



**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING MINUTES
February 11, 2025**

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on February 11, 2025, in the Haddam-Killingworth High School Community Room.

Board Member Attendance:

Board Member	Present	Absent	Board Member	Present	Absent
Joseph Centofanti	X		Dr. Nelson Rivera	X	
Sonja Charpentier	X		Corey Roberts	X	
Lisa Connelly	X		Suzanne Sack	X	
Jennifer Favalora	X		Jennifer Voegtli	X	
Shawna Goldfarb	X		Dr. Kathleen Zandi	X	
Heather Pach	X				

Also Present- Superintendent Jeffrey Wihbey, Assistant Superintendent Jennifer Miller, Director of Finance and Operations Alison Pierce, Board Administrator Sarah Kaiser, Principal Dorothy Ventura, Principal Donna Hayward, Michael Ayles from Antinozzi Associates, Jack Butkus from Arcadis

Visitors: 14

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.

New Board Member Introduction

The Chair introduced the new Haddam Board Member, Sonja Charpentier.

Student Representative Report

Student representatives Michael Perry and Emma Giaccone reported to the Board on the following items:

- February 14th is Signing Day for all student-athletes who will continue their athletic career at the collegiate level.
- Senior Learning Expectation One Interviews have begun. This interview, along with the senior portfolio, is part of the graduation requirement and a way to reflect on the successes.
- Former HK alumni Thomas Perry, played in the East-West Shrine Bowl in January, and his performance may earn him a spot in the NFL draft.

Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent reported to the Board on the following items:

- The district has received the second round of funding for the Local Food for Schools Initiative, totaling \$8,430. A designated coordinator has been assigned to assist in identifying local farms willing to participate in the program and to ensure the funds are utilized by the end of the year.
- The district is pleased that the onboarding of the new Comptroller has commenced.
- The Curriculum Office worked to develop an updated chemical hygiene plan for science, art, and tech ed labs.
- The HKHS Drama Club announced that they will be performing the musical "The Drowsy Chaperone" this spring.
- HKHS hosted its first Math Honor Society induction ceremony in January.
- Student Internship Program update

Cougar Pride

Principal Reed introduced student Hunter Paulsen and Library Specialist Mrs. Murphy, who presented to the Board about the KES student-led Newspaper.

The Cougar Pride attendees left the meeting at 6:47 pm.

Public Comment

- Barbara Fernandez of Haddam spoke to the Board about the District's policy regarding Immigration and Customs Enforcement Officers entering schools and staff training.
- Kelly Morin of Haddam spoke to the Board regarding Middle School Art Student Scheduling.

The student representatives, Principal Hayward, and Principal Reed left the meeting at 6:55 pm.

HKHS Feasibility Study Team Update

Michael Ayles and Jack Butkus from Arcadis presented an update following the February 6th Feasibility Study Team meeting. The team was presented with the updated Educational specifications, reviewed revisions to the new construction and renovation plans, and decided on options to be sent to the cost estimators to be discussed at the February 20th Feasibility team

meeting. The Board discussed the design options that would be presented to the estimators, asked clarifying questions, and discussed potential next steps for a project timeline.

Public Comment-Related to the High School Project

Kim Kelly of Killingworth spoke to the Board regarding community input for the High School project and space location for the special education classrooms.

Jeff Sturges of Haddam addressed the Board about the importance of decision-making and the timing of the High School project.

Michael Ayles and Jack Butkus left the meeting at 8:14 pm.

Middle School Program of Studies Book-2nd Read

Superintendent Wihbey and Principal Ventura presented the Program of Studies Book for a second read to the Board for approval.

Heather Pach **MOVED** and Lisa Connelly **SECONDED** a motion to approve the presented Middle School Program of Studies Book for second read.

The motion was carried unanimously by a voice vote of 12-0-0. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Member	Present	Absent	Board Member	Present	Absent
Joseph Centofanti	X		Dr. Nelson Rivera	X	
Sonja Charpentier	X		Corey Roberts	X	
Lisa Connelly	X		Suzanne Sack	X	
Jennifer Favalora	X		Jennifer Voegtli	X	
Shawna Goldfarb	X		Dr. Kathleen Zandi	X	
Heather Pach	X				

Principal Ventura left the meeting at 8:26 pm.

