

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION – EDUCATION SESSION**  
**MEETING**  
**January 19, 2021**

*A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on January 19, 2021 in the Haddam-Killingworth Intermediate/Middle School Cafeteria and via Google Hangouts Meet Video Conference (Live Stream) for public viewing. Board of Education Vice Chair, Peter Sonski, called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.*

**Members Present:** *Brenda Buzzi (Via Remote), Dr. Nelson Rivera, Jennifer Favalora, Eileen Blewett, Joel D’Angelo (Via Remote), Shawna Goldfarb (Via Remote), Prem Aithal, Joanne Nesti, Kathleen Zandi, Peter Sonski and Suzanne Sack*

**Members Absent:** *None.*

**Also Present:** *Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Holly Hageman, Director of Operations, John Mercier, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth High School, Donna Hayward, Director of Athletics, Lynne Flint, Assistant Principal of Haddam-Killingworth Intermediate School, Eric Larson, (Via Remote), Principal of Haddam-Killingworth Middle School, Dolores Bates, (Via Remote) 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/1OCv5Mk\\_M8CnKKHzqvRxyA4kNmK0u76o3/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OCv5Mk_M8CnKKHzqvRxyA4kNmK0u76o3/view?usp=sharing)

**Call to Order/Opening of Meeting:** *Board of Education Vice Chair, Sonski, 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 Vice Chair, Peter Sonski, updated the Board. He briefly went over the BOE Meeting Format under the Governor’s Order which are now being held in-person and remotely. He updated the public on the email address to submit questions/concerns.*

**Public Comment:** *Mike and Jen Maxwell of Haddam addressed the Board. They spoke about how they are hopeful that the Board will allow winter sports to move forward, specifically, hockey, and asked the Board to consider the impact it would have on students if it wasn’t allowed.*

*Suzanne Sack **MOVED** and Kathleen Zandi **SECONDED** a motion to move Items 5G, SSA Contract\* and 5F, Superintendent Mid-Year Review\* down on the Agenda after New Business.*

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

**Board Liaison Reports**

**A. Curriculum Subcommittee**

*No Report.*

**Old Business:**

**A. Superintendent Update on School Operations during COVID**

*Superintendent Dr. Hageman updated the Board. She briefly spoke on the K-8 school operations which will continue as full in-person and remote. The new hybrid module schedule for the High School level has been circulated to families. She briefly went over the Covid-19 vaccination availability; specifically, for people identified in group 1B.*

**1.) Winter Sports**

*Lynne Flint updated the Board. She spoke about the low, moderate and high risk sports, the condensed season start dates which included no state tournaments, student roster numbers, and briefly touched on mask-wearing and covid-19 contact tracing.*

*The Board gave its full support with moving forward with the Winter Sports plan as presented by Athletic Director, Lynne Flint. Lynne will provide updates to the Board on a continuous basis.*

*Donna Hayward, and Lynne Flint left the meeting at 7:41 p.m.*

**B. Update on Fieldhouse Project**

*John Mercier updated the Board. He spoke about the Fieldhouse Project punch list items that have been completed and/or still need to be completed. Also, he briefly spoke about meeting all occupancy conditions. Vice Chair, Sonski, will provide the Board with a final summary once all punch list items have been addressed. The Fieldhouse Project will then be removed as a standing item on future agendas.*

**C. Policy: 5000 Series Policies**

*Joanne Nesti updated the Board. She reviewed with the Board any questions/comments they had regarding Board Policies: 5113, 5145.10, 5144.1, 5145, 5141.21, 5141.25, 5145.5, 5141.7, 5141.28. Superintendent Dr. Hageman will come back to the Board with the best option to communicate to the RSD 17 families when a policy has been revised and/or updated.*

*Suzanne Sack **MOVED** and Prem Aithal **SECONDED** a motion to approve Policies 5113, 5145.10, 5144.1, 5141.21, 5141.25, 5145.5 and 5141.28 which includes removing names and replacing with roles where appropriate and correcting any typos that are necessary.*

