

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

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on December 7, 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 7:03 PM.

Members Present: *Hamish MacPhail, Lisa Connelly, Corey Roberts, Joel D'Angelo, Jennifer Favalora, Kathleen Zandi, Brenda Buzzi, Nelson Rivera, Shawna Goldfarb (Via Remote), Peter Sonski and Suzanne Sack*

Members Absent: *None.*

Also Present: *Superintendent of Schools, Jeffrey Wihbey, Transition Coordinator, JeanAnn Paddyfote (Via Remote), Director of Operations, John Mercier, Curriculum Coordinators, Heather Rigatti and Jennifer Beermuender, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth High School, Donna Hayward, Assistant Principal of Haddam-Killingworth High School, Adam Apicella, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth Intermediate School, Eric Larson, Principal of Burr Elementary School, Brienne Whidden, Principal of Killingworth Elementary School, Dennis Reed, Director of Athletics, Lynne Flint, President of Teachers Association, Robin Duffield, 7th Grade Language Arts Teacher, Ruth Masci, Student Representatives, Yumi Imai and Ben Williams, and Board Clerk, Jamie Sciascia (In-Person and Via Remote)*

Remote Visitors: *Approximately 193 until 8:00 p.m.
Approximately 59 starting at 8:00 p.m.*

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/1046?channel=1>

Call to Order/Opening of Meeting:

Board of Education Chair, Suzanne Sack, called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited

*Kathleen Zandi **MOVED** and Dr. Nelson Rivera **SECONDED** a motion to move up 6A, Cougar Pride – The Lion King Kids Performance after Agenda Item 1A and also move up on the Agenda Item 6A, CIP Presentations to 3A.*

Motion unanimously passed by Way of Show of Hands.

Board Chair, Sack, welcomed the New Board Members. Also, went briefly over the safety protocols of wearing a face mask and social distancing during the meeting.

Superintendent's Report:

A. Cougar Pride

a. The Lion King Kids Performance

Principal Eric Larson thanked Mrs. Jones, the music teacher at HKIS, for her hard work and outstanding performance of the Lion King. The Students involved in the The Lion King Performance sang to the Board and Community.

Public Comment:

Board Chair, Sack, briefly went over the Public Comment policy.

Cort Wrotnowski from Killingworth addressed the Board. He spoke about his opposition of Covid Vaccines and briefly went over some Covid studies.

Patty Altman from Killingworth addressed the Board. She spoke about how she lives in town and her son attends a Magnet school. She is requesting that the Athletic Sports Policy for kids that don't attend the schools in the District be revisited.

Scott Rowland from Killingworth addressed the Board. He spoke about an incident that took place with his daughter at the Middle School recently and feels that the Administration didn't adequately respond to the situation that occurred. They also feel that they weren't properly notified and asked the Board to look into the safety protocols further.

Kim Barris from Killingworth addressed the Board. She spoke about the Covid quarantine process and how not having live instruction in place during quarantine has really affected her children.

Robin Duffield from Killingworth addressed the Board. She spoke about the Medical Insurance Reserve Fund.

Teresa Karber from Higganum addressed the Board. She inquired whether or not the Lock Down Drills are still being practiced throughout the District since there are Covid restrictions in place. She also asked that the cell phone service be looked at since there is no service on school grounds.

Jennifer and Mark Douglas from Killingworth addressed the Board. They spoke about an incident at school that occurred where their son was bullied, and they still haven't been properly updated on the investigation.

Christa Douyard from Haddam addressed the Board. She spoke about the recent Facebook posting regarding an incident that took place. She feels that the Community should trust and support the Administration and their decisions of keeping the students safe in the schools.

Election of Board Officers

A. BOE Chair

Brenda Buzzi **MOVED** and Peter Sonski **SECONDED** a motion to appoint Suzanne Sack as Board Chair.

Motion passed unanimously 11-0-0 by way of Ballot Votes.

