

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
July 11, 2017**

*A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on July 11, 2017 in the Central Office Board Room. Board of Education Vice Chair, Joanne Nesti, called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM.*

**Members Present:** *Kathy Brown, Suzanne Sack, Susan Dean, Sue Twachtman, Eric Couture, Joanne Nesti & Peter Sonski*

**Members Absent:** *Maura Wallin, Dan Chase, Jeannie Young & Joel D'Angelo*

**Also Present:** *Superintendent of Schools, Howard Thiery, Director of Finance, Martha Vaughn, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth High School, Donna Hayward and Board Clerk, Jamie Sciascia*

**Visitors:** *None.*

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

*Board of Education Vice Chair, Joanne Nesti, called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.*

**Public Comment:**

*None.*

**Approval of Minutes:**

*Approval of Minutes for the following Board Meetings:*

- A. Approval of Minutes for the June 20, 2017 Board of Education – Education Session Meeting
- B. Approval of Minutes for the June 23, 2017 Board of Education – Special Meeting

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

*Motion passed unanimously 7-0-0 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	Absent	Peter Sonski	YES <u>√</u> NO <u>   </u> A <u>   </u>
Maura Wallin	Absent	Suzanne Sack	YES <u>√</u> NO <u>   </u> A <u>   </u>
Eric Couture	YES <u>√</u> NO <u>   </u> A <u>   </u>	Sue Twachtman	YES <u>√</u> NO <u>   </u> A <u>   </u>
Susan Dean	YES <u>√</u> NO <u>   </u> A <u>   </u>	Jeannie Young	Absent
		Joel D'Angelo	Absent

**Board Committee Reports and Future Meetings:**

**A. Facilities Subcommittee**

*No Report.*

**B. Finance Subcommittee**

*Suzanne Sack updated the Board. She spoke on year-end funding, funding the Operating Budget a full 1% and the \$90,000 that was given back to both the Town of Haddam and Killingworth. She briefly addressed the Technology package for 2017-2018 and Moody's ratings. Lastly, Suzanne thanked Martha and team for bringing the PO's to a close.*

**C. Policy Subcommittee**

*Kathy Brown updated the Board. Policy subcommittee met prior to previous BOE meeting to review policies for Search and Seizure which came from Drug Task Force.*

**D. Communications Subcommittee**

*No Report.*

**E. Personnel and Evaluation**

*No Report. She Twachtman stated that they are in negotiations with Support Services.*

**F. Strategic Capital Planning**

*No Report. Suzanne Sack reminded everyone of the two meeting dates scheduled for September 5<sup>th</sup> and September 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. before the regular BOE meetings.*

**Board Liaison Reports**

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

*No Report.*

**A. LEARN**

*Suzanne Sack updated the Board. She spoke on their Annual Meeting, how impressed she was with their team and how several Board members expressed their desire to be more involved with LEARN.*

**B. Park & Recreation**

*No Report.*

**C. Haddam Board of Selectmen**

*No. Report.*

**D. Killingworth Board of Selectmen**

*No Report.*

**Old Business:**

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

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

*Joanne Nesti updated the Board. She said the Committee met on June 28, 2017. They discussed DTC, the lighting and boiler project being spilt into two parts and new Eversource lighting technologies. She stated nearly 50% of the roof project has been completed so far. Also, spoke on two invoices for payment: 1) Silver Petrucelli and 2) Silktown. The invoice for Silktown is over \$1M and Suzanne Sack addressed the fact that payments in that amount should be approved by the Board. This large payment was for work performed on the roof for things like labor, installation, sheet metal materials and subcontractors that Silktown paid out of their pocket to get them to this point. Joanne did ask for clarification on the amount of monies that needs approval by the Board for future invoices and Suzanne stated anything above \$25,000.*

Suzanne Sack **MOVED** and Peter Sonski **SECONDED** a motion to approve \$1,019,111.96 in funds to be paid to Silktown for the work performed on the roofing project.

Motion passed unanimously 7-0-0 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	Absent	Peter Sonski	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Maura Wallin	Absent	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	Absent
		Joel D'Angelo	Absent

### 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 of the following items: a two man blocking sled (valued at \$2,630.00), 15 pairs of lifting collars (valued at \$167.98) and 25 new waterproof sideline capes (valued at \$1,155.00) from the HK Cougars Touchdown Club to the Haddam-Killingworth High School Football Team. Submitted by Principal Donna L. Hayward, Haddam-Killingworth High School.

Susan Dean **MOVED** and Suzanne Sack **SECONDED** a motion to accept Item A on the Consent Agenda with great appreciation.

Motion passed unanimously 7-0-0 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	Absent	Peter Sonski	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Maura Wallin	Absent	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	Absent
		Joel D'Angelo	Absent

### New Business

#### A. Technology Lease 2017-2018

Martha Vaughn updated the Board. She spoke on the Financing of the 2017-2018 Technology Lease and how they chose TD Bank since they offered the lowest interest rate with no closing fees. She also advised that this Technology Lease was already put into the Budget for 2017-2018 fiscal year.

Suzanne Sack **MOVED** and Sue Twachtman **SECONDED** a motion to approve the Financing Contract of the Annual Technology Lease for 2017-2018 as presented.

