

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION – EDUCATION SESSION MEETING
July 20, 2021

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on July 20, 2021 in the Haddam-Killingworth Intermediate/Middle School Cafeteria and 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: *Joanne Nesti, Prem Aithal, Joel D'Angelo, Jennifer Favalora, Eileen Blewett, Kathleen Zandi, Brenda Buzzi, Peter Sonski and Suzanne Sack*

Members Absent: *Dr. Nelson Rivera and Shawna Goldfarb*

Also Present: *Interim Superintendent of Schools, Dr. JeanAnn Paddyfote, Director of Finance, Ann Adriani, Director of Operations, John Mercier, Board Clerk, Jamie Sciascia (Via Remote)*

Visitors: *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/1pJ5cPBXavKmYtnz8f0AO-2FbbNQdpnH3/view?usp=sharing>

Call to Order/Opening of Meeting:

Board of Education Chair, Suzanne Sack, called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Comment:

Genine Berdensen from Higganum addressed the Board. She requested a remote learning option to continue in the Fall due to the younger students that aren't eligible to receive a vaccination at this time. She expressed her concern with the new Delta variant.

Sean Rush from Higganum addressed the Board. He requested a remote learning option to continue in the Fall due to the younger students that aren't eligible to receive a vaccination at this time. He expressed his concern with the new Delta variant.

Sarah and Josh Benton from Killingworth addressed the Board. She spoke about her opposition to students wearing masks in the upcoming Fall Academic School Year.

Jennifer and Joseph Taliercio from Haddam addressed the Board. They spoke about their opposition to students wearing masks in the upcoming Fall Academic School Year. They also asked to make it optional.

Melissa and Chet Maura from Haddam addressed the Board. They spoke about their opposition to students wearing masks in the upcoming Fall Academic School Year.

Courtney Palumbo in Killingworth addressed the Board. She spoke about her opposition to students wearing masks in the upcoming Fall 2021 School Year.

Bill and Amber Stamm from Killingworth addressed the Board. They spoke about their opposition to students wearing masks in the upcoming Fall Academic School Year.

Nick Palumbo from Killingworth addressed the Board. He spoke about his opposition to students wearing masks in the upcoming Fall Academic School Year.

Liz Waters from Killingworth addressed the Board. She spoke on her opposition to students wearing masks in the upcoming Fall 2021 School Year.

Bonnie Eldredge from Killingworth addressed the Board. She spoke about how her children are grown, she has grandchildren in the District and voiced her opposition to students wearing masks in the upcoming Fall 2021 School Year.

Stephen Eldredge from Killingworth addressed the Board. He spoke about his opposition to students wearing masks in the upcoming Fall Academic School Year.

Marina Rossi from Haddam addressed the Board. She spoke about her opposition to students wearing masks in the upcoming Fall Academic School Year.

Helena Erskine from Killingworth addressed the Board. She spoke about her opposition to students wearing masks in the upcoming Fall Academic School Year.

The below Public Comment emails were not read out loud during the meeting. There is a policy for Public Comment allowing 5 minutes for each person and 20 minutes for each specific topic. During this meeting, the topic was mask wearing. All Public Comment emails sent in will be given to all Board Members.

Emails regarding Opposition to Mask Wearing for upcoming Fall Academic School Year:

Elysia Piscitelli from Killingworth.

Steve Wytas from Haddam.

Melissa Pavdi from Haddam.

Jordana Fournier of Higganum.

Abbey Albrecht from Killingworth.

Tabitha Rahmann from Killingworth.

Daniel Armstrong from Haddam.

Cassie Jameson from Higganum.

Steven Banaletti from Haddam.

Sarah Goeden from Killingworth.

Donald Jarvi from Haddam.

Salvatore LoGuidice from Higganum.

Teresa Karbar from Haddam.

The Padulas from Haddam.

Tiffany Macauley from Haddam Neck.

In Favor of Mask-Wearing:

Rebecca Reising from Killingworth.

Nicole Maciejak from Haddam.

Rebecca Austin from Haddam.

