

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**September 7, 2021**

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

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

**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 76*

**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/914?channel=1>

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

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

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

*Board Chair, Sack, went over the extended Governor's Order regarding Board meetings to be held in-person and also remotely. The Board meeting is not a public meeting.*

*She briefly went over the Public Comment process.*

**Public Comment:**

*Cheryl Czerba from Haddam addressed the Board. She spoke about being in-favor of students wearing masks in school.*

*Steve Bayley from Higgnaum addressed the Board. He spoke about his support of students wearing masks in school.*

*Erika Celentano from Haddam addressed the Board. She spoke about her support of students wearing masks in school.*

*Michael and Shirley LaRosa from Higgnaum addressed the Board. Support of Mask Wearing.*

*Jane Baird from Higgnaum addressed the Board. She also stressed the importance of keeping mask wearing in place after the Governor's Order expires on September 30, 2021 and to follow the guidance of experts.*

*Beth Gagliardi from Killingworth addressed the Board. She spoke about her support of students wearing masks in school and urged the Board to follow safety protocols after the Governor's Executive Order expires.*

*Theresa Malone from Higganum addressed the Board. She spoke about her support of students wearing masks in school.*

*Lisa Grandjean-Carlson from Higganum addressed the Board. She spoke about her support of students wearing masks in school.*

*Niralee Patel-Lye from Killingworth addressed the Board. She spoke about her support of students wearing masks in school.*

*Marjorie DeBold from Higganum addressed the Board. She spoke about her support of students wearing masks in school.*

*Rachel Schemmerling from Killingworth addressed the Board. She spoke about her support of students wearing masks in school.*

*Jessica DeAngelo from Killingworth addressed the Board. She spoke about her support of students wearing masks in school.*

*Geoff & Annette Cook from Killingworth addressed the Board. She spoke about her support of students wearing masks in school.*

*Dana Kyder from Killingworth addressed the Board. – She spoke about her support of students wearing masks in school.*

***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.***

*Jenny Law from Higganum. In Support of Students Wearing Masks.*

*Carl Cavrell from Haddam. In Support of Students Wearing Masks.*

*Jen Voegtli from Killingworth. In Support of Students Wearing Masks.*

*Theresa Malone from Higganum. In support of Students Wearing Masks.*

*State Representative, Christine Palm. In support of protecting students, teachers and staff from the pandemic*

*Hamish MacPhail Higganum. In Support of Students Wearing Masks.*

*Board Chair, Sack, explained the roles of the Superintendent and the Board regarding running schools and the matter of wearing masks, with the authority to run the schools, including the procedures related to students and staff attending schools, delegated to the Superintendent.*

*Interim Superintendent, Dr. JeanAnn Paddyfote, spoke about the weekly webinars she attends with the CT Department of Education, Department of Public Health, state epidemiologists, both local health districts,*

and shoreline Superintendents in regards to the latest Covid-19 updates. She explained that even if the Governor's Order expires on September 30th, the Commissioner of Public Health or the Commissioner of Education can order School Districts to wear masks and Districts would be obligated to follow.

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

**A. Facilities Subcommittee**

*No Report.*

**B. Finance Subcommittee**

*No Report.*

**C. Policy Subcommittee**

*Joanne Nesti updated the Board. She briefly spoke about the new language of existing policies which are set forth in the Consent Memo and in the Board packet. A special meeting will be held next Tuesday, September 14<sup>th</sup>.*

**D. Communications Subcommittee**

*No Report.*

**E. Personnel and Evaluation Subcommittee**

*No Report.*

**F. Curriculum Subcommittee**

*No Report.*

**G. Strategic Planning Subcommittee**

*Prem Aithal updated the Board. He spoke about the timeframe of the 3 Phases of the Strategic Process to be completed.*

#### **Board Liaison Reports:**

**A. Healthy Communities – Healthy Kids Council**

*No Report.*

**B. LEARN**

*No Report.*

**C. Park & Recreation**

*Peter Sonski updated the Board. He briefly touched about how Park and Rec are looking forward to returning to a more normal schedule of activities since Summer ended.*

**D. Haddam Board of Selectmen**

*No Report.*

**E. Killingworth Board of Selectmen**

*No Report.*

#### **Consent Agenda:**

A. Approval of Minutes from the August 3, 2021 Board of Education Meeting

B. Approval of Minutes from the August 17, 2021 Board of Education – Education Session Meeting

C. Policies to be updated per statutory changes as of July 1, 2021

Brenda Buzzi **MOVED** and Peter Sonski **SECONDED** a motion to accept the Consent Agenda items as presented.

Motion passed unanimously 10-0-0 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 Favolora	YES <u>√</u>
Dr. Nelson Rivera	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u>   </u>	A <u>   </u>	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>	Prem Aithal	YES <u>√</u>
				Suzanne Sack	YES <u>√</u>

**New Business:** *No Reports.*

**Items of Information from the Superintendent:**

**A. School Opening**

*Interim Superintendent, Dr. JeanAnn Paddyfote, updated the Board. She spoke about the Opening Day of School at the K-12 Levels; all went smoothly. She also touched on mask breaks, cohorts by elementary grade level, monitoring buses, students playing sports who are vaccinated and unvaccinated, Teacher Vaccinations, and positions filled within the District.*

**B. Personnel Report**

*Interim Superintendent, Dr. JeanAnn Paddyfote, updated the Board. She briefly spoke about new hires and stated that the Personnel Report is in the Board packet. She advised if anyone has any questions regarding same, to contact her directly.*

**C. Enrollment Report**

*Interim Superintendent, Dr. JeanAnn Paddyfote, updated the Board. She spoke about how she provided the Enrollment Report in the Board packet. She advised if anyone has any questions regarding same, to contact her directly.*

**Board Discussion/News/Suggestions:**

*The Board had discussion in length about meeting room location, the benefits of keeping public comment email address open to the Community even after the Executive Order expires, and bringing back the public to meetings. After discussion, the Board Consensus was to look into bringing back the Community to Board meetings in a safe manner. Board Chair, Sack, will work with the Superintendent on a process regarding same as soon as possible.*

**Adjournment:**

*Board Chair, Sack, called for the meeting to adjourn at 8:25 PM.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Jamie Sciascia  
Board Clerk*

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