

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
OCTOBER 6, 2020

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on October 6, 2020 in the Central Office Board Room and Google Hangouts Meet Video Conference (Live Stream) for public viewing. Board of Education Chair, Suzanne Sack, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Members Present: *Brenda Buzzi, Peter Sonski, Joel D'Angelo, Dr. Nelson Rivera, Jennifer Favalora, Eileen Blewett, Prem Aithal, Joanne Nesti, Kathleen Zandi and Suzanne Sack*

Members Absent: *Shawna Goldfarb*

Also Present: *Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Holly Hageman, Director of Finance, Ann Adriani, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth High School, Donna Hayward, Director of Operations, John Mercier, Student Representative, Matthew Jennings, and Board Clerk, Jamie Sciascia*

The Board meetings are videotaped and posted on the RSD17 Website under Board of Education, BOE Meeting Schedules & Minutes for public viewing.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NnsSngAnkq94OYyVvRnbnt1Xo5C2HyEo/view?usp=sharing>

Call to Order/Opening of Meeting: *Board of Education Chair, Suzanne Sack, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.*

Report from Chairman about new BOE Meeting Format and Process Under the Governor's Order:

Board Chair, Sack, updated the Board. She briefly went over the BOE Meeting Format under the Governor's Order which are now being held in-person and remotely.

Board Chair, Suzanne Sack, gave her deepest condolences on behalf of the Board and District on the passing of Melissa Schlag who served for the Town of Haddam.

Public Comment:

Lisa Connelly of Killingworth addressed the Board. She spoke about her concerns with the Equity and Social Justice page being removed from the RSD17 website, bullying that has been occurring throughout the years at the Middle School Level, and the most recent occurrence at the High School with children feeling unsafe due to students wearing offensive clothing.

Superintendent Dr. Hageman briefly addressed the Equity and Social Justice page which was only temporarily taken down to add new or updated resources.

Approval of Minutes

- A. Approval of Minutes for the September 1, 2020 Board of Education Meeting
- B. Approval of Minutes for the September 15, 2020 Board of Education – Education Session Meeting

*Peter Sonski **MOVED** and Kathy Zandi **SECONDED** a motion to accept Minutes A&B as presented.*

Board Member, Prem Aithal, suggested an amendment to the September 15, 2020 Minutes under Public Comment as well as a correction in a name spelling under Old Business: Update on BES/KES Field House Project.

Peter Sonski **AMENDED** and Kathy Zandi **SECONDED** a motion to accept Minutes A & B with suggested changes from Board Member, Prem Aithal.

Motion passed unanimously by Consent from all Board Members.

Report from Student Representatives

Matthew Jennings updated the Board. He spoke about the High School holding its Virtual Open House, hybrid learning going smoothly, and Fall sports being in full swing with the exception of Football.

Student Representative, Matthews Jennings, left the meeting at approximately 7:15 p.m.

Board Committee Reports and Future Meetings

A. Facilities Subcommittee

Vice Chair, Sonski, updated the Board. He spoke about the Project renovations continuing to happen in the HKHS Gymnasium and both the BES and KES Underground Fuel Tanks. He briefly touched on the work that needs to be done with the windows of the Gymnasium.

B. Finance Subcommittee

Eileen Blewett updated the Board. She spoke about Covid-19 expenses, use of grant money that could be applied to those expenses, Food Services serving a lot more students due to breakfast and lunch being offered for free until December 31st, ADM Process and Health Insurance Open Enrollment numbers.

C. Policy Subcommittee (See agenda item under New Business)

Joanne Nesti updated the Board under New Business, Item 9B.

D. Communications Subcommittee

No Report.

E. Personnel and Evaluation Subcommittee

No Report. Board Chair, Sack, stated the Subcommittee is in the middle of Contract Negotiations with bargaining units which are being held in non-meetings.

The Board gave unanimous Consent to delegate handling of the Teachers' Contract to the Personnel and Evaluation Subcommittee as well as have the authority to make future decisions.

F. Strategic Planning Committee

Prem Aithal updated the Board. He spoke about Jonathan Costa, a consultant from EdAdvance giving feedback to the Committee, discussed Proposed Timeline of Vision of Graduate and Strategic Plan as well as Strategic Plan Objectives.

