



**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**BUDGET WORKSHOP**  
 Date: March 5, 2024

The Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education meeting was held on March 5, 2024, in the Haddam-Killingworth High School Community Room.

**Board Member Attendance**

Board Member	Present	Absent	Board Member	Present	Absent
Prem Aithal	X		Dr. Nelson Rivera (remote-6:44 pm)	X	
Lisa Connelly	X		Corey Roberts	X	
Jennifer Favalora	X		Suzanne Sack	X	
Shawna Goldfarb (remote)	X		Jennifer Voegtli	X	
Hamish MacPhail (remote)	X		Dr. Kathleen Zandi	X	
Heather Pach	X				

**Also Present**

Superintendent Jeffrey Wihbey, Assistant Superintendent Jennifer Miller, Finance & Operations Director Ben Whittaker, Director of Student Services Dr. Aaron Puzarne, Board Administrator Sarah Kaiser, IT Manager Denis Recchia, Assistant Principal Adam Apicella (remote), Principal Dorothy Ventura, Assistant Heather Persson, Principal Eric Larson, Principal Dennis Reed, Principal Brienne Whidden, Curriculum Coordinators Heather Rigatti and Jennifer Beermuender, and Elementary Coordinator Rebekah Templeton

**Visitors - 0**

**Call to Order/Opening of Meeting**

Board Chair Suzanne Sack called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance will be recited immediately following the budget workshop at the Joint meeting.

Prem Aithal provided the Board with an overview of the workshop process for the meeting and advised them of the order of presentations.

Principal Whidden and Principal Reed presented their proposed budget drivers to the board. They spoke about their budget requirements for each school and answered any specific Board questions.

Principal Larson presented the Board with the Intermediate School's proposed budget requests. He also discussed right-sizing some clubs, such as the yearbook club and the student council, from seasonal to year-long. He provided information on the purchase services account and addressed questions from the Board.

Principal Ventura and Assistant Principal Persson presented their proposed budget drivers, equipment replacement, staffing, and answered questions from the Board.

The next Board workshop is scheduled for March 12, 2024.

**Adjournment**

Board Chair Sack adjourned the meeting at 7:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Kaiser  
Administrative Assistant to the Board of Education

Approval: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Kathleen Zandi, Board Secretary