*Motion passed unanimously 11-0-0 by the following Votes:*

Kathleen Zandi	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u>   </u>	A <u>   </u>	Shawna Goldfarb	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u>   </u>	A <u>   </u>
Peter Sonski	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u>   </u>	A <u>   </u>	Jennifer Favalora	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u>   </u>	A <u>   </u>
Dr. Nelson Rivera	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u>   </u>	A <u>   </u>	Joel D'Angelo	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u>   </u>	A <u>   </u>
Eileen Blewett	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u>   </u>	A <u>   </u>	Brenda Buzzi	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u>   </u>	A <u>   </u>
Joanne Nesti	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u>   </u>	A <u>   </u>	Prem Aithal	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u>   </u>	A <u>   </u>
				Suzanne Sack	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u>   </u>	A <u>   </u>

**D. RSD 17 Board Handbook (second read)**

*Joanne Nesti updated the Board. She went briefly over minor edits to the RSD 17 Board Handbook.*

*Suzanne Sack **MOVED** and Brenda Buzzi **SECONDED** a motion to approve the RSD 17 Board Handbook as presented by the Policy Committee.*

*Motion passed unanimously 11-0-0 by the following Votes:*

Kathleen Zandi YES √ NO \_\_\_ A \_\_\_  
 Peter Sonski YES √ NO \_\_\_ A \_\_\_  
 Dr. Nelson Rivera YES √ NO \_\_\_ A \_\_\_  
 Eileen Blewett YES √ NO \_\_\_ A \_\_\_  
 Joanne Nesti YES √ NO \_\_\_ A \_\_\_

Shawna Goldfarb YES √ NO \_\_\_ A \_\_\_  
 Jennifer Favalora YES √ NO \_\_\_ A \_\_\_  
 Joel D'Angelo YES √ NO \_\_\_ A \_\_\_  
 Brenda Buzzi YES √ NO \_\_\_ A \_\_\_  
 Prem Aithal YES √ NO \_\_\_ A \_\_\_  
 Suzanne Sack YES √ NO \_\_\_ A \_\_\_

**E. Board ByLaws amended to add Attorney Language (First Read)**

*Joanne Nesti updated the Board. She spoke about making an amendment to add Attorney language to some already approved Board By-Laws. This is the Board's First Read.*

**Consent Agenda:**

- A.** Approval of Minutes from the December 15, 2020 Board of Education – Education Session Meeting
- B.** Approval of Minutes from the January 5, 2020 Board of Education Meeting

*Joanne Nesti **MOVED** and Shawna Goldfarb **SECONDED** a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.*

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

**New Business:**

**A. Facilities: Long Range Capital Planning**

*Board Vice Chair, Sonski, updated the Board. He spoke about the Facilities Committee completing an analysis of the Capital Plan and looking further at the physical plan of the District. He briefly touched on creation of an RFP.*

*The Board gave unanimous Consent to have the Facilities Committee create an RFP for the Board's review.*

*Principal Eric Larson and Principal Dolores Bates spoke about the Luminary Project that took place at HKIS/HKMS.*

*Joanne Nesti **MOVED** and Eileen Blewett **SECONDED** a motion to go into Executive Session regarding Personnel Matters.*

*Motion was approved by unanimous Consent of the Board.*

*Joel D'Angelo, Shawna Goldfarb, Eric Larson, Dolores Bates, John Mercier and Jamie Sciascia left the meeting at 8:58 p.m.*

**Executive Session began at 8:58 p.m.**

**Old Business:**

**G. SSA Contract**

**F. Superintendent Mid-Year Review**

*The Board discussed two personnel matters.*

**Executive Session ended at 9:22 p.m.**

*Board Vice Chair, Peter Sonski, called for the meeting to adjourn at 9:22 PM.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Jamie Sciascia  
Board Clerk*

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