

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
March 21, 2017

A special meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on March 21, 2017 in the Haddam-Killingworth High School Auditorium. Board of Education Chair, Joel D'Angelo, called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

Members Present: *Kathy Brown, Joanne Nesti, Eric Couture, Maura Wallin, Suzanne Sack, Sue Twachtman, Jeannie Young, Susan Dean (Arrived at 7:04) 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 42*

Call to Order/Opening of Meeting

Board of Education Chair, Joel D'Angelo called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Presentation of the Superintendent's Proposed Budget 2017-2018

The following Community members addressed the Board regarding their concerns in the 2017-2018 Proposed Budget:

Amy Jacques-Purdy of Haddam addressed the Board regarding her concerns with the Proposed Budget. Amy spoke about not taking any funds away from the children, keeping kindergarten paraprofessionals, and keeping the kindergarten classes at a small size.

John Sodergren of Killingworth addressed the Board regarding his concerns with the Proposed Budget. John spoke about how strongly he felt regarding personnel reduction and not taking funding away from children.

Cindy Baklik of Killingworth addressed the Board regarding her concerns with the Proposed Budget. Cindy spoke about how she works as the Haddam Killingworth Middle School Library Media Assistant and she respectfully asked the Board to reconsider the reduction of library para positions.

Mark Degnan of Haddam addressed the Board regarding his concerns with the Proposed Budget. Mark spoke about the possible reduction of guidance counselor staff at the middle school.

Mike Armstrong of Killingworth addressed the Board with his concerns with the Proposed Budget. Mike spoke about the possibility of reducing teachers and keeping the ratios of students per class as low as possible.

Arthur E. Collins of Higganum addressed the Board with his concerns about the Proposed Budget. Arthur asked the Board for an explanation of the news regarding reductions to teachers from the Middle School. He further spoke on implementing seatbelts to the school buses to make them safer due to the recent accident on Route 81. He found an article in the Hartford Courant regarding state funding specifically addressed to help pay for bus seatbelts.

Christopher M. Druyard of Haddam addressed the Board on his concerns on the Proposed Budget. Christopher spoke on the possibly of reducing guidance counselors and how it could really affect the kids. Also, he addressed keeping classroom size down.

Nancy Bradley of Killingworth addressed the Board with her concerns on the Proposed Budget. Nancy addressed reducing staff and spoke that middle schoolers need as many guidance counselors as possible.

First Selectman for Town of Haddam, Lizz Milardo addressed the Board and spoke on the Joint Meeting that was held recently. She advised everyone to contact their legislators in Hartford to address their concerns on the state's proposed budget. She further spoke on how the tax increases are going to affect our municipalities and we don't know exactly how much yet until the state puts out their numbers.. She thanked everyone for the open communication.

Heather Ignatuk of Killingworth addressed the Board with her concerns on the Proposed Budget. Heather spoke on the amount of students per classroom should not be a larger size and also spoke on the possible paraprofessional reductions.

Ed Munster of Haddam addressed the Board with his concerns on the Proposed Budget. Ed spoke on how the Board should work with the Board of Finance, First Selectman for Town of Haddam and Town of Killingworth and put together a budget before the state does. Also, briefly stated that we should look into delaying passing the Board of Education of Proposed Budget until we know what impact the state's budget will have on our communities.

Rebecca Drew of Killingworth addressed the Board with her concerns on the Proposed Budget. Rebecca spoke on keeping classes as small as possible and how she believes paraprofessionals are great to have in every classroom. Also, spoke briefly about looking at other cost reductions like health care, transportation, etc.

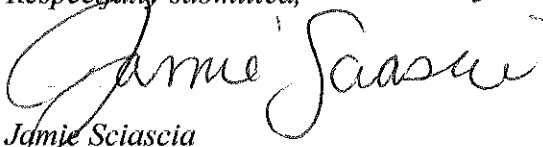
Jen Favalora of Higganum addressed the Board with her concerns on the Proposed Budget. Jen asked for clarification on blended teams in the schools, addressed teacher reductions and feels strongly about not having large classroom sizes for students.

Board Chair, Joel D'Angelo welcomed questions by phone or email to himself or Superintendent Thiery and also reminded everyone of the next Budget Workshop which is directly following this meeting.

Adjournment

Board Chair, Joel D'Angelo called for the meeting to adjourn at 7:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



*Jamie Sciascia
Board Clerk*

Approval:  Date: 4/18/17
Kathy Brown, Secretary