

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
March 1, 2022

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on March 1, 2022 in the Haddam-Killingworth High School Auditorium. Board of Education Chair, Suzanne Sack, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

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

Members Absent: *None.*

Also Present: *Superintendent of Schools, Jeffrey Wihbey, Director of Finance, Ann Adriani, Director of Operations, John Mercier, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth High School, Donna Hayward, Assistant Principal of Haddam-Killingworth High School, Adam Apicella (Via Remote), Principal of Haddam-Killingworth Middle School, Dolores Bates, Principal of Haddam-Killingworth Intermediate School, Eric Larson, Principal of Burr Elementary School, Brienne Whidden (Via Remote), Principal of Killingworth Elementary School, Dennis Reed, Director of Student Services, Dr. Kris Lindsay, Student Services Coordinator (Via Remote), Tonya Gorgone (Via Remote), Haddam-Killingworth High School Athletic Director, Lynne Flint, President of HK Education Association, Robin Duffield, 7th Grade Science Teacher, Ruth Masci, Curriculum Coordinators, Heather Rigatti (Via Remote) and Jennifer Beermuender, and Board Clerk, Jamie Sciascia (Via Remote)*

In-Person Visitors: *Approximately 100*

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/1131?channel=1>
<http://reflect-hktv.cablecast.tv/CablecastPublicSite/show/1132?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.*

Board Chair, Sack, reminded everyone that masks are optional, the BOE Public Comment email is no longer active and emails won't be read into the record. Community Members can send in their comments and/or concerns to the Board Chair and/or Superintendent and also attend a Board Meeting to speak under Public Comment. Lastly, Board meetings will no longer be live-streamed, only recorded and placed on the RSD17 Website.

Superintendent's Report

A. Cougar Pride - KES (Daniel Cosgrove Animal Shelter Project)

Principal Dennis Reed updated the Board. He introduced KES 1st Grade Teacher, Mrs. Dorothy Lomazzo. Mrs. Lomazzo spoke about the Paws-itively Positive Best Buddy Program partnering with the Daniel Cosgrove Animal Shelter Project that her 1st Grade Class participated in. The focus was to show her students how to care for the animals and learn about being good friends. Some of the students from her 1st Grade Class were in the audience tonight and two spoke about what they

learned and how they felt.

Mrs. Lomazzo shared a video from their interview with News Channel 8 (WTNH) and a Slideshow of their Continuing Work. This project helped promote Social and Emotional Learning of students which entailed a school wide donation to the animal shelter, and students making blankets for the animals with their names on it.

Mrs. Dorothy Lomazzo and her 1st Grade Class left at approximately 7:20 p.m.

Superintendent Wihbey spoke about the High School Year-End Athletic Season.

Report from Student Representatives:

Yumi Iami updated the Board. She spoke about how the Gymnastics team won the Shoreline Competition, the Wrestling Team is going to compete in Rhode Island, next Friday is Mr. HK, holding a Food Drive for the Backpack Program for HK Youth and Family Services, next month is SAT Day on March 23rd for Juniors and the High School New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) will be visiting virtually this year from April 3-April 6th.

Public Comment:

Board Chair, Suzanne Sack, went over the Public Comment Process.

Robin Duffield from Killingworth addressed the Board. She spoke about the District's Self-Insurance Reserve Fund.

Patty Altman from Haddam addressed the Board. She asked that the Board revisit the rules for a student attending a Magnet School to be able to play sports within the District.

Lou Hosking from Killingworth addressed the Board. She spoke about the distribution of the Self Insurance Reserve Fund.

Board Committee Reports and Future Meetings:

A. Facilities Subcommittee

Peter Sonski updated the Board. He spoke about how the Committee discussed the Lighting Project, Review of Preliminary Capital Projects for the next fiscal year, and Tecton Facilities Assessment.

B. Finance Subcommittee

No Report.

C. Policy Subcommittee

No Report.

D. Strategic Planning Subcommittee

Board Vice-Chair, Favalora, updated the Board. She spoke about how the Committee met as a whole of the Board and reviewed the data from the Focus Groups. The Committee will now work on developing a draft of Key Strategic Priorities, Objectives, Values, Vision and Mission of RSD17.

Board Liaison Reports:

A. Healthy Communities – Healthy Kids Council

Shawna Goldfarb updated the Board. She spoke about the Coalition focusing their work on Alcohol and Vaping, Spark is back at the Middle School, Youth and Family Services new Director is working on different types of grants. They are looking for additional Board members to volunteer on HKYS.

B. LEARN

Board Vice-Chair, Favalora, updated the Board. The Committee’s discussion was focused around mask changing, they just approved a grant for 100,000 with six other Districts to hold a Summer Workshop. She spoke about the importance of making a partnership with them because of the amount of resources they have.

