



REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING MINUTES
July 16, 2024

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on July 16, 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	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 of Finance and Operations Alison Pierce, Student Services Director Dr. Aaron Puzarne, Board Administrator Sarah Kaiser, Jack Butkus from Arcadis

Visitors: 23

Call to Order/Opening of Meeting

Board Chair Suzanne Sack called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Board Chair Sack provided an overview of the agenda for the meeting.

Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent reported to the Board on the following items:

- Board members received emails from CABE about available workshops and a conference.
- Alison Pierce started work on July 1st as the Director of Finance and Operations.

- The extended school year program has officially started. The students looked eager to participate in summer learning.
- Hiring for the 24/25 school year is underway. The administrative team is working collaboratively with HR to obtain high-quality candidates.

Summer Projects Update

Superintendent Wihbey presented the Board with a current status schedule for the capital plan priority list. A summary update will be revisited at the August and September Board meetings.

Presentation of Long-Term Capital Plan Options

Jack Butkus from Arcadis presented the Board with data on the master plan's final options highlights and a Tecton report offering options for consideration.

He spoke about the following options, providing details on configuration and estimated costs:

- HKIMS capacity Analysis moving KES PK-3 into the HKIMS campus with grades 4-6
- A high school option of 7-12 with a new build or renovate as new
- A high school option of 9-12 with a new build or renovate as new
- Alternate Options for the fieldhouse and pool
- Burr Elementary with a new build or renovate as new

The Board members discussed the presented information and asked clarifying questions.

Dr. Kathy Zandi **MOVED** and Heather Pach **SECONDED** a motion to move item 3.B. after Public Comment.

The vote passed unanimously by a show of hands vote. 10-0-0

Public Comment

- Linda Talbott of Haddam spoke to the Board regarding the Long-Term Master Plan Discussion.
- Philip Devlin of Higganum spoke to the Board regarding the Long-Term Master Plan Discussion.
- Edward Munster of Haddam spoke to the Board regarding the Long-Term Master Plan Discussion.
- Lauren Braren of Higganum spoke to the Board regarding the Long-Term Master Plan Discussion.
- Melissa Hagedwood of Higganum spoke to the Board regarding the Long-Term Master Plan Discussion.
- Eileen Blewett of Killingworth spoke to the Board regarding the Long-Term Master Plan Discussion.

- Elias Lowrey of Haddam spoke to the Board regarding the Long-Term Master Plan Discussion.
- Tim Lucas of Higganum spoke to the Board regarding the Long-Term Master Plan Discussion.
- Bob McGarry of Haddam Neck spoke to the Board regarding the Long-Term Master Plan Discussion.
- Carianne Santamaria of Higganum spoke to the Board regarding the Long-Term Master Plan Discussion.
- Dylan Brown of Haddam spoke to the Board regarding the Long-Term Master Plan Discussion.

Board Discussion of Recommendations and Implementation Strategies

The Board discussed the high school project options of 7-12 and 9-12 to determine a grade configuration. The Board discussed the pros and cons of the following considerations:

- number of campuses
- the student experience
- downstream implications
- overall cost internally and to the towns and taxpayers
- civic support
- elementary impact
- student impact
- biggest value

Shawna Goldfarb left the meeting at 9:05 pm.

Lisa Connelly **MOVED** and Prem Aithal **SECONDED** a motion for the Board of Education to move forward with a 9-12 project and authorize the Superintendent to initiate a Request for Proposal for a Feasibility study necessary to develop and prepare for the project for a public referendum and a State School Construction Grant Application.

The vote passed unanimously by voice vote. 9-0-0

Member	Vote	Member	Vote
Prem Aithal	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A	Dr. Nelson Rivera	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A
Lisa Connelly	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A	Corey Roberts	ABSENT
Jennifer Favalora	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A	Suzanne Sack	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A
Shawna Goldfarb	ABSENT	Jennifer Voegtli	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A
Hamish MacPhail	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A	Dr. Kathleen Zandi	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A
Heather Pach	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A		

Jack Butkus left the meeting at 9:16 pm.

Consent Agenda

- a. Enrollment Report-Estimated
- b. Personnel Report
- c. Authorization Signature change for the ED-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Program. The designated representative Signature line 2 changed to Alison Pierce, Director of Finance and Operations from Benjamin Whittaker.
- d. Approval request for the disposal of 66 obsolete math manuals/worktexts and 25 calculators. Submitted by Heather Rigatti, Curriculum Coordinator for Math, Science, and Technology.
- e. Approval request for the disposal of 700 obsolete history textbooks. Submitted by Donna Hayward, Principal of Haddam Killingworth High School.
- f. Approval of Minutes from the June 18, 2024, Board of Education Meeting

Prem Aithal **MOVED** and Hamish MacPhail **SECONDED** a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented.

The vote passed unanimously by voice vote. 9-0-0

Member	Vote	Member	Vote
Prem Aithal	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A	Dr. Nelson Rivera	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A
Lisa Connelly	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A	Corey Roberts	ABSENT
Jennifer Favalora	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A	Suzanne Sack	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A
Shawna Goldfarb	ABSENT	Jennifer Voegtli	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A
Hamish MacPhail	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A	Dr. Kathleen Zandi	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A
Heather Pach	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A		

Personnel & Evaluation Subcommittee

Suzanne Sack reported that the committee discussed the staff attendance report and the evaluation for the Superintendent.

Finance & Facilities Subcommittee

Prem Aithal reported that the committee discussed the new facilities manager position and that the district hopes to have someone in place by mid-July. The committee also reviewed the monthly financial reports.

LEARN

LEARN does not meet in the summer.

HK Youth and Family Services

Heather Pach reported on the following events:

- Teen Nights Events
- School Supply Program
- Be You @ The Barn
- Summer Movie Night
- 6th Annual Free Haircuts Event

Haddam Killingworth Recreation Department

Jennifer Voegtli spoke about the current programs running for the department:

- CIT program
- Girls on the Run
- Skyhawks Volleyball
- Playbill Stem
- Beginning Tennis
- Private swim lessons were added this year

She also reported that 39 kid camp scholarships were given this year from various donations.

Haddam Board of Selectmen

Heather Pach reported that the meeting topics were about the bridge, the circle, and HES.

Killingworth Board of Selectmen

Kathy Zandi reported that they appreciated the Board update. There was also a conversation regarding the increase in meal pricing for the upcoming year.

Prem Aithal announced that he will resign from the Board of Education on August 20th. He acknowledged his time on the Board and the members. Board Chair Sack thanked Prem for his time on the Board and his dedication to the district.

Staff Attendance Report

Superintendent Wihbey presented a status update on the staff attendance report to the Board. The district-wide data team has been monitoring attendance since the Board passed a staff attendance policy last summer. Over time, more data will provide better information, but there has already been improvement to date.

Superintendent Contract, YE Review

Jennifer Voegtli **MOVED** and Prem Althal **SECONDED** a motion to go into an executive session for a personnel matter related to the Superintendent's year-end review and contract.

The vote passed unanimously by a show of hands vote. 9-0-0

The Board entered the Executive session at 9:50 pm.

Superintendent Wihbey left the meeting at 9:59 pm.

The Board exited the Executive session at 10:20 pm, and Board Chair Sack adjourned the meeting at 10:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Kaiser

Administrative Assistant to the Board of Education

Approval: _____ Date: _____
Dr. Kathleen Zandi, Board Secretary