

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION
May 4, 2021

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on May 4, 2021 in the Cafeteria of the Haddam-Killingworth Intermediate/ Middle School. Board of Education Chair, Suzanne Sack, called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

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

Members Absent: *Shawna Goldfarb*

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, Director of Food Services, Sharon Shettleworth, Student Representative, Matthew Jennings, and Board Clerk, Jamie Sciascia (Via Remote)*

Guests: *None.*

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/1YN2tcRgn_YBPHxt2o5W2LMYUWAn7gAzh/view?usp=sharing

Call to Order/Opening of Meeting: *Board of Education Chair, Suzanne Sack, called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.*

The Board paused for a moment of silence and prayer for the recent passing of Haddam-Killingworth High School Student, Jenna Seward.

Report from Chairman about new BOE Meeting Format and Process Under the Governor's Order:

Board Chair, Sack, spoke briefly about still being under the Governor's Order and operating Board meetings in-person and remotely.

Public Comment: *None.*

Report from Student Representative:

Matthew Jennings updated the Board. He spoke about the upcoming High School events taking place which included the Spring Musical, World Language Honor Society Induction Ceremony, Band Concert, Street Festival Event, Senior Prom and Graduation is scheduled for June 16th.

Recognition of Student Representative

Suzanne and Board recognized Student Representative, Matthew Jennings, for all his hard work and dedication for the past two years and wished him all the best success.

The Board shared a video of Matthew Jennings speaking on issues related to Equity.

Matthew Jennings left the meeting at approximately 7:17 pm.

Joanne Nesti **MOVED** and Prem Aithal **SECONDED** a motion to move Agenda Item 8A, Update on Schools from the Superintendent, Status of Remote Learning for 2021-22 and Agenda Item 10A, Approval of Healthy Food Certification – Director of Food Services, Sharon Shettleworth up on the Agenda before Item 6.

Update on Schools from the Superintendent

A. Status of Remote Learning for 2021-22

Superintendent Dr. Hageman recognized Haddam-Killingworth Baseball Coach, Mark Brookes, who recently just won his 700th career win for him. Mark and his wife, Rae, couldn't be in attendance tonight. Director of Athletics, Lynne Flint, accepted a Certificate on his behalf.

Superintendent Dr. Hageman read this into the record:

“Mark is in his 45th Season as our programs only Head Coach, 44 of those seasons have resulted in making the State Tournament and yesterday at Old Saybrook, the team won 2-0 in his 700th win. He is the second winningest coach in Connecticut State Baseball History, he has coached 1001 games, and won numerous Coach of the Year accolades. Players and fellow Coaches have deep respect for Mark, he coaches with integrity and dedication. He is a legend and a huge part of the strong foundation of HK.”

Superintendent Dr. Hageman spoke about vaccines possibly becoming available to younger children soon and Covid cases being lower within the District. Further, she spoke about how the State is not extending the Mandate going forward on Remote Learning. Superintendent Dr. Hageman recommended to the Board that the District not offer it next Fall unless something changes.

Principal Donna Hayward and Lynne Flint left at approximately 7:31 p.m.

New Business:

A. Approval of Healthy Food Certification – Director of Food Services, Sharon Shettleworth

Prem Aithal **MOVED** and Joanne Nesti **SECONDED** a motion to approve participation in the Healthy Food Certification Program for the 2021-2022 school year. Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.

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

Eileen Blewett **MOVED** and Kathy Zandi **SECONDED** a motion to allow Food Exemptions to the Healthy Food option under HFC. The Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period

from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held, and must be the same place as the food sales.

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

*Dr. Nelson Rivera **MOVED** and Prem Aithal **SECONDED** a motion to allow Beverage Exemptions under Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes. The Board of Education or governing authority will allow the sale to students of beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the beverages are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting or extracurricular activity. The "school day" is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held, and must be the same place as the beverage sales.*

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

Board Committee Reports and Future Meetings:

A. Facilities Subcommittee

Peter Sonski updated the Board. He spoke briefly about the RFP; interviewing 4 firms, and the Committee will make a recommendation shortly to the Board. The Public Building Committee has now completed the Field House project with the exception of some touch-up painting. Board Chair, Sack, thanked Peter Sonski and Committee, John Mercier, Donna Hayward, Lynne Flint and Rob Albert for all their hard work on this project.

B. Finance Subcommittee

Eileen Blewett updated the Board. She spoke about End-of-Year Balances, One-Time Purchases, PO's, Revenue Adjustment, fully funding the Capital at 1%, and moving expenditures for the Pre-K Playground. Lastly, she spoke briefly about Covid related expenditures.

C. Policy Subcommittee

Joanne Nesti updated the Board. She spoke about continuing work with the 5000 Series and waiting for clarification regarding remote meetings.

D. Communications Subcommittee

No Report. Suzanne thanked the team for putting the Budget article in the Haddam-Killingworth Newspaper.

E. Personnel and Evaluation Subcommittee

Suzanne Sack updated the Board. She spoke about how the Committee met and spoke about the Superintendent's Evaluation, and moving forward with the process.

F. Strategic Planning Subcommittee

Prem Aithal updated the Board. He spoke about the possibility of working with an outside vendor to get more information regarding Strategic Planning.

Board Liaison Reports

A. Healthy Communities – Healthy Kids Council

Jennifer Favalora updated the Board. She spoke about YFS partnered with the Diversity Committee with the Elijah Manning Workshop, working on a more interactive website, and spoke briefly on the mentoring program in the schools. Lastly, Jen spoke on how they purchased a Second Step Program at the Pre-K Level.

