

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION
July 6, 2021

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on July 6, 2021 at the Haddam-Killingworth Intermediate/Middle School Cafeteria and through Google Hangouts Meet Video Conference (Live Stream). Board of Education Chair, Suzanne Sack, called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM.

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

Members Absent: *Peter Sonski & Joel D'Angelo*

Also Present: *Interim Superintendent of Schools, JeanAnn Paddyfote, Director of Operations, John Mercier, Director of Finance, Ann Adriani, Principal of Killingworth Elementary School, Dennis Reed, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth High School, Donna Hayward, Search Consultant, Dr. Joseph Erardi, and Board Clerk, Jamie Sciascia (Via Remote)*

Guests: *Approximately 3*

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/1-3eH6JrvImQ8dYvrvoFMd7bQi-fAMW1S/view?usp=sharing>

Call to Order/Opening of Meeting: *Board of Education Chair, Suzanne Sack, called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.*

Report from Chairman about new BOE Meeting Format:

Board Chair, Sack, spoke about meetings being held via in-person and remote.

Public Comment:

Jennifer LoGuidice from Higganum addressed the Board. She spoke about her opposition to students wearing face masks for the upcoming Fall Academic School Year.

Stephen Banaletti from Higganum addressed the Board. He spoke about his opposition to students wearing face masks for the upcoming Fall Academic School Year.

Lindsay and Dan Armstrong from Haddam addressed the Board. They spoke about their opposition to students wearing face masks for the upcoming Fall Academic School Year.

Alisha McNamara from Killingworth addressed the Board. She thanked the Board for their consideration and acceptance of the PTO Donation at large for the installation of the new KES Playground.

Chris Page from Haddam addressed the Board. He spoke about his opposition to students wearing face masks for the upcoming Fall Academic School Year.

Board Chair, Sack, asked for Community's patience as the Board awaits guidance on mask wearing from the CDC in the upcoming months.

Brenda Buzzi **MOVED** and Eileen Blewett **SECONDED** a motion to move down on the Agenda Item 4B, Legal Matter set forth under Old Business after Agenda Item 8A, Board Discussions/News/Suggestions and move up on the Agenda 6A, Update- Hiring Process for the Superintendent of Schools* following 4A.

Motion passed unanimously by way of Show of Hands from all Board Members.

Old Business

A. 5000 Policy Series Memo - Second Read and Approval

Joanne Nesti updated the Board. She spoke on the deletion of policies and the policies that are being kept.

Joanne Nesti **MOVED** and Dr. Nelson Rivera **SECONDED** a motion to accept the Second Read Deletions as presented.

Motion unanimously passed 9-0-0 with a Voice Vote as follows:

Kathleen Zandi	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	Shawna Goldfarb	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Peter Sonski	Absent			Jennifer Favalora	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Nelson Rivera	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	Joel D'Angelo	Absent		
Eileen Blewett	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	Brenda Buzzi	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Joanne Nesti	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	Prem Aithal	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Suzanne Sack	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>				

Joanne Nesti **MOVED** and Brenda Buzzi **SECONDED** a motion to approve the Policies from the 5000 Series to be kept as presented.

Motion unanimously passed 9-0-0 with a Voice Vote as follows:

Kathleen Zandi	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	Shawna Goldfarb	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Peter Sonski	Absent			Jennifer Favalora	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Nelson Rivera	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	Joel D'Angelo	Absent		
Eileen Blewett	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	Brenda Buzzi	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Joanne Nesti	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	Prem Aithal	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Suzanne Sack	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>				

Joanne Nesti **MOVED** and Eileen Blewett **SECONDED** a motion to move up on the Agenda, Items 5 A-K set forth under the Consent Agenda.

Motion passed unanimously by way of Show of Hands from all Board Members.

Board Member, Nesti, asked that the Killingworth Elementary School PTO donation listed as Consent Agenda Item A be removed and listed as a separate Agenda item.