Board Committee Reports:

A. Facilities Subcommittee Update 1. Proposed Motion to authorize an expenditure not to exceed \$20,000.00 from the emergency operating account for replacement of HKHS Athletic Field Lighting (lamps and ballasts). 2. Proposed Motion to authorize an expenditure not to exceed \$24,000.00 from the emergency operating account for repair and recertification of HKHS Athletic Field Bleachers.

Peter Sonski **MOVED** and Eileen Blewett **SECONDED** a motion to authorize but not to exceed an expenditure of \$20,000 out of the Emergency Operating Account for replacement of the HKHS Athletic Field Lighting Lamps and Ballasts.

Motion passed unanimously 9-0-0 by the following Votes:

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

Prem Aithal **MOVED** and Eileen Blewett **SECONDED** a motion to authorize an expenditure not to exceed \$24,000.00 from the Emergency Operating Account for Repair and Recertification of the HKHS Athletic Field Bleachers.

Motion passed unanimously 9-0-0 by the following Votes:

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

Board Member, Brenda Buzzi, inquired about the status of the relocation of the two agencies located in the White House at HKHS.

B. Finance Subcommittee Update

Eileen Blewett updated the Board. She spoke about the new Town payment schedule, Audited Fund Balance, Payment for HES received in July and Pre-Audited Fund Balance.

*Joanne Nesti **MOVED** and Eileen Blewett **SECONDED** a motion to add to the Agenda under the Finance Subcommittee Update, Approval of a Fund Transfer.*

There was unanimous Consent from all the Board Members.

a. Approval of a Fund Transfer

*Brenda Buzzi **MOVED** and Peter Sonski **SECONDED** a motion to transfer \$145,386.85 as presented by the Director of Finance from line 721 to the Capital Account for the 20-21 Budget to fulfill the Board's intention to fully fund the Capital Account.*

Motion passed unanimously 9-0-0 by the following Votes:

Kathleen Zandi	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>	Shawna Goldfarb	Absent
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	Absent			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>	Suzanne Sack	YES <u>√</u> NO <u> </u> A <u> </u>

C. Strategic Planning Committee Update

Prem Aithal updated the Board. He spoke about how the Data Collection work in Phase One is under way and also briefly spoke about the survey being circulated around September to the Community regarding Long Term Strategic Planning.

D. Communications Subcommittee Update

Jennifer Favalora updated the Board. She spoke about the importance of communication from Board to Community, reviewing what was successful this year like the Monthly Summaries to both Towns, and reviewing ways the Committee can bring better Communication to the audiences they aren't possibly reaching

Board Chair, Sack, asked the Board if they have any suggestions regarding consolidation of information to bring them forward to the Communications Chair, Jennifer Favalora.

Policy Subcommittee Update:

Joanne Nesti updated the Board. She spoke about how the Committee is starting to review the Policies in the 6000 Series.

Old Business - 5000 Policy Series - Second Read and Approval:

*Joanne Nesti **MOVED** and Kathleen Zandi **SECONDED** a motion to approve the Policy Deletions as presented: 5111a, 5111b, 5111c, 5111 Form 1, 5111 Form 2, 5112a, 5112b, 5113a, 5113b 5113c, 5113 Appendix A, 5123, 5131.21, 5131.21 Appendix, 5131.5*

Motion passed unanimously 9-0-0 by the following Votes:

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

Shawna Goldfarb Absent
Jennifer Favalora YES √ NO A
Joel D'Angelo YES √ NO A
Brenda Buzzi YES √ NO A
Suzanne Sack YES √ NO A

There was a request made by a Board Member that the Policy numbers be added into the motions going forward.

Superintendent Update on Summer Learning Opportunities

Interim Superintendent, Dr. JeanAnn Paddyfote, spoke about the Summer Learning Opportunities for the Pre-K through the High School Levels.

Adjournment:

Board Chair, Sack, called for the meeting to adjourn at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie Sciascia

Board Clerk

Approval: _____ Date: _____
Jennifer Favalora, Secretary