C. Haddam Board of Selectmen

No Report.

D. Killingworth Board of Selectmen

No Report.

Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval of Minutes from February 2, 2022 – Board of Education Meeting**
- B. Approval of Minutes from February 15, 2022 – Board of Education - Education Session Meeting**
- C. Personnel Report**
- D. Enrollment Report**
- F. Budget Transfers**

*Brenda Buzzi **MOVED** and Dr. Nelson Rivera **SECONDED** a motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented.*

Board Vice Chair, Favalora, asked that Exhibit A - (Second Read and Approval) Policies in Series 3000 for Deletion, Retention, or Repeal And Replacement, and Deletion of Policy 6146.1 - Aquatic Activity Safety; Administrative Regulations Items of Information be taken out of the Consent Agenda.

Motion unanimously passed 11-0-0 by Way of Voice 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>	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>

Dr. Nelson Rivera updated the Board. He recommended to the Board, after the Policy Committee’s review of Series 3000 Policies, that they approve the policies listed under Exhibit A as presented tonight.

To View the Policies under Exhibit A, please click on the link below:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1jT6wuyEPh_36rplgmImindEzZud7hJyr?usp=sharing_eil_m&ts=62044193

Joel D'Angelo **MOVED** and Shawna Goldfarb **SECONDED** a motion to approve Exhibit A as presented.

Motion unanimously passed 11-0-0 by Way of Voice Votes.

Kathleen Zandi YES NO A
Peter Sonski YES NO A
Lisa Connelly YES NO A
Joel D'Angelo YES NO A
Brenda Buzzi YES NO A

Shawna Goldfarb YES NO A
Jennifer Favalora YES NO A
Nelson Rivera YES NO A
Hamish MacPhail YES NO A
Corey Roberts YES NO A
Suzanne Sack YES NO A

New Business:

A. All Present Committee Goals

Board Chair, Sack, updated the Board. She reminded the Committee Chairs to present their Objectives for this year to the Board under their Board Reports as soon as possible.

Old Business:

A. Discussion of Confidential Attorney-Client Communication regarding District Self-Insurance Reserve Fund*

Board Chair, Sack, updated the Board. She spoke about the District Self-Insurance Reserve Fund, switching over to a State Plan, Shipman and Goodwin's research and findings, and what to do with the Fund and Balance.

Peter Sonski **MOVED** and Shawna Goldfarb **SECONDED** a motion to enter into Executive Session for confidential attorney-client communication with Board Attorney, Thomas Mooney (Shipman and Goodwin, LLP).

Motion unanimously passed 11-0-0 by Way of Voice Votes.

Kathleen Zandi YES NO A
Peter Sonski YES NO A
Lisa Connelly YES NO A
Joel D'Angelo YES NO A
Brenda Buzzi YES NO A

Shawna Goldfarb YES NO A
Jennifer Favalora YES NO A
Nelson Rivera YES NO A
Hamish MacPhail YES NO A
Corey Roberts YES NO A
Suzanne Sack YES NO A

The Board went into Executive Session at 7:58 p.m.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:09 p.m. and resumed the Board Meeting.

B. RSD17 Self Insurance Reserve Fund Dissolution and Transfer

Peter Sonski **MOVED** and Jennifer Favalora **SECONDED** a motion that the Board of Education hereby discontinues Fund 22, Health Insurance Fund, effective immediately, and Further **MOVED**: That the Board of Education hereby transfers the balance in Fund 22, Health Insurance, to Fund 1, the General Fund, with the further direction that this amount be applied to reduce the net expenses of the district for the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

The Board had discussion in length regarding RSD17 Self Insurance Reserve Fund Dissolution and Transfer.

Motion passed 8-0-3 by Way of Voice Votes.

Kathleen Zandi YES ___ NO ___ A_ ___
Peter Sonski YES NO ___ A ___
Lisa Connelly YES ___ NO ___ A_ ___
Joel D'Angelo YES NO ___ A ___
Brenda Buzzi YES ___ NO ___ A_ ___

Shawna Goldfarb YES NO ___ A ___
Jennifer Favalora YES NO ___ A ___
Nelson Rivera YES NO ___ A ___
Hamish MacPhail YES NO ___ A ___
Corey Roberts YES NO ___ A ___
Suzanne Sack YES NO ___ A ___

Board Discussion/News/Suggestions: *The Board discussed the first steps of reviewing Budget items by Location starting with Elementary Levels, Intermediate/Middle School Levels, followed by the High School Level. The first Budget Workshop is scheduled on Thursday, March 3, 2022 directly following the Joint Meeting.*

Adjournment:

Board Chair, Sack, called for the meeting to adjourn at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie Sciascia

Board Clerk

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