Consent Agenda:

B. 5000 Series Consent Memo - First Read

C. Approval of Minutes from the May 3, 2021 The Board of Education - Special Meeting (AH)

D. Approval of Minutes from the May 4, 2021 The Board of Education Meeting

E. Approval of Minutes from the May 7, 2021 Board of Education - Special Meeting

F. Approval of Minutes from the May 18, 2021 Board of Education - Education Session Meeting

- G. Approval of Minutes from the May 18, 2021 Board of Education - Special Meeting (Board Workshop)**
- H. Approval of Minutes from the May 20, 2021 Board of Education - Special Meeting**
- I. Approval of Minutes from June 1, 2021 Board of Education Meeting (Award Ceremonies)**
- J. Approval of Minutes from the June 4, 2021 Board of Education Meeting**
- K. Approval of Minutes from the June 15, 2021 Board of Education – Education Session Meeting**

*Kathleen Zandi **MOVED** and Dr. Nelson Rivera **SECONDED** a motion to accept the remainder of the Consent Agenda Items B-K as presented with gratitude.*

Motion passed unanimously by way of Show of Hands from all Board Members.

A. Acceptance of a donation in the amount \$75,000 from the KES PTO to be used to purchase new playground equipment at the Killingworth Elementary School. Submitted by Dennis Reed, Principal of Killingworth Elementary School.

Joanne Nesti updated the Board. She spoke about how grateful the Board was of the PTO’s efforts bringing forth such a sizable donation. The Board had further discussions about additional funding of the project, a possible Community Build part of the design of the playground, timeline and installation. Also, they briefly spoke about how it was the Facilities recommendation to the Board not to have a Community Build.

Christy Coppola from the KES PTO addressed the Board regarding the Playground Community Build.

*Joanne Nesti **MOVED** and Eileen Blewett **SECONDED** a motion to accept the KES PTO donation as presented, for the equipment that has been presented, with a Community Build contingent upon satisfaction of Attorney Floyd Dugas and District’s Insurance Company, making sure Waivers are in place and Supervision to mitigate any liability issues.*

Motion passed 8-0-1 by a Voice Vote.

Kathleen Zandi	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	Shawna Goldfarb	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Peter Sonski	Absent			Jennifer Favalora	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Nelson Rivera	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	Joel D’Angelo	Absent		
Eileen Blewett	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	Brenda Buzzi	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Joanne Nesti	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	Prem Aithal	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
Suzanne Sack	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

New Business

A. Update- Hiring Process for the Superintendent of Schools*

Dr. Joseph Erardi updated the Board. He presented the Board and Community with the Profile of Characteristics for hiring a new Superintendent. He also spoke about the General Profile of the candidates that have applied for the job. Lastly, he spoke about next steps in the Hiring Process.

Dennis Reed and Donna Hayward left the meeting at 8:18 p.m.

From the Superintendent

A. Personnel Report: *Interim Superintendent, JeanAnn Paddyfote, 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.*

B. Enrollment Report: *Interim Superintendent, JeanAnn Paddyfote, 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.*

Board Discussion/News/Suggestions:

Board Member, Joanne Nesti, spoke about the new language that just came out regarding still being able to hold meetings in-person and remote which is now in effect until April 30, 2022.

Board Chair, Suzanne Sack, spoke about the possibility of drafting a letter to State legislation regarding support of students not wearing masks.

Board Member, Joanne Nesti, inquired about getting an update on Summer Learning. This item will be put on the next Agenda.

Board Member, Brenda Buzzzi, spoke about the possibility of helping support students pursuing athletics after the school season is over. Board Chair, Sack, will add this item on for discussion at the next Board meeting.

*Joanne Nesti **MOVED** and Brenda Buzzzi **SECONDED** a motion to move into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing a Legal Matter and invited Interim Superintendent, JeanAnn Paddyfote, and Director of Finance, Ann Adriani, into the meeting.*

Motion passed unanimously by way of Show of Hands from all Board Members.

John Mercier, Kathy Zandi and Shawna Goldfarb left the meeting at approximately 8:30 PM.

Executive Session started at approximately 8:31 PM.

Legal Matter*:

The Board had discussion regarding a Legal Matter.

Interim Superintendent, JeanAnn Paddyfote, and Ann Adriani left the meeting at approximately 8:55 PM.

Executive Session ended at approximately 9:11 PM.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 9:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie Sciascia

Board Clerk

Approval: _____ Date: _____
Jennifer Favalora, Secretary