



**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MEETING MINUTES  
June 4, 2024**

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on June 4, 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		X	Jennifer Voegtli		X
Hamish MacPhail		X	Dr. Kathleen Zandi	X	
Heather Pach	X				

**Also Present:** Superintendent Jeffrey Wihbey, Student Services Director Dr. Aaron Puzarne, Board Administrator Sarah Kaiser, Principal Brienne Whidden, Principal Donna Hayward, Principal Eric Larson, Principal Dennis Reed, Curriculum Coordinators Heather Rigatti and Jennifer Beermuender, Student Services Coordinator Tonya Gorgone, Elementary Coordinator Rebecca Templeton, and Assistant Principal Adam Apicella (6:18 pm)

**Visitors:** Approximately 75

**Call to Order/Opening of Meeting**

Board of Education Chair Suzanne Sack called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Senior Brian Nguyen sang the National Anthem.

**Recognition Ceremonies:**

**A. Recognition of Haddam-Killingworth High School’s Top Ten Students of the Class of 2024**

Principal Hayward presented the Top Ten Students of the Class of 2024 as follows:

- No. 10: Brian Nguyen
- No. 9: Alejandra Morales

- No. 8: Téa Norman
- No. 7: Lauren Macy
- No. 6: Ivy McNeil
- No. 5: Vaishnavi Yalamanchi
- No. 4: Catharine Therrien
- No. 3: Jaimey DiNapoli
- No. 2: Ava Harriman
- No. 1: Elizabeth Murphy

**B. Recognition of District Retirees**

- 1. Margery Scott - presented by Principal Brienne Whidden
- 2. Mary Ellen Lavalette - presented by Principal Brienne Whidden
- 3. Catherine Wendt - presented by Curriculum Coordinator Jennifer Beermuender
- 4. Janet Nelson - presented by Curriculum Coordinator Heather Rigatti
- 5. Katherine Sullivan - presented by Principal Dennis Reed
- 6. Elizabeth Himmelman - presented by Principal Donna Hayward
- 7. James Wright - presented by Superintendent Jeffrey Wihbey
- 8. Amy Koepke - presented by Curriculum Coordinator Jennifer Beermuender
- 9. Timothy D'Amato - presented by Principal Eric Larson
- 10. Jay Granucci - presented by Principal Brienne Whidden

**C. Recognition of Staff Members of the Year**

- 1. HKIS Staff Member of the Year Darcy Agro, presented by Principal Eric Larson
- 2. KES Staff Member of the Year Lisa Lamontagne, presented by Principal Dennis Reed
- 3. HKHS Staff Member of the Year Lori Everett, presented by Principal Donna Hayward
- 4. HKMS Staff Member of the Year Nicole Lucey, presented by Director Dr. Aaron Puzarne
- 5. BES Staff Member of the Year Stephanie Lundgren, presented by Principal Brienne Whidden
- 6. District Staff Member of the Year Sarah Kaiser, presented by Board Chair Suzanne Sack

**D. Recognition of District Teachers of the Year**

- 1. HKIS Teacher of the Year - Jessica Spearrin, presented by Principal Eric Larson
- 2. KES Teacher of the Year - Jennifer Esposito, presented by Principal Dennis Reed
- 3. HKHS Teacher of the Year - Michael Czarkowski, presented by Principal Donna Hayward
- 4. HKMS Teacher of the Year - Kerry Geoghegan, presented by Curriculum Coordinator Heather Rigatti
- 5. BES/RSD17 Teacher of the Year - Rebecca Aithal, presented by Principal Brienne Whidden

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Kaiser  
Administrative Assistant to the Board of Education

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