

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION – EDUCATION SESSION MEETING**  
**DECEMBER 15, 2020**

*A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on December 15, 2020 in the Haddam-Killingworth Intermediate/Middle School Cafeteria and via Google Hangouts Meet Video Conference (Live Stream) for public viewing. Board of Education Chair, Suzanne Sack, called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.*

**Members Present:** *Peter Sonski, Dr. Nelson Rivera, Jennifer Favalora, Shawna Goldfarb, Eileen Blewett, Prem Aithal, Joanne Nesti, Kathleen Zandi and Suzanne Sack*

**Members Absent:** *Brenda Buzzi, Joel D'Angelo*

**Also Present:** *Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Holly Hageman, Director of Finance, Ann Adriani, Director of Operations, John Mercier, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth High School, Donna Hayward, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth Middle School, Dolores Bates, Student Services Director, Dr. Kris Lindsay-Stevens, Student Services Coordinator, Tonya Gorgone, HKYFS Executive Director, Laurie Ruderfer and Interim Board Clerk, Pamela Hensel*

**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/16uwMi3TpSvu8eK4rr4ESYK2n2sQDTDPJ/view>

**Call to Order/Opening of Meeting:** *Board of Education Chair, Suzanne Sack, called the meeting to order at 7:01 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.*

**Public Comment:** *None.*

*Nelson Rivera **MOVED** and Shawna Goldfarb **SECONDED** a motion to move Items 6A. and 6B. up on the agenda to follow Item 3A.*

*Motion passed unanimously by Consent from all Board Members.*

**HKYFS Search Institute Survey:**

*Laurie Ruderfer, Executive Director gave a brief history of the search institute survey for grades 7-12. She noted that it can be a tool to measure how a young person feels about themselves and others. It measures disposition, things like courage, ethics and moral behavior it tells us what kids believe we think and what they hope for themselves. The survey this year will have an addendum which will include vaping and COVID related questions. Laurie indicated she is seeking permission from the Board of Education to implement the survey this year. It can be taken online or in person and students or parents can opt out if they don't wish to take it.*

Prem Aithal **MOVED** and Joanne Nesti **SECONDED** a motion to approve the administration of the HKYFS Search Institute Survey.

*Motion passed unanimously by Consent from all Board Members.*

### **Student Services 2020-2021 Continuous Improvement Plan**

- *Dr. Lindsay-Stevens reviewed Goal 1 - The mental health committee meets monthly and consists of school psychologists, social workers, and school counselors at all grade levels. The goal is to improve the mental health of students. Goal 2 - Partner with LEARN to conduct a nursing audit of all district health offices. Identify an online HIPAA compliant medical documentation system to be utilized in all health offices. Ensure the consistent practices are in place in all health offices. Goal 3 - Select and propose a new developmentally appropriate preschool playground to support the play skills and motor skills of students. Partner with LEARN for technical assistance to assess the structure of the preschool program (e.g. use of time, space, classroom management, etc.). Increase opportunities for some students to have extended school day services. Dr. Lindsay-Stevens reported that the collaboration with Effective School Solutions (ESS) has reduced outplacements and has been effective in helping students who struggle before they get to a point of critical need.*

*Donna Hayward, Dolores Bates, Laurie Ruderfer, Dr. Kris Lindsay-Stevens and Tonya Gorgone left the meeting at 7:34 p.m.*

### **Board Subcommittee Reports:**

#### **A. Curriculum Subcommittee**

*Kathleen Zandi updated the Board. She spoke about the ESS contracted services which are not only meeting with students but also parents and families for therapy, group therapy sessions are also available. Kathleen referred to Heather Rigatti's report to the Curriculum Committee on State Assessments like Smarter Balance and noted that the assessments will be given to all students. The state testing then typically rolls to the accountability report. The state has requested a waiver this year from the Federal Government due to COVID-19, because schools are all operating according to their individual situations. Kathleen reported on a new course for the 2022-2023 school year in the Social Studies Department one semester on Black studies and one semester on Latino studies, this course is from the state developed curriculum and the course will be an elective. This course will be reviewed by RSD 17 prior to being incorporated into our curriculum. Kathleen reiterated Jennifer Beermunender's report to the committee on the various styles of reading assessments done in grades 3 – 8. In the spring select classes will pilot reading assessments using iReady.*

