

Summary of August 2022 RSD17 Board of Education Meeting

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Wihbey shared with the Board that the district is moving back to normal operations for all facets as of the start of the school year, including scheduling, classroom operations, and lunch. Close review will be maintained on monitoring the health data trends.

Superintendent Wihbey provided highlights of completed and in process projects throughout the District, including work on landscaping at all schools, pavement completion at BES, and new flooring in several areas at HKHS. There are several air conditioning units currently not in operation at the High School. Engineers are scheduled to come and audit the units to provide resolution recommendations.

The Superintendent provided an update on transportation and the possible solutions for busing during construction on the East Haddam Swing Bridge. Construction of the bridge is tentatively set to begin early March 2023, and there will be 25 closures (lasting 63 hours each) scheduled for the course of the project from Sunday 8:00 pm through Wednesday 11:00 am. Additionally, there will be occasions of one-way travel that will alternate in timed intervals. An alternate bus route will be required during the 25 occasions of closure. There will be a single point of pick up/drop off, and the buses will travel through Portland over the Arrigoni Bridge as a travel route. DOT has advised that they will provide notification two weeks before the project is to begin.

The Superintendent reported that the District has filled over thirty position openings over the summer, and all new employees were ready for the opening of school. There is also a new digital District Employee Handbook that was issued on the first day of school to all RSD17 employees. The Director of Fiscal Operations is currently working to fill the open Accounts Payable position.

The Food Services department received a Supply chain assistance fund of \$36,000 to assist in the price of supplies. Universal Free Lunch has ended starting this year but RSD 17 will provide free lunch for the first 3 months of school. This will be funded by federal grant money issued to the State of Connecticut to assist in the transition to regular meal plan processes.

BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Subcommittee

Peter Sonski reported that the Finance committee formally welcomed David Solin, Director of Fiscal Operations. David was able to validate information regarding Year end and is working on creating essential reports that are due at the end of the month. The Board also discussed the new Accounts Payable position to be filled.

Facilities Subcommittee

Peter Sonski and Facilities Director John Mercier led a discussion regarding the three AC units that are not operational at the High School. Engineers will be coming to evaluate and provide recommendations for future plans.

Strategic Planning Subcommittee

Prem Aithal discussed the creation of a Board strategies draft that will fulfill Objective 2.1 as well as other potential objectives as the Board returns to a more formal structure. The focus is on several items, including policy updates and professional development.

Superintendent's Contract

The Board unanimously approved the Superintendent of Schools' amended contract and extended it to a third 2024-2025 fiscal year as presented by the Personnel and Evaluation subcommittee.

ON OUR WEBSITE:

The 2022-2027 Strategic Plan, District Core Values and District Vision can be found on the RSD17.org District Website under "District"