

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

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on March 2, 2021 in the Haddam-Killingworth Intermediate/Middle School Cafeteria and via online Google Meet Video Conference. (Live Stream). Board of Education Chair, Suzanne Sack, called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

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

Members Absent: *None.*

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, Assistant Principal of Haddam-Killingworth High School, Adam Apicella, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth Middle School, Dolores Bates, Haddam-Killingworth High School Athletic Director, Lynne Flint, President of HK Education Association, Robin Duffield, 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/128Fv8vWiINPiGf5LYl9lWuN5rdr13AYy/view?usp=sharing>

Call to Order/Opening of Meeting: *Board of Education Chair, Suzanne Sack, called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited at the Special Meeting held prior to this one.*

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. She updated the public on the email address to submit questions/concerns.

Public Comment: *None.*

Report from Student Representatives:

Matthew Jennings updated the Board. He spoke about how the girls' and boys' basketball teams won their games, the Performing Arts Department is practicing a new musical, Mr. HK will be streaming live on March 5th at 7:00 p.m. on Comcast Channel 18 or via RSD17 website. Lastly, he spoke on the success of the new course offered at the High School this year called, Modern Novel.

Matthew Jennings left the meeting at approximately 7:08 p.m.

Cougar Pride: HKMS Student Peace Poster:

Superintendent Dr. Hageman updated the Board. She spoke about the Lions Club International Peace Poster Contest Award that Haddam-Killingworth Middle School, 7th Grade Student, Lily Austin, designed and won. She placed 1st in our region in December and then won 2nd place at the State level this February. The poster will be displayed at the Middle School entrance.

Donna Hayward, Adam Apicella, Lynne Flint and Dolores Bates left the meeting at approximately 7:15 p.m.

Update on Schools from the Superintendent:

Superintendent Dr. Holly Hageman

Superintendent Dr. Hageman updated the Board. She spoke about vaccinations being offered within the District to Staff, the HKHS Reopening Plan continuing to move forward, and continuing to monitor the impact of Covid 19 cases within our Community. Lastly, she stated how The Vision of the Graduate has been published and is up on the RSD17 website for public viewing.

Board Committee Reports and Future Meetings

A. Facilities Subcommittee

Board Vice-Chair, Peter Sonski, updated the Board. He spoke about the Killingworth Elementary School's PTA request for a new playground to replace the old one that was removed last year, Capital Projects, updates on the Field House Project and briefly touched on the RFP which will be further discussed under Old Business.

B. Finance Subcommittee

Eileen Blewett updated the Board. She briefly spoke about the upcoming Budget Workshops process.

Policy Subcommittee

Joanne Nesti updated the Board. She spoke about the Committee continuing their work with the 5000 Series, two more policies as a first read are on the Agenda for tonight. A special Policy meeting is scheduled on March 23rd.

C. Communications Subcommittee

Jen Favalora updated the Board. She spoke about researching Software that will ultimately store Board Agendas and future items for easy access for all Board Members.

D. Personnel and Evaluation Subcommittee

No Report.

E. Strategic Planning Subcommittee

Prem Aithal updated the Board. He spoke about how the Committee met on February 23rd and The Vision of the Graduate was just released and will now begin the Strategic Planning Process.

Board Liaison Reports

A. Healthy Communities – Healthy Kids Council

Shawna Goldfarb updated the Board. She spoke about how Y&FS is discussing future options for relocation, needing more volunteers for the K-8 Mentor Program and Pumpkin Run is in the works.

B. LEARN

Jen Favalora updated the Board. She spoke about a presentation from the Executive Director of CAPSS about their proposal and their holistic approach over the next 15 years. She also briefly touched on equity and small grants.

C. Park & Recreation

Peter Sonski updated the Board. He spoke about Park & Rec researching different space options, Sports that returned for the winter and Spring Sports is approaching next.

D. Haddam Board of Selectmen

Jennifer Favalora updated the Board. She spoke about how the Selectmen discussed a decrease in Real Estate evaluations and an increase in business ones, the tax collection rate is on the same trend as the last 3 years so it appears that Covid did not have an effect on it.

E. Killingworth Board of Selectmen:

Kathy Zandi updated the Board. She spoke about the upcoming Town Budget and the Selectmen appreciating Board updates.

Old Business:

A. Long Range Capital Planning RFP

Peter Sonski updated the Board. He spoke about how legal counsel reviewed the RFP and has no concerns. The Facilities Committee is proposing to move forward with it. A further discussion took place with the Board.

*Joanne Nesti **MOVED** and Dr. Nelson Rivera **SECONDED** a motion to proceed with the RFP as presented for distribution with a delivery date by April 5, 2021.*

Motion passed unanimously 11-0-0 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	YES	<u>√</u>	NO	___	A	___
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 from the Board of Education Meeting held on February 2, 2021**
- B. Approval of Minutes from the Board of Education – Education Session Meeting held on February 23, 2021**
- C. Approval of Minutes from the Special Meeting held on February 23, 2021**
- D. Acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$114.80 from Box Tops for Education to be deposited into the Student Activity Fund.**
- E. Personnel Report**
- F. Enrollment Report**
- G. Asset Disposal - HKHS**
- H. 5000 Policy Series - First Read Polices 5160 Transportation and 5136 Field Trips**

*Prem Aithal **MOVED** and Eileen Blewett **SECONDED** a motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented.*

Motion passed unanimously by Consent from all Board Members.

New Business: *No Report.*

News/Suggestions:

Board Member, Shawna Goldfarb, inquired about Spring Sports for the HKIS/MS Level. Board Chair, Sack, will add this to the next Board Agenda.

Board Member, Jennifer Favalora, inquired about the Budget Workshop on Thursday, March 4, 2021.

Adjournment:

Board Chair, Suzanne Sack, called for the meeting to adjourn at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie Sciascia

Board Clerk

Approval: _____ Date: _____
Jennifer Favalora, Secretary