



**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING MINUTES
COMMUNITY INPUT
Date March 19, 2024**

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on March 19, 2024, in the Haddam-Killingworth High School Auditorium.

Board Member Attendance:

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

Also Present: Superintendent Jeffrey Wihbey, Assistant Superintendent Jennifer Miller, Director Ben Whittaker, Director Dr. Aaron Puzarne, Board Administrator Sarah Kaiser, IT Manager Denis Recchia, Principal Dennis Reed, and Assistant Principal Adam Apicella

Visitors: 8

Call to Order/Opening of Meeting

Board Chair Suzanne Sack called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Board Chair Sack welcomed the public to the community input meeting. She provided an overview of the public comment process for the evening and a summary of the process to date.

The Superintendent reviewed the budget and discussed the major budget drivers. He also reviewed the budget summary for the towns discussing the gross and net assessment.

Nancy Gorski of Killingworth addressed the Board regarding the budget and the increases presented over the past several years.

Eileen Pleines of Killingworth addressed the Board regarding the budget. She wanted the Board to review the budget balances and she discussed how the amount affects the community.

Eileen Blewett of Killingworth addressed the Board regarding the budget. She requested that the Board review the budget and assure the community that it is being utilized in the best ways as there are big things to come in the future. She appreciated the work that had been done.

Board Chair Sack read an email from Joan Gay, a Killingworth community member who could not attend the meeting. She shared a survey of the aging and elderly in Killingworth with the board members. High taxes were identified as a concern with some comments on the cost of the education budget but noted that is a snapshot of the population and the budget has been supported in the past.

Board Chair Sack provided the schedule of the budget meetings through the referendum in May and the next opportunity for community input.

Adjournment

Board Chair Sack adjourned the meeting at 6:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Kaiser
Administrative Assistant to the Board of Education

Approval: _____ Date: _____

Dr. Kathleen Zandi, Board Secretary