

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**November 9, 2021**

*A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on November 9, 2021 in the Haddam-Killingworth Intermediate/Middle School Cafeteria and Live Streamed through the District's website. 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, Kathleen Zandi, Brenda Buzzi, Dr. Nelson Rivera, Shawna Goldfarb, Peter Sonski and Suzanne Sack*

**Members Absent:** *Eileen Blewett*

**Also Present:** *Superintendent of Schools, Jeffrey Wihbey, Transition Coordinator, Dr. JeanAnn Paddyfote, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth Middle School, Dolores Bates, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth High School, Donna Hayward, Lisa Connelly, Hamish MacPhail, Student Representative, Yumi Imai, and Board Clerk, Jamie Sciascia (Via Remote)*

**Remote Visitors:** *Approximately 87*

**In-Person Visitors:** *Approximately 35*

**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/1008?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*

*Kathy Zandi **MOVED** and Brenda Buzzi **SECONDED** a motion to add Curriculum Subcommittee Report under Board Committee Reports, Item G.*

*Motion unanimously passed by Way of Show of Hands.*

**Public Comment:** *None.*

**Boardchair Report**

**a. Recognition**

*Board Chair, Sack, congratulated and welcomed to the Board: Lisa Connolly, Corey Roberts and Hamish MacPhail as well as re-elected Board Members, Brenda Buzzi and Kathy Zandi.*

*Board Chair, Sack, recognized Board Members: Eileen Blewett, Joanne Nesti, and Prem Aithal, for all their tremendous hard work serving on the Board of Education. She presented each with a Certificate.*

## **Superintendent's Report**

### **A. Cougar Pride**

#### **a. HKMS Unified Sports**

*Principal Dolores Bates updated the Board. She spoke about the Unified Sports Program at the Middle School.*

*The following Coaches were recognized: Becky Templeton and Andrea Darmanin.*

*The following Team Members were recognized: Aedan Tenbrunsel, Elvie Buller, Jessica Mancarella, Ian Young, Molly O'Rourke, Alex O'Rourke, Zach Goldfarb, and Jonathan Saraceno, Robert Krahn and Eli Krahn.*

#### **b. HKHS Cross Country Boys and Girls Class SS Champions**

*Superintendent Wihbey recognized the following Girls Cross Country Students: Sydney Adelberg, Isabel Berardino, Ava DiMatteo, Chloe Lacoss, Brianna Minervino, Keira Sehl-Albert, and Charlotte Selmer.*

*Superintendent Wihbey recognized the following Boys Cross Country Students: Evan Baird, Jack Cozean, Caleb Freeman, Andrew Hedges, Alexander Lara, Colton Merola, and Tyler Robinson.*

### **B. Entry Updates**

*Superintendent Wihbey updated the Board. He spoke about his completion of his Entry Visits this week and will share what he has learned with the Board in December.*

*Superintendent Wihbey spoke briefly about HKIS holding their Fall Festival which was a huge success, Strategic Planning Survey, HKHS Drama presented Clue which was a great performance, 21 Students from HKHS were inducted into the HKHS National Honor Society, KES New Playground Installation, HKHS Student Council held a Red Cross Blood Drive for students and staff, Also, he spoke briefly about the Department of Social Services using the Aperture Assessment System to monitor all students Social and Emotional Learning. In addition, Sparkler, which is a mobile app, is a free resource for parents to monitor their child's development at 0-5 age range.*

### **C. Screen and Stay**

*Superintendent Wihbey updated the Board. He spoke about Screen and Stay Protocols that were recently passed by the Connecticut Department of Public Health.*

### **Student Representatives:**

*Yumi updated the Board. She spoke about HKHS holding an Internet Safety Assembly, gave an update on HKHS Sports and Music, and advised that the Choral and Band Concerts will be held in December both virtually and in-person.*

*Principal Donna Hayward, Principal Dolores Bates and Student Representative, Yumi Imai left the meeting at approximately 7:50 p.m.*

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

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

*Vice-Chair, Sonski, updated the Board. The Committee is continuing their work in reviewing the Assessment Report from Tecton.*

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

*No Report.*

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

*Joanne Nesti will update the Board under Old Business – Policies for Deletion and Approval. She thanked Dr. Paddyfote, and Board Members, Joel D’Angelo and Dr. Nelson Rivera for all their hard work on the Policy Committee.*

**D. Communications Subcommittee**

*Jennifer Favalora updated the Board. She spoke about the new Communications Email to sign up for news from either the Town of Killingworth and Town of Haddam as well as the District news. She briefly spoke about future Subcommittee Meeting Schedules.*

**E. Personnel and Evaluation Subcommittee**

*No Report.*

**F. Strategic Planning Subcommittee**

*Prem Aithal updated the Board. He spoke about the Survey that went out to Community Members and briefly touched on preparing a Transition Checklist.*

**G. Curriculum Subcommittee**

*Kathy Zandi updated the Board. She spoke briefly about HKHS History Textbook Proposal and associated costs. The Textbook will be at Central Office for Board Members viewing as a “First Read” and will come back to the Board for approval.*

