

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
ANNUAL HEARING
April 4, 2017

A special meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on April 4, 2017 in the Haddam-Killingworth Middle School Students Commons Area. Board of Education Chair, Joel D'Angelo called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

Members Present: *Kathy Brown, Sue Twachtman, Maura Wallin, Susan Dean (Arrived 7:03), Eric Couture, Joanne Nesti, Jeannie Young, Suzanne Sack, Peter Sonski and Joel D'Angelo*

Members Absent: *Dan Chase*

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: *Approximately 30*

Call to Order/Opening of Meeting:

Board of Education Chair, Joel D'Angelo called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Presentation of the Board of Education Proposed Budget 2017-2018:

Board Chair, Joel D'Angelo and Board Treasurer, Suzanne Sack presented the Board of Education Budget for 2017-2018 fiscal year for Regional School District No. 17.

Board Chair D'Angelo reviewed the Mission Statement as well as spoke on the 2017-2018 Regional School District Budget, maintaining class sizes and educational support for students. Also, he addressed the Readers and Writers Workshop for Grades K-8, the Implementation of the New Math Curriculum for Grades 5-8, World Language Program for Grade 5-12 as well as the Continued Implementation of Targeted Intervention model at HKHS, Project Lead the Way K-4 and New Science and Special Studies Programs.

Suzanne Sack addressed the Board of Education 2017-2018 Proposed Budget of \$42,026,428.84 which is a 0.37% increase from last year. This reflects a town Assessment of \$344,590.84 respectively. She briefly went over the Gross Budget Increase areas: Salary, Benefits, Buildings and Grounds and Technology. She pointed out that Salary and Benefits are the highest percentage increase. She spoke on the salary reductions of certified and noncertified staff members, reduction of overtime, and instructional supplies. Also, she showed a breakdown in the budget reflecting areas like administration, transportation, technology, support programs, learning programs, building and grounds, tuition and debt. She briefly discussed the Annual Enrollment History from 2006-2016 which clearly has been reduced. Lastly, she went over the Proposed Assessment for Towns of Haddam and Killingworth for 2017-2018 fiscal year.

Community Input regarding Board of Education Proposed Budget:

The following Community Members addressed the Board regarding their concerns with the Board of Education Proposed Budget:

Karen Perry of Killingworth addressed the Board with her concerns on the proposed budget. She spoke on how important education is for the students, not to eliminate a team of teachers in the Middle School because it ultimately affects the Community. That person who might potentially be eliminated might have grown up in the town. She suggested taking funding out of the Capital Account and adding the 5 Middle School teachers back in.

Tyler Perry of Killingworth addressed the Board about his concerns with the proposed budget. He spoke with an analogy about a diamond in the rough and not throwing it away.

Arthur E. Collins of Higganum addressed the Board about his concerns with the proposed budget. He asked Superintendent Thiery for clarification on the team of teachers at the Middle School being let go. Superintendent Thiery clarified that these 5 core teachers are being eliminated because of declining enrollment in the Middle School. The paraprofessionals which are being reduced are only because a student no longer needs them due to moving, graduating, going to a different school, etc. Lastly, Arthur spoke on the school buses and the accident on Route 81.

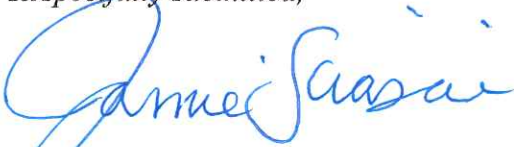
Eliska Bayley of Higganum addressed the Board about her concerns with the proposed budget. She spoke on the reduction of teachers and paraprofessionals and what stress it would have on the teachers and classrooms. Also, spoke on how reducing staff would have a big impact on families and children. She appreciated all the work that the Board has done and acknowledged that it wasn't an easy task to put together this budget.

Kerrie Parri of Killingworth addressed the Board about her concerns with the proposed budget. She spoke on how she believes it is the wrong decision reducing staff. Also, addressed how the class sizes are too large and to think of the Community, teachers and kids that this would affect.

Adjournment

Board Chair, Joel D'Angelo called for the meeting to adjourn at 7:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



*Jamie Sciascia
Board Clerk*

*Approval: 
Kathy Brown, Secretary*

Date: 5/2/17