Motion passed unanimously 7-0-0 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	Absent	Peter Sonski	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Maura Wallin	Absent	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  NO  A

Jeannie Young      Absent  
Joel D'Angelo      Absent

**B. Policies: Search and Seizure-Use of Dogs and Breathalyzer**

*Superintendent Thiery updated the Board. He spoke on school policy for Search and Seizure and the clear goal of reducing what, if any, drugs are present on school grounds. Also, he spoke on how to utilize the rules around extracurricular activities to makes sure students make the right decisions. What he provided in the BOE packet is for the first read and no vote is needed at this time. Susan Dean wanted to make sure this information was already out to the Public first which Superintendent Thiery confirmed that it was. Suzanne Sack said since it is the summer months that there shouldn't be a board's vote until the Community has a voice in this. Sue Twachtman said she has a high schooler and knows a lot of parents that are for and against the use of dogs and breathalyzers. She suggested inviting Youth and Family Services to a meeting with our Community to talk about this important topic. Also, suggestions on holding a Fall meeting when everyone is back from Summer break so they can listen, and really ask the questions they need to. Questions were raised on who would be administering the Breathalyzers and Peter Sonski asked for clarification in establishing this policy. Also, Joanne Nesti said at the next BOE meeting in August they will review the legal language part of it which Kathy Brown will be meeting with Shipman and Goodwin regarding same.*

**C. Athletic Handbook: New Rules for Alcohol, Tobacco and Drugs**

*Superintendent Thiery and Principal Donna Hayward updated the Board. Superintendent Thiery spoke about the Task Force team that was created to help enforce the off season rules of not using Alcohol, Tobacco and Drugs which currently aren't strict enough. Principal of Haddam - Killingworth High School, Donna Hayward, addressed the policies that are in place for students in any extracurricular school activity and what the school expects of their athletes. She stressed the importance of each student being role models within the Community and making sure they conduct themselves in a good way especially keeping their minds and bodies healthy. She further stated that at Sports Night which is coming up, each player is given an Athletics Bluebook which states all the rules which they must abide by in order to play. This is also a voluntary activity that students chose to be enrolled in so if they don't follow the rules then this will be taken away from them. Peter Sonski raised the concern whether these rules are High School or Middle School specific and both Superintendent Thiery and Principal Hayward said that these policies are the same for both levels. Also, Principal Hayward did address that we need to make it clear to all athletes that involving themselves with drugs or alcohol on or off campus is forbidden. She also spoke on the game suspension process if a student is found with Alcohol, Tobacco or Drugs off of school hours for instance being at a party.*

**D. Haddam Elementary School Principal Hiring**

*Superintendent Thiery updated the Board. He is extremely excited to introduce our new Haddam Elementary School Principal that was hired, Brienne Whidden. Superintendent Thiery stated that Brienne is coming from Manchester Public Schools and expressed how he would like to make her transition as smooth as possible. He stated that both Districts will be working together to make this happen. Sue Twachtman and Suzanne Sack extend their warm welcome to Brienne. The Board is extremely excited and sends a huge congratulations to Brienne on her new job as Principal of Haddam Elementary School.*

**From the Superintendent:**

**A. Legislative Update:**

*Superintendent Thiery updated the Board. He continues to track the proposed State budget and has also been in touch with our State legislators regarding same. He spoke on the Executive Order that was issued on July 1, 2017 and stated that once a State budget is passed that it would restore funding from the Executive Order that is currently in place.*

**B. Personnel Report:**

*Superintendent Thiery distributed the Personnel Report to the Board. He advised if anyone had any questions on the report, please feel free to contact him directly.*

**C. Enrollment Report:**

*Superintendent Thiery distributed the Enrollment Report to the Board. He briefly spoke on the Haddam Elementary School Kindergarten enrollment numbers currently at 44. He will continue to monitor these enrollment numbers as well as all staffing throughout the District. He advised if anyone had any questions on the report, please feel free to contact him directly.*

**From the Director of Fiscal Operations:**

**A. Budget Transfers**

*Martha Vaughn updated the Board. She spoke on the Budget, the 611 and 690 fund accounts. She stated that the State expects certain items to fall under each category. The 611 account are for items such as pens and pencils and the 690 account are for items that can be used more than a year like calculators, globes and things of the like.*

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

*Motion passed unanimously 7-0-0 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	Absent	Peter Sonski	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Maura Wallin	Absent	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	Absent
		Joel D'Angelo	Absent

**Board Discussion/News/Suggestions:**

*None.*

**Public Comments:**

*None.*

*Sue Twachtman **MOVED** and Susan Dean **SECONDED** a motion to enter into Executive Session regarding a legal matter.*

*Motion passed unanimously 7-0-0 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	Absent	Peter Sonski	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>
Maura Wallin	Absent	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 √ NO    A   

Jeannie Young      Absent  
Joel D'Angelo      Absent

*The Board went into the Executive Session at 9:00 PM to discuss a legal matter.*

*The Board returned from Executive Session at 9:08 PM.*

**Adjournment:**

*Board Vice Chair, Joanne Nesti, called for the meeting to adjourn at 9:08 PM.*

*Respectfully submitted,*



*Jamie Sciascia  
Board Clerk*

Approval:       Date: 8/1/17  
Kathy Brown, Secretary