth addressed the Board. He opened up by stating he is a father of four boys and appreciated the education they all received in the District. He also stated how he is the President of the Haddam-Killingworth Lacrosse Team. He said he is there tonight for a Community Family, a family that has volunteered and always has been there to help others. He spoke on how their son is enrolled in a

magnet school, and how under the Haddam-Killingworth Sports Policy, he is not allowed to play for HKHS. Currently, that Community family is moving out of town due to this sports policy and he asked the Board if there was any way to make an exception. Board Chair D'Angelo stated that there was one other student who was enrolled in a magnet school years ago and was grandfathered in since there was no policy in place at that time. He stated that the school District does have any control over a student that is attending a magnet school; therefore, they wouldn't be able make an exception. Superintendent Thiery stated that it is the parent's decision not to send their child to our schools, and it is our decision who can play the sports as far as eligibility, attendance and grades. Also, he stated that in the end it would be a liability on the District since they have no control of this student.

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

Joanne Nesti updated the Board. She spoke on the two contracts for bid that took place for Solar Project Manager: CREC and Colliers. CREC was awarded the contract with a bid of \$75,000. Also, Joanne spoke on the four architectural firms that bid on the Haddam-Killingworth High School Renovation Project and based on qualifications and level of commitment, Friar was awarded the contract for \$30,000. Lastly, she briefly spoke on the invoice from Silktown in the amount of \$30,248.00 which represents the Change Orders and 4 additional ladders that were purchased and met code.

Maura Wallin **MOVED** and Jeannie Young **SECONDED** a motion to award CREC the contract for the Solar Project Manager.

Motion passed 9-0-1 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 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"/> | Sue Twachtman | YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | NO <input type="checkbox"/> | A <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Susan Dean | Absent | | | 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"/> |

Eric Couture **MOVED** and Sue Twachtman **SECONDED** a motion to award Friar the contract to perform the architectural work on the Auditorium Project.

Motion passed unanimously 10-0-0 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 | Absent | | | 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"/> |

Eric Couture **MOVED** and Jeannie Young **SECONDED** a motion to approve Silktown's invoice in the amount of \$30,248.

Motion passed 9-0-1 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 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"/> | Sue Twachtman | YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | NO <input type="checkbox"/> | A <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Susan Dean | Absent | | | 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"/> |

New Business:

A. Continuous Improvement Plan - Presentations

Dr. Holly Hageman updated the Board. She spoke on Developing the K-12 Curriculum, specifically, in major areas like K-12 Science, K-8 Social Studies, and 5-10 Foreign Language. She further spoke on meeting goal for English/Language Arts Programs and went over the Goal for Improvement in those two categories. Dr. Hageman touched briefly on the Mathematics Growth Improvement. She then explained that all students will meet goal in Science when standards are assessed in 2020 in grades 5, 8, and 1, and went over the Science Program Improvement. She addressed the Social Studies Program Improvement and the Instructional Shifts within that area. Lastly, she spoke on the Foreign Language Goal.

Dr. Kris Lindsay updated the Board. She spoke on the three Goals and Actions: 1) Building greater in-district capacity and sustainability for providing comprehensive educational services to identified students in following areas: transition services, behavioral services, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and dyslexia therapy. The goal is to conduct a cost benefit analysis report 2) Expand district capacity for providing intensive, research-based reading instruction to identified students. The goal is to develop a written professional development proposal for the 2018-2019 school year; and 3) continually monitoring the effectiveness of the PPT and 504 meetings to make sure they are sound educational plans.

Principal Eric Larson updated the Board. He spoke on the Successes of the students within the school; 90% are reading at grade level in Grades 3-4 as measured by the internal assessment and 96% have met district benchmark in Math at the Grade 4 level. He spoke on meeting with each teacher in the Fall, Winter and Spring months to go over students' progress and next steps. Further, Principal Larson addressed meeting with the Grade 4 Math teacher to analyze the Smarter Balanced Assessment as well as grade level teams will meet weekly with intervention teachers to look at the growth and develop goals and support plans. He spoke on assessing and monitoring each students' phonemic awareness development, creating intervention groups to address students' needs at the Grade 1 level, refining spelling phonics instruction and developing in-house Professional Development shared learning opportunities at all grade levels. Lastly, Principal Larson went over Number Talk, monitoring student progression, reviewing standards for Math, planning intervention groups on an as needed basis, and meeting with coaches and interventionists to analyze student data.