B. LEARN

Jennifer Favalora updated the Board. She spoke about how the meeting was centered around how different each District is and the different ways each school is using ESSER II money. Also, she spoke on how the Minority Teacher Residency Program is going to the State Level.

C. Park & Recreation

Peter Sonski updated the Board. He briefly spoke about Summer activities approaching.

D. Haddam Board of Selectmen

Jennifer Favalora updated the Board. She stated the Selectman are in discussion about the town Budget and is set to vote on it May 26, 2021.

E. Killingworth Board of Selectmen

Kathy Zandi updated the Board. She stated the Selectman are in discussion about the town Budget. They continue to appreciate the monthly Board updates.

Old Business:

A. Policy 5152 - Policy Regarding Non-Discrimination of Students: Revision

Joanne Nesti updated the Board. She briefly spoke about some additional language that was added to the above policy.

Joanne Nesti **MOVED** and Prem Aithal **SECONDED** a motion to approve Policy 5152 as presented with revisions.

Motion passed unanimously by a 10-0-0 Voice Vote.

Kathleen Zandi	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	Shawna Goldfarb	Absent		
Peter Sonski	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	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	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>
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"/>				

B. SSA Contract Approval*

Board Chair, Sack, updated the Board. She brought the SSA Contract to the Board for Approval. A brief discussion took place on unused sick days.

Eileen Blewett **MOVED** and Kathy Zandi **SECONDED** a motion to approve the SSA Contract as posted.

Motion passed by a 9-0-1 Voice Vote.

Kathleen Zandi	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	Shawna Goldfarb	Absent		
Peter Sonski	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	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	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>

Eileen Blewett YES NO A
 Joanne Nesti YES NO A
 Suzanne Sack YES NO A

Brenda Buzzi YES NO A
 Prem Aithal YES NO A

2021-22 Capital Plan Expenditure Approval-Director of Operations, John Mercier

John Mercier update the Board and presented the 2021-22 RSD17 Capital Expenditures

*Joanne Nesti **MOVED** and Dr. Nelson Rivera **SECONDED** a motion to approve the 2021-22 Capital Plan Expenditure as presented.*

*Joanne Nesti **AMENDED** and Dr. Nelson Rivera **SECONDED** the motion to approve the 2021-22 Capital Plan Expenditure as presented not to exceed \$400,000.*

Motion passed unanimously by a 10-0-0 Voice Vote.

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
 Suzanne Sack YES NO A

Shawna Goldfarb Absent
 Jennifer Favolora YES NO A
 Joel D'Angelo YES NO A
 Brenda Buzzi YES NO A
 Prem Aithal YES NO A

John Mercier will update the Board if the projects go over \$360,000.

Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval of Minutes for the March 2, 2021 Board of Education – Special Meeting (Super’s Presentation)**
- B. Approval of Minutes for the March 2, 2021 Board of Education – Meeting**
- C. Approval of Minutes for the March 4, 2021 Board of Education – Special Meeting (Joint)**
- D. Approval of Minutes for the March 4, 2021 Board of Education – Special Meeting Budget Workshop)**
- E. Approval of Minutes for the March 9, 2021 Board of Education – Special Meeting (Budget Workshop)**
- F. Approval of Minutes for the March 16, 2021 Board of Education – Special Meeting**
- G. Approval of Minutes for the March 16, 2021 Board of Education – Special Meeting (Com Input)**
- H. Approval of Minutes for the March 16, 2021 Board of Education – Special Meeting (Budget Workshop)**
- I. Approval of Minutes for the March 30, 2021 Board of Education – Special Meeting**
- J. Approval of Minutes for the March 30, 2021 Board of Education – Special Meeting (Budget Workshop)**
- K. Approval of Minutes for the April 6, 2021 Board of Education – Special Meeting (Annual Hearing)**
- L. Approval of Minutes for the April 9, 2021 Board of Education – Special Meeting**
- M. Approval of Minutes for the April 9, 2021 Board of Education - Special Meeting**
- N. Approval of Minutes for the April 20, 2021 Board of Education – Education Session Meeting**
- O. Personnel Report**
- P. Enrollment Report**
- Q. Approval of a donation in the amount of \$140.00 from Rochester Institute of Technology/PLTW to**

be used for the HKHS PLTW program. Submitted by Donna Hayward, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth High School.

R. Approval of a donation in the amount of \$260.00 from a parent of a student to be deposited into the Student Activity Fund. Submitted by Dolores Bates, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth Middle School.

S. Policy 5132(a) Dress Code: First Read

*Joel D'Angelo **MOVED** and Eileen Blewett **SECONDED** a motion to approve the Consent Agenda and moving the Item S, Policy 5132 (a) Dress Code: First Read and Item O Personnel Report out onto the Agenda as separate items.*

Motion passed unanimously By Way of Show of Hands from all Board Members.

Superintendent Dr. Hageman briefly spoke on recognizing all Retirements that are listed in the Personnel Report in June and having great feedback on the Dress Code Policy.

From The Superintendent

A. Legislative Update

Superintendent Dr. Hageman updated the Board. She briefly spoke about Summer Legislation.

From The Director of Fiscal Operations

A. Budget Transfers

No Report.

Board Discussion/News/Suggestions

A. Learning Recovery Post-Pandemic (upcoming presentation)

Board Chair, Sack, stated there will be a Learning Recovery Post-Pandemic Presentation to be shared directly following the Board of Education – Education Session meeting scheduled on May 18th.

B. District Diversity Committee; Equity

Board Chair, Sack, briefly spoke about the District Diversity Committee – Equity and stated if anyone is interested in volunteering to meet with the Committee, please email her directly.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie Sciascia

Board Clerk

Approval: _____ Date: _____
Jennifer Favalora, Secretary