Kathleen Zandi	YES <u>√</u>	NO ___	A ___	Shawna Goldfarb	YES <u>√</u>	NO ___	A ___
Peter Sonski	YES <u>√</u>	NO ___	A ___	Jennifer Favalora	YES <u>√</u>	NO ___	A ___
Lisa Connelly	YES <u>√</u>	NO ___	A ___	Dr. Nelson Rivera	YES <u>√</u>	NO ___	A ___
Joel D'Angelo	YES <u>√</u>	NO ___	A ___	Hamish MacPhail	YES <u>√</u>	NO ___	A ___
Brenda Buzzi	YES <u>√</u>	NO ___	A ___	Corey Roberts	YES <u>√</u>	NO ___	A ___
				Suzanne Sack	YES <u>√</u>	NO ___	A ___

B. BOE Vice-Chair

Joel D’Angelo **MOVED** and Peter Sonski **SECONDED** a motion to appoint Jennifer Favalora as Vice-Chair.

Motion passed unanimously 11-0-0 by way of Ballot Votes.

Kathleen Zandi	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>	Shawna Goldfarb	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>
Peter Sonski	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>	Jennifer Favalora	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>
Lisa Connelly	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>	Dr. Nelson Rivera	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>
Joel D’Angelo	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>	Hamish MacPhail	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>
Brenda Buzzi	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>	Corey Roberts	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>
				Suzanne Sack	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>

C. BOE Treasurer

Jennifer Favalora **MOVED** and Dr. Nelson Rivera **SECONDED** a motion to appoint Peter Sonski as Board Treasurer.

Motion passed unanimously 11-0-0 by way of Ballot Votes.

Kathleen Zandi	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>	Shawna Goldfarb	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>
Peter Sonski	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>	Jennifer Favalora	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>
Lisa Connelly	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>	Dr. Nelson Rivera	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>
Joel D’Angelo	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>	Hamish MacPhail	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>
Brenda Buzzi	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>	Corey Roberts	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>
				Suzanne Sack	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>

D. BOE Secretary

Dr. Nelson Rivera **MOVED** and Peter Sonski **SECONDED** a motion to appoint Joel D’Angelo as Secretary.

Motion passed unanimously 11-0-0 by way of Ballot Votes.

Kathleen Zandi	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>	Shawna Goldfarb	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>
Peter Sonski	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>	Jennifer Favalora	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>
Lisa Connelly	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>	Dr. Nelson Rivera	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>
Joel D’Angelo	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>	Hamish MacPhail	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>
Brenda Buzzi	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>	Corey Roberts	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>
				Suzanne Sack	YES <u>√</u>	NO <u> </u>	A <u> </u>

New Business:

A. CIP Presentations

Heather Riggati, Jennifer Beeermuender and Superintendent Wihbey presented the CIP Presentation for ELA Performance and Cohort Data, Science (NGSS) Performance and Data, SAT Data, SBAC ELA Summative 2021 Comparative with other Districts, SBAC Math Summative 2021 Comparisons with Other Districts and NGSS Summative 2021 Comparisons with Other Districts

Ruth Masci and Jamie Sciascia left the meeting at approximately 9:10 p.m.

*Brenda Buzzi **MOVED** and Dr. Nelson Rivera **SECONDED** a motion to move up on the Agenda Student Representatives.*

Motion unanimously passed by Way of Show of Hands.

Student Representatives:

They spoke about Principal Hayward holding her first A-Team meeting which is for the students to voice their concerns to the Administration, Winter Sports began, Equity Team Meeting takes place next Wednesday, upcoming Chorus and Band Concerts, Southern Regional Festival and Holiday Show raising money for CT Cancer Society is scheduled for December 23rd.

The Student Representatives left the meeting at approximately 9:20 p.m.

Principal Donna Hayward and Assistant Principal Adam Apicella presented the CIP Presentation for Haddam-Killingworth High School.

Principal Dolores Bates presented the CIP Presentation for the Haddam-Killingworth Middle School.

