

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
May 2, 2017**

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on May 2, 2017 in the Central Office Board Room. Board of Education Chair, Joel D'Angelo called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM.

Members Present: *Kathy Brown, Suzanne Sack, Susan Dean, Maura Wallin, Sue Twachtman, Eric Couture, Joanne Nesti, Peter Sonski and Joel D'Angelo.*

Members Absent: *Dan Chase & Jeannie Young*

Also Present: *Superintendent of Schools, Howard Thiery, Assistant Superintendent of Schools for Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Holly Hageman, Director of Finance, Martha Vaughn, and Board Clerk, Jamie Sciascia*

Visitors: *None.*

Call to Order/Opening of Meeting:

Board of Education Chair, Joel D'Angelo called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Board Chair D'Angelo opened the floor with speaking on Teachers Appreciation week across all Districts. He acknowledged the hard work of all the teachers, administrators and staff that put forth tremendous dedication to the students and thanked everyone on behalf of himself and the Board.

Public Comment:

None.

Approval of Minutes:

Approval of Minutes for the following Board Meetings:

- A. Approval of Minutes for the March 28, 2017 Board of Education – Special Meeting (Budget Workshop)
- B. Approval of Minutes for the April 4, 2017 Board of Education – Special Meeting (Annual Hearing)
- C. Approval of the Minutes for the April 4, 2017 Board of Education – Special Meeting (Directly After Annual Hearing)
- D. Approval of the Minutes for the April 18, 2017 Board of Education – Education Session Meeting

*Suzanne Sack **MOVED** and Susan Dean **SECONDED** a motion to approve the minutes as presented.*

Motion passed 9-0-0 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	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 NO A

Jeannie Young

Absent

Joel D'Angelo

YES NO A

Report from Student Representatives:

Students Representatives will be present at the next Board of Education – Education Session Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 16, 2017.

Board Committee Reports and Future Meetings:

A. Facilities Subcommittee

Eric Couture updated the Board. The Committee recently met and spoke on the Tier items for the Summer projects. He asked Facilities Director, Mike Distefano to provide the Committee with more details as the projects move along. He spoke briefly about going on a Barn Tour.

B. Finance Subcommittee

Suzanne Sack updated the Board. She welcomed Peter Sonski to the Finance Subcommittee team and also spoke on how due to scheduling conflicts the Finance Subcommittee meetings will now meet the Tuesdays of the first Board Meeting of each month at 3 p.m. She further spoke on how the Committee recently met and addressed the following topics: year to date expenses, closing out PO's, reviewed greater than 5,000 expenses, overall budget areas, capital planning and policy student activity funds. She also spoke on making progress on the financial overlay and policies and procedures. She addressed the debt schedule phasing out of the Middle School. Lastly, she spoke about the possibility of transitioning to a new vendor to administer the pension plan. This pension plan is in place for employees who are not covered under the State Teachers Retirement.

C. Policy Subcommittee

Kathy Brown updated the Board. She said that the Committee hasn't met but she is still waiting to get a meeting date with Shipman and Goodwin.

D. Communications Subcommittee

Susan Dean updated the Board. She spoke on the Board of Education Handbook, and the section on the election of new Board members. She spoke with the Town of Haddam Clerk, Ann Riebold, and suggested taking out some wording from the handbook it to make it less confusing. Also, mentioned the Annual June Awardees Celebration and spoke on how nice it is to have.

E. Personnel and Evaluation

Sue Twachtman updated the Board. She addressed being in contract negotiations with Support Services. She also advised that next Monday, May 8, 2017 is the evaluation of the Superintendent. She briefly said that they will be using last year's data since his contract "evergreening" won't be done until June 30th. She stated that she doesn't expect a big difference from last year. Superintendent Thiery said that the new data from the State districts profile didn't come in until January.

Board Liaison Reports

A. Healthy Communities – Healthy Kids Council

Susan Dean updated the Board. She spoke briefly on the Drug and Alcohol Awareness Night.

B. LEARN

Suzanne Sack updated the Board. She said their meeting is scheduled for next Thursday, May 14, 2017.

C. Park & Recreation

Sue Twachtman updated the Board. She addressed due to the roofing project in the summer the pool won't be able to be used, and believes the programs will be possibly held at Burr Elementary School.

D. Haddam Board of Selectmen

Peter Sonski updated the Board. He advised there was a meeting on April 19th but was not able to attend. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 3rd.

E. Killingworth Board of Selectmen

No Report.

Old Business:

A. High School Energy and Facilities Upgrade

Joanne Nesti updated the Board. The Committee met last Wednesday. She advised that the bidding for the High School project roof ends May 3rd at noon. The next meeting for the PBC is on May 10th and at that time she asked the Board if they would approve a one-time deal only relative to this project, to agree to let the PBC Committee award the project to the contractor that bids and the PBC approves at the May 10th Meeting. She suggested this only to stay on track and within the timeline of this project.