Board Liaison Reports

A. Healthy Communities – Healthy Kids Council

Jennifer Favalora updated the Board. She spoke about the Pumpkin Run which will be held virtually and in-person this year scheduled for October 25th and the beginning of the Mentor Program at the Elementary Level.

B. LEARN

Jennifer Favalora updated the Board. She spoke about their reopening plan as a hybrid module, and receiving grants of more than \$2M in funding.

B. Park & Recreation

No Report.

C. Haddam Board of Selectmen

Jennifer Favalora updated the Board. She spoke about how the Haddam Board of Selectmen were grateful for the continued updates. Also, Jennifer Favalora is replacing Board Member, Brenda Buzzi, on this Committee.

D. Killingworth Board of Selectmen

No Report. Kathleen Zandi said the Communications Summary Report was well received by the Board of Selectmen. There were questions raised at the meeting regarding the Hybrid Module and Diversity Committee.

Old Business:

A. Update on K - 8 Opening to Full Status, HS Transitioning to New Hybrid Model, and other Various School Operation Updates

Superintendent Dr. Hageman spoke about how the K-8 schools transitioned smoothly from a hybrid/remote module to a full in-person module with a remote option on September 29th. She briefly touched on more breakfast/lunches being ordered.

Principal Donna Hayward updated the Board. She briefly spoke about the High School students being in a hybrid module and the tracking of students' progress.

Director of Finance, Ann Adriani left the meeting.

B. Report from Director of Operations/Facilities:

a. Update on the Field House Project

b. Update on BES and KES Oil Tank Projects

John Mercier updated the Board. He spoke about the BES Oil Tank replacement being completed, the Field House Project being almost complete except for the floor, and the Field House windows that are now leaking due to faults in the caulking and need to be fixed. A further discussion took place with the Board regarding the timeline of the project, warranty and price of window repairs.

*Peter Sonski **MOVED** and Eileen Blewett **SECONDED** a motion to approve a payment in the amount of the \$33,500 to A&J Caulking for the window repairs in the High School Gymnasium.*

Motion passed unanimously 10-0-0 by the following Votes:

Kathleen Zandi YES NO A
Peter Sonski YES NO A
Dr. Nelson Rivera YES NO A

Shawna Goldfarb Absent
Jennifer Favalora YES NO A
Joel D'Angelo YES NO A

Eileen Blewett YES √ NO A
Joanne Nesti YES √ NO A
Suzanne Sack YES √ NO A

Brenda Buzzi YES √ NO A
Prem Aithal YES √ NO A

9. New Business

A. 2021-2022 BOE Meeting Schedule (First Read)

Board Chair, Sack, updated the Board. She spoke briefly about the 2021-2022 BOE Meeting Schedule that was given to the Board as a “First Read” which will be voted on for approval at the next Board Meeting.

B. Policy Committee - Board Discussion on By-Laws to provide Policy Subcommittee with input on Various Potential Updates and Revisions

Joanne Nesti updated the Board. She briefly went over certain areas of the Section 9000 Bylaws that were in question and the Board had further discussion regarding same.

C. Consideration of Temporary Structure at HKHS

Superintendent Dr. Hageman updated the Board. She spoke about the possibility of a Temporary Structure that would be put up at the High School until the Field House is ready; specifically, for things like students’ lunch, mask breaks and gym. She further touched on the price associated with this structure, number of students that it would hold and the process of overseeing and approving the structure. The Board had further discussion regarding same.

From the Superintendent:

A. Legislative Update: *No Report.*

B. Personnel Report

Superintendent Dr. Hageman advised that the Personnel Report has been provided in the BOE Packet. She stated if anyone has any questions on the report, please feel free to contact her directly.

C. Enrollment Report

Superintendent Dr. Hageman advised that the Enrollment Report has been provided in the BOE Packet. She stated if anyone has any questions on the report, please feel free to contact her directly.

From the Director of Fiscal Operations

A. Budget Transfers: *None.*

Board Discussion/News/Suggestions: *None.*

Board Chair, Suzanne Sack, called for the meeting to adjourn at 9:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jamie Sciascia
Board Clerk*

Approval: _____ *Date:* _____
Jennifer Favalora, Secretary