

Summary of October 2023 RSD17 Board of Education Meeting

Student Representatives Report

Principal Hayward introduced Madison Moriarty and Michael Perry as the HKHS Student Representatives to the Board of Education for the 2023-2024 school year.

Michael Perry reported to the Board on the events that took place in October for Spirit Week. He also noted that the sports teams have had a great beginning to the fall season.

Madison Moriarty spoke to the Board about the pep rally, which was the first since the 2020 school year. Madison also reported on the upcoming trip to the All-American High School Film Festival in October and also spoke about the new course "If you love it, teach it" which is geared toward potential future educators.

Superintendent Report

Superintendent Wihbey reported to the Board that HKHS students have begun internships at local businesses and that HKYFS is again coordinating an HK Mentoring Program at BES, KES, and HKIMS this year.

Superintendent Wihbey gave an update on transportation - we are down several drivers but efforts have been made to ensure that all students arrive at school and back home as close to their normal times as possible. Also, some delays have occurred due to the swing bridge opening during transportation times.

The Finance Department has begun the preparation for the FY 24-25 budget cycle ahead of last year's schedule, and we are on track to be prepared for our 12/31 annual Federal audit.

HKHS Athletic Director Lynn Flint received the 2023 National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association State Award of Merit.

SPED Program Review

The Superintendent provided an update and summary of the review Process, in which the team will meet with various stakeholders throughout the district in areas such as individual observations, classroom observations, and focus groups. The dates currently are scheduled for November. The Superintendent will provide the Board with updates monthly and a more substantive report on the January agenda.

District Continuous Improvement Plan 2023-2024

Superintendent Wihbey and Curriculum Coordinators Jennifer Beermuender and Heather Rigatti presented the District Continuous Improvement Plan, which is driven by the District Strategic Plan. They shared various data showing student performance and how RSD17 compares to other districts and the state of CT. They also discussed areas where our students improved despite the pandemic and plan to work on areas with less growth.

ADM-Towns of Haddam and Killingworth

Superintendent Wihbey updated the Board about the student population data for the Towns of Haddam and Killingworth as reported to the State Department of Education as of October 1, 2023.

The total number of students for 2023/24 reported was:

1069 (60.33%) from Haddam and 703 (39.67%) from Killingworth, for a total of 1772 students.

Last year's (2022/23) numbers were:

1118 (61.5%) from Haddam and 701 (38.5%) from Killingworth, for a total of 1819 students.

Owner's Representative Selection

The Board unanimously voted to hire Arcadis as our Owner's Representative for the pre-referendum phase of the Master Plan, the cost of which is not to exceed \$35,000. We have since had two meetings with representatives from Arcadis to discuss the details of the plan along with plans for community input and education on the whole process.

BES Solar/Security Shades

The Board approved the purchase and installation of solar/security shades for Burr Elementary School. The project was previously added to the capital list for the 23/24 fiscal year and was tabled due to budget concerns but was revisited to be included in the current budget year and will cost \$12,104.18.

Communications/Strategic Planning

The Strategic Planning Committee is working to align goals to the Superintendent's priorities and the Strategic Plan, and they will be discussed in further detail at next month's meeting.

The Communications Committee has continued to discuss the budget calendar and communications as well as Master Plan communication.

Master Plan

We invite everyone to participate in the Community Conversation on Thursday, November 16, at 6 pm at the HKHS Auditorium. We will present several final options for the RSD17 Master Plan to repair, rebuild, or replace school buildings. There will be a live survey for community members to express preferences and priorities, and the survey will be available online after the presentation. If you cannot attend in person, information about the live stream can be found at:

<https://sites.google.com/rsd17.org/masterplanproject/home?authuser=0>