Jamie Sciascia returned to the meeting at 9:40 p.m. via remote.

Principal Eric Larson presented the CIP Presentation for Haddam-Killingworth Intermediate School.

Principal Dennis Reed and Principal Brienne Whidden presented the CIP Presentations for Killingworth Elementary School and Burr District Elementary School.

Heather Riggati, Jennifer Beermuender, Dolores Bates, Robin Duffield and Eric Larson left the meeting at approximately 10:15 p.m.

Discussion of Board Committee Leadership and Membership:

a. Orientation on Board Sub-Committees

Board Chair, Sack, updated the Board. She will be sending an email to the Board Members regarding each Committee Leadership and Membership asking which ones they would like to serve on going forward.

Board Committee Reports

A. Communication Committee Report

No Report.

Superintendent's Report:

B. ADM – Towns of Haddam and Killingworth

Superintendent Dr. Wihbey updated the Board. He spoke about the ADM Data for the Towns of Haddam and Killingworth for years October 2017 through October 2021.

C. Winter Sports Information

Lynne Flint updated the Board. She went over the CIAC and Department of Public Health Winter Sports Covid-19 Guidance.

Donna Hayward, Adam Apicella and Lynne Flint left the meeting at approximately 10:25 p.m.

D. LEARN Calendar - 2022-2023 compared to RSD17 approved 2022-23 calendar

Superintendent Wihbey updated the Board. He spoke briefly about the differences between the LEARN Calendar and RSD17 Calendar.

E. School News

*This item was **TABLED** until the next Board meeting.*

F. Screen and Stay

Superintendent Wihbey updated the Board. He spoke about how the Screen and Stay will be in place effective December 10th. He included the Screen and Stay forms for the Board’s review. He also advised that the data will be monitored closely.

Consent Agenda

A. Approval of the November 9, 2021 Board of Education Meeting Minutes

B. First read policies as noted on the Consent Agenda dated 12.7.2021

*Kathleen Zandi **MOVED** and Brenda Buzzi **SECONDED** a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.*

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

Old Business:

A. 2022 Board Meeting Schedule - revisions for approval

*Brenda Buzzi **MOVED** and Shawna Goldfarb **SECONDED** a motion to approve the revised 2022 Board Meeting Schedule as presented.*

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

B. Policies as recommended for approval on Exhibit A

*Joel D’Angelo **MOVED** and Dr. Nelson Rivera **SECONDED** a motion to approve the Policies as presented.*

*Joel D’Angelo **AMENDED** and Dr. Nelson Rivera **SECONDED** a motion to approve the Policies as presented and to provide feedback to the Board on Policy 4218.1, considering changing the definition of any employee, and providing to the Board what its options are.*

Motion passed unanimously 11-0-0 by way of Voice 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"/>
Lisa Connelly	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"/>	Hamish MacPhail	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"/>	Corey Roberts	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"/>

Click the link below to view Exhibit A:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1u8wtwMrhh-xzZXQkmAkH8jH3mKH_oy-s?usp=sharing_eil_m&ts=61842f3c

Items of Information From the Superintendent:

A. Personnel Report

Superintendent Wihbey updated the Board. He spoke briefly about the Personnel Report that was provided in the Board packet.

B. Enrollment Report

Superintendent Wihbey updated the Board. He spoke briefly about the Enrollment Report that was provided in the Board packet.

Director of Finance

A. Budget Transfers

No Report.

Board Discussion/News/Suggestions: *Board Chair, Sack, gave three possible dates for the Board Retreat: January 8th, January 29th or February 7th. She asked Board Members to confirm which date works best as soon as possible. In addition, Board Orientation is set for tomorrow, December 8th. She also briefly updated the Board on the second review of the AP Curriculum Course.*

Adjournment:

Board Chair, Sack, called for the meeting to adjourn at 10:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie Sciascia

Board Clerk

Approval: _____ Date: _____
Joel D'Angelo, Secretary