



REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Date: May 23, 2024

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on May 23, 2024, in the Haddam Killingworth Community Room.

Board Member Attendance:

Board Member	Present	Absent	Board Member	Present	Absent
Prem Aithal	X		Dr. Nelson Rivera (remote)	X	
Lisa Connelly	X		Corey Roberts	X	
Jennifer Favalora	X		Suzanne Sack	X	
Shawna Goldfarb	X		Jennifer Voegtli (6:05 pm)	X	
Hamish MacPhail		X	Dr. Kathleen Zandi	X	
Heather Pach		X			

Also Present: Superintendent Jeffrey Wihbey, Director Ben Whittaker, IT Manager Denis Recchia, Administrative Assistant to Operations Brianna Hill, Facilities Manager Rob Albert, Jack Butkus from Arcadis U.S., Inc., Jeffrey Wyszynski and Antonia Ciaverella from Tecton Architects, and Robert McGarry, First Selectman from Haddam, and Kate Anderson, Board of Selectman Haddam

Visitors: 0

Call to Order/Opening of Meeting

Board Chair Suzanne Sack called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

The attendees introduced themselves, and Board Chair Sack provided ground rules and a summary of roles.

Superintendent Wihbey spoke to the Board about the plan's progress to date and provided an overview of the presentation process for the meeting.

Jeff Wyszynski from Tecton Architects and Jack Butkus from Arcadis presented a presentation on the Proposed Master Plan to the Board, which would be divided into two phases.

The first phase would be to build a new Jr./Sr. High School for grades 7-12.

- The approximate size would serve approximately 852 students

- approximately 163,000 gross square feet.

Key benefits would include:

- Optimal educational environment
- Provide maximum flexibility for remaining grades
- Allows the potential to preserve the field house and the pool for the school & community use

Enact the Elementary Interim Strategy for building preservation.

Phase two of the plan will address the Intermediate & Elementary Grades

- Develop planning options for future major construction project(s)
- Flexibility on future decision points on planning options

Mr. Wyszynski discussed the timeline of public conversations and meetings that the district and Board have engaged in to reach the current presentation from June 2021 through May 2024.

Director Whittaker presented the Elementary Interim Strategy. He explained that this plan would address incremental improvements to the elementary and intermediate/middle school buildings during the high school project. The listed projects reflected items that were identified in the Tecton 2021 plan and the District's Capital Plan Priority List. He discussed that these projects will improve the buildings and allow for them to move forward during the high school project. The projects presented ranged from projects included in the FY25 budget through FY29. The projects would be spread out to balance the project type and the locations each year.

Superintendent Wihbey moved the meeting to the deliberation section and discussed items for the Board to consider to move phase 1 forward.

The Board discussed and asked questions to move forward with the proposed options.

The Board agreed on:

- To move forward with a major project to improve the high school (new or renovated as new)
- To consider and determine the high school configuration to be either grades 7-12 or 9-12.
- To consider and determine the next steps (depending on the high school configuration) of the elementary school buildings.
- To draft an RFP requesting bids for the high school project.
- The District to compile the necessary information to make a decision on the high school configuration and elementary schools.

From there, determine the need for community input, town leadership collaboration, and a timeline to outline the project.

Adjournment

Board Chair Sack adjourned the meeting at 8:19 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Kaiser

Administrative Assistant to the Board of Education

Approval: _____ Date: _____

Dr. Kathleen Zandi, Board Secretary