*Joanne Nesti **MOVED** and Eric Couture **SECONDED** a motion to have the Board authorize the Public Building Committee to select a suitable roofing contractor from a selection of bids opened on May 3, 2017 for the high school renovation project, provided the selected bid does not exceed the project budget.*

Motion passed 8-1-0 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 type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" 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	Absent
		Joel D'Angelo	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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 mini grant award in the amount of \$125.00 from the University of New Haven for student participation in the Project Lead the Way College Credit Program. Submitted by Donna Hayward, Principal of Haddam Killingworth High School.
- B. Acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$63.00 from the Coco-Cola vending machine sales to be deposited into the Student Activity Account. Submitted by Dennis J. Reed, Principal of Killingworth Elementary School.
- C. Acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$200.00 from Carol Cieslukowski to be deposited into the KES Student Activity – Bill C Scholarship Account. Submitted by Dennis J. Reed, Principal of Killingworth Elementary School.

- D. Acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$1,000 from the KES PTO to be deposited into the KES Student Activity Field Trip Account. Submitted by Dennis J. Reed, Principal of Killingworth Elementary School.
- E. Acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$700.00 received from the HKMS PTO to use as scholarship funds for the annual 8th grade Washington DC trip and to be deposited into the HKMS Student Activity Fund. Submitted by Dr. Jennifer Olsen, Principal of Haddam Killingworth Middle School.

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

Motion passed 9-0-0 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	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	Absent
		Joel D'Angelo	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>

New Business

- A. Fixed Asset Disposal Request–Burr Elementary School
- B. Fixed Asset Disposal Request–HK High School

Suzanne Sack **MOVED** and Eric Couture **SECONDED** a motion to accept Items A & B which are both set forth under New Business.

Motion passed 9-0-0 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	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	Absent
		Joel D'Angelo	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/>

C. Director of Pupil Services Hiring Process:

Superintendent Howard Thiery updated the Board. He briefly spoke on Tracy Geary's resignation and said she was moving to a position at Mitchell Collage to work with kids with special needs. He wished her all the best in her new endeavor. He further spoke on what the hiring process entails for a new Director of Pupil Services position for instance posting the position, paper screening and first round of interviews. Further, he spoke on the qualifications of the ideal candidate to move onto the next round of interviews and the expectations of the candidate at the Elementary, Middle and High School levels. Superintendent Thiery stressed the importance of hiring the right person.

From the Superintendent:

A. Legislative Update:

Superintendent Thiery updated the Board. He spoke briefly on the Governor's budget, pension plans and Republican's budget. He continues to keep abreast of what is going on at the State. He is firm on listening, asking questions and seeing what is currently trending. Also, spoke on

meeting recently with the head of the Board of Finance of Haddam regarding revenue and seeing what strategies they are taking so we can be on same page. He also spoke with First Selectman of Haddam, Lizz Milardo, regarding the State's proposed budget. He stressed the importance of being in this together.

B. Personnel Report:

Superintendent Thiery provided the personnel report in the BOE Packet. He advised if anyone had any questions on the report, please feel free to contact him directly.

C. Enrollment Report:

Superintendent Thiery provided the enrollment report in the BOE Packet. 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

None.

Board Discussion/News/Suggestions:

Suzanne Sack had a suggestion on Teacher's recognition. She asked Superintendent Thiery what date this recognition is set for and if she could give some input for same. Superintendent Thiery graciously accepted and advised the date is set for beginning of June.

Kathy Brown spoke on Junior Firefighters recognition. She asked what date this was usually set for and the Board believed it was set for some time in October.

Maura Wallin spoke on the 13 Reasons Why Series on Netflix and impact it could have on students. She spoke on the current email that was circulated about this series which sparked conversation. She addressed school bullying, sexting, sexual assault to see what the schools are doing to keep this from happening. Superintendent Thiery spoke on how the school has policies in place regarding bullying and harassment that are statute driven. Suzanne Sack asked Maura if she feels from her perspective if we need to improve on the policies and procedures and Maura feels that we could always improve on these types of polices so people can have a better understanding of what is going on. Board Chair, D'Angelo suggested that a full presentation to the Board for these topics would be ideal, scheduled in the summer time before the 2017-2018 school year commences.

Public Comments:

None.

Martha Wallin **MOVED** and Eric Couture **SECONDED** a motion to enter into Executive Session regarding a personnel matter.

Motion passed 9-0-0 by the following votes:

Kathy Brown	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Dan Chase	Absent		
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	Absent		
Joel D'Angelo	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>

The Board went into the Executive Session at 8:53 PM.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 9:30 PM.

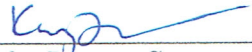
Adjournment:

Board Chair D'Angelo called for the meeting to adjourn at 9:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



*Jamie Sciascia
Board Clerk*

Approval: 
Kathy Brown, Secretary

Date: 5/16/17