**Board Liaison Reports:**

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

*Jennifer Favalora updated the Board. She spoke about how the Pumpkin Run that was successful, they are looking for a new Executive Director and hired a new Prevention Coordinator. Jen spoke briefly about the Mentoring Program, Stuff a Cruiser and Facilities Assessment.*

**B. LEARN**

*No Report.*

**C. Park & Recreation**

*Vice-Chair, Sonski, updated the Board. He spoke about how Park and Rec had a good Fall participation with all sports and activity programs and are looking forward to the Winter ones.*

**D. Haddam Board of Selectmen**

*Vice-Chair, Sonski, updated the Board. He spoke about presenting the Board Summary, Selectmen having a robust discussion about Higganum Center and receiving a proposal for putting in a Multi-general playground at HES.*

**E. Killingworth Board of Selectmen**

*Kathy Zandi updated the Board. She presented the Board Summary, advised of the New First Selectwoman, Nancy Gorski, and asked Nancy to publicize the new Haddam-Killingworth alerts.*

**Consent Agenda**

- A. Approval of the October 5, 2021 Board of Education Meeting Minutes
- B. Approval of the October 19, 2021 Board of Education – Education Session Meeting Minutes
- C. Approval of the Disposal of obsolete Language Art Texts. Submitted by Dolores Bates. Principal of Haddam-Killingworth Middle School.

- D. Approval of a donation in the amount of \$1,000 from HKMS PTO to be deposited into the Student Activity Fund (8<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trips). Submitted by Dolores Bates. Principal of Haddam-Killingworth Middle School.
- E. Approval of a donation in the amount of \$1,000 from HKMS PTO to be deposited into the Student Activity Fund (6<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trips). Submitted by Dolores Bates. Principal of Haddam-Killingworth Middle School.
- F. Approval of a donation in the amount of \$1,000 from HKMS PTO to be deposited into the Student Activity Fund (7<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trips). Submitted by Dolores Bates. Principal of Haddam-Killingworth Middle School.
- G. Approval of a donation in the amount of \$1,000 from HKIS PTO to be deposited into the Student Activity Fund (4<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trips). Submitted by Eric Larson. Principal of Haddam-Killingworth Intermediate School.
- H. Approval of a donation in the amount of \$1,000 from HKIS PTO to be deposited into the Student Activity Fund (5<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trips). Submitted by Eric Larson. Principal of Haddam-Killingworth Intermediate School.
- I. Approval of transfer of designated representative for the CSDE Nutrition Program from Holly Hageman to Jeffrey Wihbey, Superintendent.
- J. First Read Policies and Items of Information.

**To Access First Read Policies, please click on the link below:**

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1u8wtwMrhh-xzZXQkmAkH8jH3mKH\\_oy-s?usp=sharing\\_eil\\_m&ts=61842f3c](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1u8wtwMrhh-xzZXQkmAkH8jH3mKH_oy-s?usp=sharing_eil_m&ts=61842f3c)

*Shawna Goldfarb **MOVED** and Kathy Zandi **SECONDED** a motion to accept the Consent Agenda Items A-J as presented with gratitude.*

*Motion passed unanimously 10-0-0 by the following Votes:*

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	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	Jennifer Favolora	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	Absent			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"/>

**Old Business:**

- A. Policies Recommended for Deletion as noted on Exhibit A - dated 11-9-21
- Policies Recommended for Approval as noted on Exhibit A - dated 11-9-21

*Joanne Nesti **MOVED** and Brenda Buzzi **SECONDED** a motion to approve the Policies Recommended for Deletion as noted on Exhibit A - dated 11-9-21.*

*Motion passed unanimously 10-0-0 by the following Votes:*

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	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	Jennifer Favolora	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	Absent			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"/>

**To view Exhibit A:**

<https://www.rsd17.org/fs/resource-manager/view/bbc38ea9-e826-4dd4-8dcb-64c1732576a5>

Joanne Nesti **MOVED** and Dr. Nelson Rivera **SECONDED** a motion to approve the Policies Recommended For Approval as noted on Exhibit A - dated 11-9-21.

Motion passed unanimously 10-0-0 by the following Votes:

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	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	Absent			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"/>

**To view Exhibit A:**

<https://www.rsd17.org/fs/resource-manager/view/bbc38ea9-e826-4dd4-8dcb-64c1732576a5>

**Items of Information from the Superintendent:**

**B. Personnel Report**

*Superintendent Jeffrey Wihbey updated the Board. He briefly spoke about new hires.*

**C. Enrollment Report**

*Superintendent Jeffrey Wihbey updated the Board. Board Chair, Sack asked about the confirming number of students that have been unenrolled in District and making sure numbers on both pages line up. Superintendent Wihbey will send to the Board the ADM percentages for Haddam and Killingworth tomorrow.*

**Board Discussion/News/Suggestions:** *Board Chair, Sack, spoke about New Board Member Orientation.*

**Adjournment:**

*Board Chair, Sack, called for the meeting to adjourn at 8:38 PM.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Jamie Sciascia*

*Board Clerk*

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