### **Old Business:**

#### **D. Policies 5118.1(a), 5152, 5131.914, 5141.4(a), 5125(a) (Second Read)**

*Nelson Rivera **MOVED** and Kathleen Zandi **SECONDED** a motion to accept policies 5118.1(a), 5152, 5131.914, 5141.4(a), 5125(a) as recommended.*

*Motion passed unanimously 9-0-0 by the following Votes:*

Kathleen Zandi YES  NO  A   
 Peter Sonski YES  NO  A   
 Dr. Nelson Rivera YES  NO  A   
 Joanne Nesti YES  NO  A   
 Joel D'Angelo Absent  
 Brenda Buzzi Absent

Shawna Goldfarb YES  NO  A   
 Jennifer Favalora YES  NO  A   
 Eileen Blewett YES  NO  A   
 Prem Aithal YES  NO  A   
 Suzanne Sack YES  NO  A

**New Business:**

**2020-2021 Operating Budget Update:**

*Eileen Blewett distributed a budget update to board members. Eileen pointed to some notable expenditures such as the Effective School Solutions (ESS) investment, improved technology, the new accounting system and the extended bus contract. Eileen also noted COVID expenses, demolition of the two playgrounds and the hiring of an LPN at the HKIS/MS. Superintendent Hageman stated that the LPN vs .5 school nurse was cost neutral this year. Eileen noted there have been additional custodial costs associated with COVID-19. We are still waiting for the State reimbursement on our solar investment. Peter suggested that because of the delay in State reimbursements for large projects like the underground tanks at the elementary schools and the High School Field House we should be mindful going forward with budgeting. Eileen reported that Ann is tracking all expenses and revenue very closely. Both Eileen and Suzanne expressed their gratitude to Ann for doing an excellent job of providing and explaining the appropriate documents for the Finance committee and Board of Education. Suzanne thanked Eileen for her work in chairing the committee.*

**Facilities: Sand Storage Project**

*Peter reported that Haddam is changing the surface treatment they use for roads in winter from salt and sand to salt only. He explained that salt alone is harmful to both concrete and asphalt surfaces. RSD 17 has been getting the salt and sand from Haddam and our maintenance crew has to rely on when the facility is open and often there are long wait times resulting in overtime costs. The committee proposed the district could become more self-reliant by building a structure to house sand and salt that we would use allowing no wait time and saving overtime costs. Peter reported the cost to build the structure to house the sand and salt would be \$14,443.82 and \$528.00 for the sand. Equipment which is currently stored outside can be put inside this structure when winter sand is not present. This shelter would be built adjacent to the bus garage.*

*Peter Sonski **MOVED** and Eileen Blewett **SECONDED** a motion to utilize \$14,433.82 from Capital to purchase the structure (hut, blocks & vents) and \$528.00 from the operating budget to purchase the salt and sand.*

*Motion passed 8-1-0 by the following Votes:*

Kathleen Zandi YES  NO  A   
 Peter Sonski YES  NO  A   
 Dr. Nelson Rivera YES  NO  A   
 Joanne Nesti YES  NO  A   
 Joel D'Angelo Absent  
 Brenda Buzzi Absent

Shawna Goldfarb YES  NO  A   
 Jennifer Favalora YES  NO  A   
 Eileen Blewett YES  NO  A   
 Prem Aithal YES  NO  A   
 Suzanne Sack YES  NO  A

*Board Chair, Suzanne Sack, called for the meeting to adjourn at 8:36 PM.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Pamela Hensel  
Interim Board Clerk*

*Approval: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Favalora, Secretary*