

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION – EDUCATION SESSION MEETING**  
**August 17, 2021**

*A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on August 17, 2021 in the Haddam-Killingworth High School Community Room and via Google Hangouts Meet Video Conference (Live Stream). Board of Education Vice-Chair, Peter Sonski, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM*

**Members Present:** *Joanne Nesti, Prem Aithal, Joel D'Angelo, Jennifer Favalora, Eileen Blewett (Joined Remote at 7:18 PM), Kathleen Zandi, Brenda Buzzi, Dr. Nelson Rivera, Peter Sonski and Suzanne Sack (Via Remote)*

**Members Absent:** *Shawna Goldfarb*

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

*Remote Visitors: Approximately 180*

**The Board meetings are videotaped and posted on the RSD17 Website under Board of Education, BOE Meeting Schedules & Minutes for public viewing.**

**<http://reflect-hktv.cablecast.tv/CablecastPublicSite/show/913?channel=1>**

**Call to Order/Opening of Meeting:**

*Board of Education Chair, Peter Sonski, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.*

**Public Comment:**

*Board Vice-Chair, Sonski, briefly went over the Public Comment Policy. Each person that sends in a Public Comment will be allowed 5 minutes, and 20 minutes is allotted for each specific topic. During this meeting, the topic was mask wearing. All Public Comment emails that were sent in tonight, will be given to all Board Members.*

*Dana Henry from Haddam addressed the Board. She spoke about how Fingerprints and Background Checks should be in place for all the Board members that are elected. She asked that this topic be a discussion going forward.*

*Nataliya Karageorgos from Higganum addressed the Board. She spoke about her support of students wearing masks. She also asked the Board to remind new voters, how and where they could vote for newly elected Board Members.*

*Gail Rollins Buller from Killingworth addressed the Board. She spoke about her support of students wearing masks in school for the upcoming Fall 2021 Academic School Year.*

*Niralee Patel-Lye from Killingworth addressed the Board. She acknowledged and praised the tremendous work of the Teachers, Administrators and Staff did last year supporting students and parents with in-Person*

*and Remote Learning Instruction. She also spoke about her support of students wearing masks in school for the upcoming Fall 2021 Academic School Year.*

*Katie Browne from Killingworth addressed the Board. She spoke about her support of students wearing masks in school for the upcoming Fall 2021 Academic School Year.*

*Mary Murray from Killingworth addressed the Board. She spoke about her support of students wearing masks in school for the upcoming Fall 2021 Academic School Year.*

*Jennifer Voegtli from Killingworth addressed the Board. She spoke about her support of students wearing masks in school for the upcoming Fall 2021 Academic School Year.*

*Beth Gagliardi from Killingworth addressed the Board. She congratulated, Jeffrey Whibey on his new position as Superintendent starting in October. She spoke about her support of students wearing masks in the upcoming Fall 2021 Academic School Year.*

*Desiree McRae from Killingworth addressed the Board. She spoke about her support of students wearing masks in school for the upcoming Fall 2021 Academic School Year.*

*Kate Novack from Killingworth addressed the Board. She spoke about her support of students wearing masks in the Fall 2021 Academic School Year.*

*Nancy Reddy from Killingworth addressed the Board. She spoke about her support of students wearing masks in school for the upcoming Fall 2021 Academic School Year.*

*Laura and Keith Traver from Killingworth addressed the Board, Laurie spoke about her support of students wearing masks in the Fall 2021 Academic School Year.*

*Theresa Malone from Higganum addressed the Board. She spoke about her support of students wearing masks in school for the upcoming Fall 2021 Academic School Year.*

*Christine Patterson from Killingworth addressed the Board. She spoke about her support of students wearing masks for the upcoming Fall 2021 Academic School Year.*

*Jenny Law from Higganum addressed the Board. She spoke about her support of students wearing masks in school for the upcoming Fall 2021 Academic School Year.*

***The Below Public Comment Emails were not Read Aloud during the Meeting due to the Public Comment Policy. Tonight's Public Comment emails were about Mask-Wearing.***

