

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
March 9, 2017

A special meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on March 9, 2017 in the Haddam-Killingworth High School Student Commons Area. Board of Education Chair, Joel D'Angelo, called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM.

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

Members Absent: *Dan Chase, Jeannie Young & Sue Twachtman*

Also Present: *Superintendent of Schools, Howard Thiery, Assistant Superintendent of Schools for Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Holly Hageman, Director of Finance Martha Vaughn, Haddam First Selectman, Lizz Milardo, Haddam Board of Finance Chairman, Joseph Centofanti, Haddam Board of Finance Members, Marjorie DeBold, David Kapitulik, Killingworth Board of Selectman, Catherine lino, Selectman Fred Dudek, and Killingworth Board of Finance Members, Gwenne Celmer, Nancy Gorski, Robert Rimmer, Marcel Couture and Board Clerk, Jamie Sciascia*

Visitors: *Approximately 15*

Call to Order/Opening of Meeting

Board of Education Chair, Joel D'Angelo called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Joint Meeting of the Board of Education, Boards of Finance and Haddam and Killingworth Boards of Selectman - Presentation of the Superintendent's Proposed Budget 2017-2018

Superintendent Howard Thiery presented the Regional School District No. 17 2017-2018 Proposed Budget to the Boards of Finance and First Selectmen of the Towns of Haddam and Killingworth.

He reported that he has been up at the State Capitol on numerous occasions trying to get a closer look at the State's proposed budget. He stated there are so many unknowns right now but he is certain something drastic will happen. Superintendent Thiery mentioned how teachers contribute 6% to retirement yet they don't get social security. Spoke about the solar project at the high school and how it won't hit the budget until after the summer of 2018. Also, he addressed the roof project and has received no negative feedback as far as continuing to receive monies from the State. Lastly, he spoke on the health insurance deductible plans and how stop loss coverage goes out to bid on an annual basis.

Haddam First Selectman, Lizz Milardo, spoke briefly how she and Killingworth First Selectman Catherine lino have also been at the State Capitol regarding the proposed state budget. She further spoke of how the budget is currently a work in progress and what is of concern to her is the effect it could have on the towns and the District. First Selectman Milardo also addressed the tremendous amount of concern about ongoing town projects. She spoke on the first budget vote for the Town of Haddam is scheduled May 2, 2017, the Town meeting is scheduled for May 3, 2017 but the State will not have any budget numbers until the end of June. She addressed how the state's budget would reflect a 72% budget cut for the Town of Killingworth and a 29% budget cut for the Town of Haddam. She spoke about how the State is trying to move in on our municipalities which ultimately affects our budget and mill rates. She advised us to speak to our legislators to get our voice heard. Lastly, she addressed the importance of all of us being on the same page.

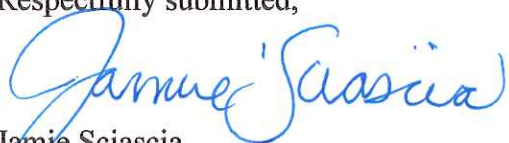
First Selectman for the Town of Killingworth, Catherine lino, briefly addressed Board with her concerns about how the Town of Killingworth will be looking at a huge reduction from the State. She addressed paramedic services how the Town is paying for it and also spoke about the Grand List. She raised questions with Superintendent Thiery on fuel, electricity, capital funding and building and grounds. She further addressed with him the health insurance plan and Superintendent Thiery stated that the health insurance was restructured into two larger high deductible plans with a cost savings of about 5%.

Board Chair, Joel D'Angelo let the Community know of the first Board Workshop scheduled for tonight. He welcomes everyone to attend the workshop that has any questions or comments. Lastly, he embraced First Selectwoman, Lizz Milardo's, message that the School Districts, Towns and Communities talk about it together and are all on the same page.

Adjournment

Board Chair Joel D'Angelo called for the meeting to adjourn at 8:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Jamie Sciascia
Board Clerk

Approval: _____ Date: _____
Kathy Brown, Secretary