

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17  
BOARD OF EDUCATION – EDUCATION SESSION**

**April 18, 2017**

*A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on April 18, 2017 in the Haddam-Killingworth Middle School Lower Media Center. Joanne Nesti called the meeting to order at 7:36 PM.*

***Members Present:** Kathy Brown, Suzanne Sack, Susan Dean, Eric Couture, Joanne Nesti, Jeannie Young and Peter Sonski*

***Members Absent:** Dan Chase, Maura Wallin, Sue Twachtman and Joel D'Angelo*

***Also Present:** Superintendent of Schools, Howard Thiery, Assistant Superintendent of Schools for Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Holly Hageman, Director of Facilities, Michael Distefano, Chairman, Public Building Committee, Tom Hogarty, Representative from Capital Region Education Council (CREC) Paul Drumme, Student Representatives, Kate Porter and Luke Bauer and Board Clerk, Jamie Sciascia*

***Visitors:** Approximately 10*

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

*Joanne Nesti called the meeting to order at 7:36 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 March 7, 2017 Board of Education Special Meeting
- B. Approval of Minutes for the March 7, 2017 Board of Education Special Meeting (Superintendent's Budget Presentation)
- C. Approval of the Minutes for the March 9, 2017 Board of Education Special Meeting (Joint Meeting)
- D. Approval of the Minutes for the March 9, 2017 Board of Education Special Meeting (Budget Workshop)
- E. Approval of the Minutes for the March 16, 2017 Board of Education Special Meeting (Budget Workshop)
- F. Approval of the Minutes for the March 21, 2017 Board of Education Special Meeting (Community Input)
- G. Approval of the Minutes for the March 21, 2017 Board of Education Special Meeting (Budget Workshop)

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

*Motion passed 6-0-1 by the following votes:*

Kathy Brown YES  NO  A   
 Dan Chase Absent  
 Maura Wallin Absent  
 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 Absent  
 Jeannie Young YES  NO  A   
 Joel D'Angelo Absent

**Report from Student Representatives:**

*Kate Porter and Luke Bauer updated the Board regarding a field trip to Morgan High School, upcoming Peter Pan play which is scheduled for May 5, 2017 and May 6, 2017. Spoke on the SATs taken by the Junior class, as well as the SAT prep taken by the Freshman and Sophomores, the start of spring sports, and how the school put on a presentation that was based off of the Stamford rape case. This presentation was with a group of 25 senior class women that spoke on the topic of being in healthy relationships.*

**Board Committee Reports and Future Meetings:**

**A. Facilities Subcommittee**

*Eric Couture updated the Board. He addressed that there were 5 areas that tested slightly above the allowable Radon levels at the Haddam Elementary School. An estimated \$5,000 would be needed to rectify the situation. Chloroform was found in a water tank at the High School. An estimated \$24,000 for repairs and \$2,500 to inspect the interior of the tank. Lastly, he spoke on the cafeteria floor in the High School which has to be replaced but due to the floor being of old age, it carries asbestos underneath of it. He lastly briefly addressed the reallocation of funds in the Capital Account for the Water Tanks at the High School and the Radon repairs at the Elementary School.*

**B. Finance Subcommittee**

*Suzanne Sack updated the Board. She advised that they are on track to produce an operating budget within our budget. She further advised that the Committee met with their broker regarding casualty insurance, deductibles, and do they want to change anything. Next week the Finance Committee will meet regarding basic policies and procedures.*

**C. Policy Subcommittee**

*Kathy Brown updated the Board. The Committee met a few weeks back regarding policies with Shipman and Goodwin. She advised they are looking to schedule a date to meet with them regarding same.*

**D. Communications Subcommittee**

*No Report.*

**E. Personnel and Evaluation**

*Joanne Nesti updated the Board. She spoke on entering into negotiations with Support Services as well as the Evaluation of the Superintendent.*

**Board Liaison Reports**

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

*Susan Dean updated the Board. She spoke on Parents Awareness on Drug and Alcohol night scheduled for Wednesday, April 19, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. at the Haddam-Killingworth High School.*

**B. LEARN**

*Suzanne Sack updated the Board. She stated that the LEARN Board recently had the CT Commissioner of Education, Dianna Wentzell, come to a board meeting to share her view on what was evolving in CT related to education. The Commissioner also mentioned that she had a chance to meet with the National Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVois. In addition, Suzanne also reported that LEARN held a Disability Summit that included many resources for Special Education professionals and Administrators.*

**C. Park & Recreation**

*Joanne Nesti updated the Board. She spoke on the programs; specifically, the swimming team and how they are in the process of looking for other places to hold the swim meets because of the roof replacement project.*

**D. Haddam Board of Selectmen**

*Peter Sonski updated the Board and advised that he was asked to serve as a liaison for the Haddam Board of Selectman which he agreed.*

**E. Killingworth Board of Selectmen**

*No Update.*

**F. Curriculum Council**

*Dr. Holly Hageman updated the Board. The Committee met on April 4, 2017; they addressed the Next Generation Science Standards for K-12; Grades 3, 7, 9 participation in Science; Spoke briefly on the World Language Program, New element of the Social Studies program; teachers are doing an excellent job with providing students with the appropriate resources.*