*Prema Manohar from Higganum. In Support of Students Wearing Masks.*

*Sandhy Reddy from Higganum. In Support of Students Wearing Masks.*

*Carol Sturges from Killingworth. In Support of Students Wearing Masks.*

*Rob Spector from Higganum. In Support of Students Wearing Masks.*

*Michael Dove from Killingworth. In Support of Students Wearing Masks.*

*Cary Chadwick from Haddam. In Support of Students Wearing Masks.*

*Mark and Raye Brookes from Haddam. In Support of Students Masks.*

*Casey Jacob from Killingworth. In Support of Students Wearing Masks.*

*Tim Teran from Haddam. In Support of Students Wearing Masks.*

*Myra Aronow from Haddam. In Support of Students Wearing Masks.*

*Kathryn Rizzo from Haddam. In Support of Students Wearing Masks.*

*Devri Gill from Killingworth. In Support of Students Wearing Masks.*

*Nancy McCormick from Killingworth. In Support of Students Wearing Masks.*

*Peter Baird from Higganum. In Support of Students Wearing Masks.*

*Norman Needleman. In Support of Students Wearing Masks.*

*Daniel Clifford from Higganum. In Support of Students Wearing Masks.*

*Annie Stirna from Killingworth. In Support of Students Wearing Masks.*

*Sandy Allard from Killingworth. In Support of Students Wearing Masks.*

*Tim Withington from Killingworth. In Support of Students Wearing Masks.*

*Isabelle D. Seggerman from Haddam. In Support of Students Wearing Masks.*

*Marcel Couture from Killingworth. In Support of Students Wearing Masks.*

*Samantha Merwin from Haddam. In Support of Students Wearing Masks.*

*Stephen Anderson from Killingworth. In Support of Students Wearing Masks.*

*Gwenne Celmer from Killingworth. In Support of Students Wearing Masks.*

*Edith Pawlicki from Higganum. In Support of Students Wearing Masks.*

*Sydney Dickinson from Higganum. In Support of Students Wearing Masks.*

*Lucinda Hogarty from Killingworth. In Support of Students Wearing Masks.*

*Joan Gay from Killingworth. In Support of Students Wearing Masks.*

*Carl and Melissa Carvell from Haddam. In Support of Students Wearing Masks.*

*Kate Wessling from Higganum. In Support of Students Wearing Masks.*

*Mary Solera of Killingworth. In Support of Students Wearing Masks.*

*Jean Panciera from Killingworth. In Support of Students Wearing Masks.*

*Rebecca Reising of Killingworth. In Support of Students Wearing Masks.*

*Tom Hogarty from Killingworth. In Support of Students Wearing Masks.*

*Linda Rigoni from Higganum. In Support of Students Wearing Masks.*

*Essie Groux from Higganum. In Support of Students Wearing Masks.*

*Peter Stockman from Killingworth. In Support of Students Masks.*

*Mark and Dana Kyder from Killingworth. In Support of Students Wearing Masks.*

*Rick Hornung from Haddam. In Support of Students Wearing Masks.*

*Anja Tucker from Higganum. Opposed to Students Wearing Masks.*

*Marie Lippincott from Higganum. In Support of Students Wearing Masks.*

*Hamish McPhail from Higganum. In Support of Students Wearing Masks.*

*Daryl Tucker from Higganum. Opposed to Students Wearing Masks.*

*Gina Block from Higganum. In Support of Students Wearing Masks.*

*Jennifer and Joseph Tailicero from Higganum. Opposed to Students Wearing Masks.*

*Haldan Block from Higganum. In Support of Students Wearing Masks.*

*Terasa Karbar from Haddam. Opposed to Students Wearing Masks.*

*Bobbie Nims from Higganum. In Support of Students Wearing Masks.*

#### **Board Committee Reports and Future Meetings:**

##### **A. Facilities Subcommittee**

*Board Vice Chair, Sonski, updated the Board. He spoke about how the Committee met and discussed Maintenance Repairs, HKHS Renovation Project Status, and the Status of the Facilities Assessment.*

##### **B. Finance Subcommittee**

*No Report.*

##### **C. Policy Subcommittee**

*Joanne Nesti updated the Board. She spoke about how the Committee met tonight and has begun working on Policy Series 6000. She briefly spoke on revisiting certain 5000 Policies due to Shipman updating their existing language.*

**D. Communications Subcommittee**

*Jennifer Favalora updated the Board. She spoke about communicating important topics/events in the Monthly Newsletter that happen within our District such as: Strategic Plan, Vision of Graduate, New Superintendent, and Facilities Projects. She also briefly spoke about reviewing the Subcommittee Minute process and setting up a possible email blast for Community Members that don't have kids in the District.*

**E. Personnel and Evaluation Subcommittee**

*Board Chair, Sack updated the Board. The Committee met and went directly into Executive Session to discuss some Personnel Matters.*

**F. Curriculum Subcommittee**

*No Report.*

**G. Strategic Planning Subcommittee**

*Prem Aithal addressed the Board. The Committee met and spoke about the Planning Sessions of their Focus Groups with Laurie Kimbel and discussed the 3 phases of Strategic Planning.*

**Board Liaison Reports**

**A. Healthy Communities**

*Jennifer Favalora updated the Board. She spoke on the Mentoring Program and they are looking for Board Members to give a more diverse representation.*

**B. LEARN**

*No Report.*

**C. Park & Recreation**

*No Report.*

**D. Haddam Board of Selectmen**

*Jennifer Favalora updated the Board. She spoke about the Selectmen's meeting discussing Covid numbers within the District, and they are back holding meetings remotely.*

**E. Killingworth Board of Selectmen**

*Kathy Zandi updated the Board. She spoke about how the Town Selectmen held their first in-person meeting and discussed a few business items on the agenda.*