Principal Brienne Whidden updated the Board. She spoke on Grade 4 students meeting goal on SBAC in ELA percentage increase, 80% of students meeting benchmark in Math at the Grade 1, 2 and 4 levels; 85% of students meeting goal in Writing at the K-2 levels, and also addressed the 97% of parents that feel that the school performs academically well. She further spoke on the Areas of

Focus in the number of students reaching growth targets, Reading Readiness and Communication with Families. Further, she addressed building data teams, reviewing data on all students with Coaches, Interventionists and Principal on an 6-8 week basis, and tracking progress of students who are academically struggling and come up with strategies and supports. Next, Principal Whidden spoke on the Lexia Program in the early grade levels, use of Foundations which supports spelling and phonics instruction, Tier Team approach at the Grade K-1 levels and Data Teams meeting 3 times a year with to review each student's data with teacher. Lastly, she went over the Parent Survey communication, streamlining the types of communication, utilizing technology and apps, and increasing in person communication.

Principal Dennis Reed updated the Board. He spoke on the areas of Success within the school and stated that 90% of students are reading on grade level or above in Grades 2-3 and over 80% in Grade 4 as measured by the internal assessment. He stated that 83% of Grade 3 students met or exceeded goal in Math on the Smarter Balanced Assessment. He spoke on new clubs such as Maker Space and Book Clubs. He briefly touched on Areas of Focus in Grade 3-4 Math and ELA on the Smarter Balanced Assessment, Reading Readiness skills in primary grades and Grammar and Conventions in Grades K-4. He spoke on building level data teams with principal, coaches, interventionists as well as grade level data teams which will meet with intervention teachers to develop individual goals including support plans. He addressed the Growth Focus in Math, implementing Number Talks and having meetings with the 4th Grade teachers and coaches to analyze data and instruction for each individual student. Lastly, Principal Reed went over Reading Readiness in the Primary Grades and Grammar and Conventions.

Dr. Jennifer Olsen updated the Board. She spoke on improving student literacy and numeracy skills as measured by district and state assessments in areas of Mathematics, Reading and Writing. She spoke briefly on updating the HKMS Report Card for the 2018-2019 School Year, Creativity and Innovation within the students by incorporating Maker Space Opportunities into Art, Robotics and Media Production, as well as having jam sessions before and after school. Lastly, spoke on creating an advisory program, and building a community partnership with parents in terms of proper use of social media by the HKMS students.

Principal Donna Hayward updated the Board. She spoke on College and Career Readiness with courses, and expanding their learning opportunities. She addressed the Action Steps which are to continue to increase college-articulated courses, adding interests such as Calculus BC, Personal Finance, expand internship programs with interests and career based plans and increasing enrollment in higher level classes that are competitive and challenging for students. She went over how the counseling office will further explore ways to grow the college acceptance rates and develop personalized learning opportunities.

Public Comments: *None.*

Executive Session:

*Sue Twachtman **MOVED** and Peter Sonski **SECONDED** a motion to enter into Executive Session regarding a student matter.*

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

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| Kathy Brown | YES <u>√</u> | NO <u> </u> | A <u> </u> | Joanne Nesti | YES <u>√</u> | NO <u> </u> | A <u> </u> |
| Dan Chase | YES <u>√</u> | NO <u> </u> | A <u> </u> | Peter Sonski | YES <u>√</u> | NO <u> </u> | A <u> </u> |

Maura Wallin YES NO A
Eric Couture YES NO A
Susan Dean Absent

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

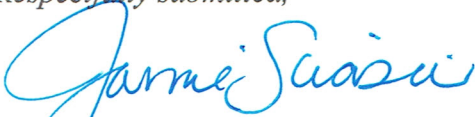
The Board went into the Executive Session at 10:16 PM.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 10:55 PM.

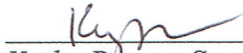
Adjournment:

Board Chair, D'Angelo, called for the meeting to adjourn at 10:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



*Jamie Sciascia
Board Clerk*

Approval: 
Kathy Brown, Secretary

Date: 11/14/17