

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**February 2, 2021**

*A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on February 2, 2021 via Google Hangouts Meet Video Conference (Live Stream). Board of Education Chair, Suzanne Sack, called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.*

**Members Present:** *Brenda Buzzi, Dr. Nelson Rivera (Arrived at 7:18 PM) Jennifer Favalora, Eileen Blewett, Shawna Goldfarb, Prem Aithal, Joanne Nesti, Kathleen Zandi, Peter Sonski and Suzanne Sack*

**Members Absent:** *Joel D'Angelo*

**Also Present:** *Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Holly Hageman, Director of Operations, John Mercier, Director of Finance, Ann Adriani, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth High School, Donna Hayward, 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/12meT3tlScHIAw\\_0grYQhgcWK11eCQPM4/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/12meT3tlScHIAw_0grYQhgcWK11eCQPM4/view?usp=sharing)

**Call to Order/Opening of Meeting:** *Board of Education Chair, 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. The BOE meeting for tonight was held remotely due to weather conditions.*

**Public Comment:** *None.*

**Cougar Pride: HKIMS and HKHS Featured on What's Right In Schools News**

*Superintendent Dr. Hageman shared with the Board and the Community, HKIMS and HKHS "What's Right in the Schools" News Videos. Student Representative, Matthew Jennings, was featured on the clip sharing his athletic and academic high school experience over the past 4 years.*

*The Board gave a brief introduction of themselves.*

**Report from Student Representatives**

*Matthew Jennings updated the Board. He spoke on parent orientation night that was held virtually due to Covid. The presentation for the Board's viewing will be given in a link at the end of the meeting on the website.*

*Principal Donna Hayward and Student Representative, Matt Jennings, left the meeting at approximately 7:14 p.m.*

## **Board Committee Reports**

### **A. Facilities Subcommittee**

#### **1) Discussion of District Assets: The White House and The Barn**

*Board Vice-Chair, Sonski, updated the Board. He briefly went over the draft of RFP Document that John Mercier had prepared and stated it would further be explained in more detail under New Business, Item A. He also updated the Board on the how the Committee discussed the White House and Barn conditions needing further maintenance and gave an estimate of emergency repairs that took place in the last year. Lastly, Board Vice-Chair, Sonski, discussed how the Committee thinks it's in the best interest for both agencies, who are housed in the White House, to begin looking for new space due to the condition.*

*The Board gave their unanimous Consent for Superintendent Dr. Hageman to reach out to the two Agencies and begin the conversation to help facilitate the beginning of finding new space that might be more functional for them. Superintendent Dr. Hageman will report back to the Board once she speaks to both agencies.*

### **B. Finance Subcommittee**

*Eileen Blewett updated the Board. She spoke about the General Operating Budget, Special Education, not having any new update on Covid related expenses, Pre-K Enrollment being on the lower side this year, hiring a new interventionist, Fall Sports Stipends, and Chromebook allocation.*

### **C. Policy Subcommittee**

*Joanne Nesti updated the Board. She stated how the Committee is continuing to talk about the Section 5000 Series and Out-of-District Tuition. Joanne also briefly spoke about the Disclosure Forms.*

### **D. Communications Subcommittee**

*Jen Favalora updated the Board. She spoke about an Article regarding Covid related spending being up for approval, possible article on Capital Plan recap, Strategic Planning and also looking at better ways to communicate across the District.*

### **E. Personnel and Evaluation Subcommittee\***

*Board Chair, Sack, updated the Board. She spoke about finalizing the HKEA Contract, being in negotiations regarding the Support Staff Contract and the Superintendent's mid-year review.*

### **F. Strategic Planning Committee**

*Prem Aithal updated the Board. He spoke about the Committee working on the Vision of the Graduate, identifying the next direction and presenting a draft of the Vision of the Graduate to six constituencies.*

## **Board Liaison Reports:**

### **A. Healthy Communities – Healthy Kids Council**

*No Report. Shawna Goldfarb mentioned they are working on budgets and meeting with each town.*

### **B. LEARN**

*Jen Favalora updated the Board. She spoke about the State of Union of LEARN, CAPSS is presenting a new funding model in legislation this year, Teaching Residency Program and Regional meetings that LEARN presents.*

**C. Park & Recreation**

No Report.

**D. Haddam Board of Selectmen**

Jen Favalora updated the Board. She spoke about how the Board of Selectmen meeting was about Covid, specifically, the vaccination roll-out for responders in town. She also stated that the Selectmen spoke about how the HKTV Holiday show was fantastic.

**E. Killingworth Board of Selectmen**

No Report.

**Old Business:**

**A. 5000 Series Policies 5141.7 and 5145 (Third Read)**

Superintendent Dr. Hageman updated the Board. She spoke about the Wellness Policy 5141.7; specifically, as it pertains to designating a specific person under this policy. Superintendent Dr. Hageman further spoke about the Student Privacy Policy 5145 as it pertains to the physical examination portion. She briefly touched on Section 504.

Prem Aithal **MOVED** and Joanne Nesti **SECONDED** a motion to approve Policies 5141.7 and 5145 as explained and presented.

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

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

**B. Amended Board Bylaws (Second Read)**

Joanne Nesti updated the Board. She spoke about the Attorney language being added back into the policy.

Joanne Nesti **MOVED** and Dr. Nelson Rivera **SECONDED** a motion to approve the attorney language in the Bylaws as amended and presented.

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

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

**Consent Agenda:**

- A. Approval of Minutes for the January 19, 2021 Board of Education – Education Session Meeting**
- B. Personnel Report**
- C. Enrollment Report**
- D. 5000 Policies 5131.912, 5131.6(a), 5145.12 (First Read)**

*Brenda Buzzi **MOVED** and Joanne Nesti **SECONDED** a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.*

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

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

**New Business:**

**A. Long Range Capital Planning RFP for Preview**

*Peter Sonski updated the Board. He spoke about crafting a Long Range Capital Planning RFP and how the Committee would like to send it to the Board’s attorney for any suggestions before sending it to the Board formally. The Board had a discussion in length regarding same.*

*Board Member, Prem Aithal, will add this item to the agenda for the next Strategic Planning Subcommittee meeting.*

*The Board gave unanimous Consent to move forward with a legal review of the RFP.*

**From the Superintendent**

**A. Legislative Update**

*Superintendent Dr. Hageman updated the Board. She briefly touched on the what was happening at the State Level.*

**From the Director of Fiscal Operations**

**A. Budget Transfers**

*Ann Adriani updated the Board. She spoke about the Budget Transfer regarding Budget Staffing moving to the appropriate line.*

*Brenda Buzzi **MOVED** and Peter Sonski **SECONDED** a motion to approve the Budget Transfer as presented*

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

Kathleen Zandi	YES <u>√</u>	NO ___	A ___	Shawna Goldfarb	YES <u>√</u>	NO ___	A ___
Peter Sonski	YES <u>√</u>	NO ___	A ___	Jennifer Favalora	YES <u>√</u>	NO ___	A ___

Dr. Nelson Rivera YES  NO  A   
Eileen Blewett YES  NO  A   
Joanne Nesti YES  NO  A

Joel D'Angelo Absent  
Brenda Buzzi YES  NO  A   
Prem Aithal YES  NO  A   
Suzanne Sack YES  NO  A

**Board Discussion/News/Suggestions:** *None.*

*Shawna Goldfarb **MOVED** and Brenda Buzzi **SECONDED** a motion to adjourn the meeting.*

**Adjournment:**

*Board Chair, Sack, called for the meeting to adjourn at 8:51 PM.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Jamie Sciascia*

*Board Clerk*

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