**G. Curriculum Subcommittee**

*No Report.*

**Old Business:**

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

*Chairman for the Public Building Committee, Tom Hogarty and CREC Representative, Paul Drummey updated the Board on the roofing, lighting, and boiler replacement projects at the Haddam-Killingworth High School. They briefly addressed the fact that the boiler replacement went out to bid to 5 contractors which ultimately no one submitted a bid. Tom Hogarty followed up with these contractors to see why no one submitted a bid, and they all said that there was no time to make a smooth seamless roof replacement job. Also, a new boiler wouldn't come in until about September timeframe which would throw the course of the boiler replacement off. Both Tom and Paul agreed that the best option would be to delay the boiler replacement until December 2017 when it would go out to bid again for replacement during Summer 2018. The roofing project went out to bid and they have a positive outlook that someone would submit a bid and start on the roof replacement in Summer of 2017.*

*Jeannie Young **MOVED** and Peter Sonski **SECONDED** a motion to endorse the recommendation of the Public Building Committee to extend the timeline of the boiler replacement to December 2017.*

*Motion passed 7-0-0 by the following votes:*

Kathy Brown YES  NO  A   
Dan Chase Absent

Joanne Nesti YES  NO  A   
Peter Sonski YES  NO

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

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

**Report from Facilities Subcommittee:**

*Eric Couture **MOVED** and Jeannie Young **SECONDED** a motion to approve \$31,500 in funding for the Radon Mitigation Project at Haddam Elementary School and Domestic Water Tanks at the High School with monies allocated from the Capital Account.*

*Motion passed 7-0-0 by the following votes:*

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

Joanne Nesti YES  NO  A   
 Peter Sonski YES  NO   
 Suzanne Sack YES  NO  A   
 Sue Twachtman Absent  
 Jeannie Young YES  NO  A   
 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 \$100.00 from United Way of Central 7 Northeastern Connecticut. Submitted by Donna Hayward, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth High School.
- B. Acceptance of a donation of a Nikon D70s camera with lenses, a battery charger, instruction book, lens hood and digipak case, donated by Dennis Dix to be used in our photography class. Approx. value \$225.00. Submitted by Donna Hayward, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth High School.
- C. Acceptance of a donation of \$100.00 from Haddam Junior Women's Club. Submitted by Bryan Kerachsky, Principal of Haddam Elementary School.
- D. Acceptance of a donation of \$1,000.00 from the KES PTO to be deposited in the Student Activity Account. Submitted by Dennis J. Reed, Principal of Killingworth Elementary School.
- E. Acceptance of a donation for \$31.50 from the Coca-Cola vending machine sales to be deposited into our student activity account. Submitted by Principal Dennis Reed, Killingworth Elementary School.
- F. Acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$400.00 from Youth and Family Services of Haddam-Killingworth to use as scholarship funds for the annual 8<sup>th</sup> grade Washington DC trip and to be deposited into the HKMS Student Activity Fund. Submitted by Dr. Jennifer Olsen, Haddam-Killingworth Middle School Principal.

*Susan Dean **MOVED** and Peter Sonski **SECONDED** a motion to accept Items A-F on the Consent Agenda with great appreciation.*

*Motion passed 7-0-0 by the following votes:*

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

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

**New Business:**

**Set High School Graduation Date – June 2017**

*The Board discussed the Haddam-Killingworth High School Graduation Date and agreed upon the date of June 15, 2017.*

*Kathy Brown **MOVED** and Eric Couture **SECONDED** a motion to set the Haddam Killingworth High School Graduation Date of Thursday, June 15, 2017.*

*Motion passed 7-0-0 by the following votes:*

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

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

**Discussion and Vote on Nonrenewal of Nontenured Faculty:**

*Superintendent Thiery addressed the State's requirements that he must announce the Nonrenewal of Nontenured Faculty. These positions were reduced only because of a structural shift in the school system. He thanked them for their hard work, encouraged them to reapply if a position comes available in the future and spoke on how they are extremely important members of the community.*

*The Nonrenewal of Nontenured Faculty are as follows:*

**Haddam-Killingworth Middle School**

John Ahlcrona  
 Elizabeth Cleveland  
 Gregory Cumpstone  
 Kerry Geoghegan  
 Brian Pember  
 Robert Salerno

**Haddam-Killingworth High School**

Rachel Lupone

**Burr Elementary School/Haddam Elementary School**

Jessica Weren

*Peter Sonski **MOVED** and Jeannie Young **SECONDED** a motion to accept the Nontenured Faculty List as presented by Superintendent Thiery.*

*Motion passed 7-0-0 by the following votes:*

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

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

**From the Superintendent:**

**A. Legislative Update**

*Superintendent Thiery spoke on how he has been up at the State Capitol and addressed the presentation given by Dr. Vensel. He briefly mentioned the State's proposed budget and ultimately said that the Board of Education and Administrators should meet with the municipality leaders to have a better understanding as far as what is happening, where it went and how to move forward from it.*

**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:**

*None.*

**Public Comments:**

*None.*

**Adjournment:**

*Joanne Nesti called for the meeting to adjourn at 9:02 PM.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

  
Jamie Sciascia  
Board Clerk

Approval:   
Kathy Brown, Secretary

Date: 5/2/17