**Superintendent Report**

**A. School Reopening Update**

*Interim Superintendent, Dr. JeanAnn Paddyfote, updated the Board. She presented the Reopening Plan for 2021 School Academic School Year. She spoke about the Governor's Executive Order 13A, the Vaccination Data in the District, School Lunch, Academics, and Quarantining rules, if a student is vaccinated. Director of Athletics, Lynne Flint, will update the Board soon regarding Fall Sports.*

*Board Member, Jennifer Favalora, asked about Student Laptop pick up, KES Enrollment, and Student Mask Breaks.*

*Board Chair, Suzanne Sack, thanked Interim Superintendent, Dr. JeanAnn Paddyfote and Team for all their hard work in putting this School Reopening Plan together.*

**Old Business**

**A. 6000 Policy Series, Second Read and Approval**

*Joanne Nesti updated the Board. She briefly spoke on the Policies that weren't coming before the Board tonight for approval: Policy 6146.1, Weighted Grading for Honor Classes and Policy 6116, Parent Teacher Communication.*

*Board Member, Eileen Blewett, was attending remotely but had technical difficulties during the meeting; therefore, she was unable to provide a voice vote.*

*Joanne Nesti **MOVED** and Dr. Nelson Rivera **SECONDED** a motion to accept the Shipman and Goodwin Policy 6144.1 Curricular Exemptions as presented.*

*Motion passed 8-0-1 by the following Votes:*

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 type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> A <input checked="" 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	Please see Note Above			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 Joel D'Angelo **SECONDED** a motion to accept Shipman and Goodwin Policy 6172.6, Credit For Online Courses as presented.*

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

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	Please see Note Above			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 Jen Favalora **SECONDED** a motion to accept Shipman and Goodwin's Policy 6154, Homework as presented*

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

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	Please see Note Above			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** Brenda Buzzi **SECONDED** a motion to accept Shipman and Goodwin's Policy 6120, Parental Access to Instructional Material as presented.*

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

Kathleen Zandi YES  NO \_\_\_ A \_\_\_  
 Peter Sonski YES  NO \_\_\_ A \_\_\_  
 Dr. Nelson Rivera YES  NO \_\_\_ A \_\_\_  
 Eileen Blewett Please see Note Above  
 Joanne Nesti YES  NO \_\_\_ A \_\_\_

Shawna Goldfarb Absent  
 Jennifer Favalora YES  NO \_\_\_ A \_\_\_  
 Joel D'Angelo YES  NO \_\_\_ A \_\_\_  
 Brenda Buzzi YES  NO \_\_\_ A \_\_\_  
 Prem Aithal YES  NO \_\_\_ A \_\_\_  
 Suzanne Sack YES  NO \_\_\_ A \_\_\_

*Joanne Nesti **MOVED** and Prem Aithal **SECONDED** a motion to accept Shipman and Goodwin's Policy 6151, Promotion and Retention as presented.*

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

Kathleen Zandi YES  NO \_\_\_ A \_\_\_  
 Peter Sonski YES  NO \_\_\_ A \_\_\_  
 Dr. Nelson Rivera YES  NO \_\_\_ A \_\_\_  
 Eileen Blewett Please see Note Above  
 Joanne Nesti YES  NO \_\_\_ A \_\_\_

Shawna Goldfarb Absent  
 Jennifer Favalora YES  NO \_\_\_ A \_\_\_  
 Joel D'Angelo YES  NO \_\_\_ A \_\_\_  
 Brenda Buzzi YES  NO \_\_\_ A \_\_\_  
 Prem Aithal YES  NO \_\_\_ A \_\_\_  
 Suzanne Sack YES  NO \_\_\_ A \_\_\_

*Joanne Nesti **MOVED** and Dr. Nelson Rivera **SECONDED** a motion to approve Shipman and Goodwin's Policy 6150, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act-Alternative Assessments for Students with Disabilities for Statewide and District-wide Assessments as presented.*

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

Kathleen Zandi YES  NO \_\_\_ A \_\_\_  
 Peter Sonski YES  NO \_\_\_ A \_\_\_  
 Dr. Nelson Rivera YES  NO \_\_\_ A \_\_\_  
 Eileen Blewett Please see Note Above  
 Joanne Nesti YES  NO \_\_\_ A \_\_\_

Shawna Goldfarb Absent  
 Jennifer Favalora YES  NO \_\_\_ A \_\_\_  
 Joel D'Angelo YES  NO \_\_\_ A \_\_\_  
 Brenda Buzzi YES  NO \_\_\_ A \_\_\_  
 Prem Aithal YES  NO \_\_\_ A \_\_\_  
 Suzanne Sack YES  NO \_\_\_ A \_\_\_

**Adjournment:**

*Board Vice Chair, Sonski, called for the meeting to adjourn at 8:30 PM.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Jamie Sciascia  
 Board Clerk*

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