Consent Agenda

- a. Enrollment Report
- b. Personnel Report
- c. Approval of Minutes from the January 21, 2025, Board of Education Meeting
- d. Approval to accept a donation of \$1,000.00 received from Shane Moore intended for use by the HKHS Golf Team.

- e. Approval to accept a donation of \$1,000.00 received from Richard Mason intended for use by the HKHS Golf Team.
- f. Discontinue Policy 4113.3-Increasing Educator Diversity Plan First Read
- g. Policies for Review-First Read
 - 2140 P- Retention and Disposition of Records and Information
 - 4119 P/4219 P- Social Media
 - 5125 P- Confidentiality and Access to Education Records
 - 5131.914 P- Policy Regarding Student Use of the District's Computer Systems and Internet Safety
 - 5131.92 P- Use of Private Technology Devices By Students

Items of Information:

- 2140 R-Administrative Regulations Regarding the Retention and Disposition of Records and Information
- 4119/4219 R-Administrative Regulations Regarding Use of Social Media
- 5125 R-Administrative Regulations Regarding Classification of Education Records
- 5131.914 R- Administrative Regulations Regarding Student Use of The District's Computer Systems and Internet Safety

Shawna Goldfarb **MOVED** Jennifer Voegtli **SECONDED** a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented removing the enrollment report.

The motion was carried unanimously by a voice vote of 12-0-0. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Member	Present	Absent	Board Member	Present	Absent
Joseph Centofanti	X		Dr. Nelson Rivera	X	
Sonja Charpentier	X		Corey Roberts	X	
Lisa Connelly	X		Suzanne Sack	X	
Jennifer Favalora	X		Jennifer Voegtli	X	
Shawna Goldfarb	X		Dr. Kathleen Zandi (with gratitude)	X	
Heather Pach	X				

The Board discussed the increase in the enrollment report from the previous month.

Dr. Nelson Rivera **MOVED** Corey Roberts **SECONDED** a motion to approve the enrollment report.

The motion was carried unanimously by a show of hands vote of 12-0-0. The motion passed unanimously.

BUDGET TRANSFER 2025-7

Director Pierce presented the Board with a transfer request to purchase softball and girls' lacrosse uniforms for the 2025 spring season at HKHS. The request was also presented at the Finance and Facilities subcommittee meeting on February 10th.

Jennifer Voegtli **MOVED** Shawna Goldfarb **SECONDED** a motion to approve the budget transfer as presented.

The motion was carried unanimously by a voice vote of 12-0-0. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Member	Present	Absent	Board Member	Present	Absent
Joseph Centofanti	X		Dr. Nelson Rivera	X	
Sonja Charpentier	X		Corey Roberts	X	
Lisa Connelly	X		Suzanne Sack	X	
Jennifer Favalora	X		Jennifer Voegtli	X	
Shawna Goldfarb	X		Dr. Kathleen Zandi	X	
Heather Pach	X				

Personnel & Evaluation Subcommittee

Corey Roberts reported that the committee met on February 3rd in executive session to discuss sick bank, recruitment and retention negotiations, and custodian negotiations. The Chair requested that she was looking for a Board member to take part in upcoming custodian negotiations and requested interested members to contact her.

Policy Subcommittee

Heather Pach reported that the committee met on February 4th. The committee discussed the policies that were up for approval for the first read. The committee also discussed reviewing the strategic plan, capital-related policies, and other policies. There was also a discussion about how the district works with safety-related agencies and services to foster student safety and mental health.

Finance & Facilities Subcommittee

Joe Centofanti reported that the committee discussed the budget transfer referred to the Board for approval at the meeting and the monthly financials.

Shawna Goldfarb reported that the committee received an update on the HKHS Study Project that was discussed earlier in this meeting. Director Pierce presented to the committee the possible capital needs for FY26. There was a discussion regarding funding the full 2%, which will be funded into the non-lapsing account and striving to complete capital needs from the account. The committee also reviewed the contractual needs of the district. They also reviewed the district's facility use form.

Shawna Goldfarb provided an introduction to the budget process with the Board.

Communications Subcommittee

Lisa Connelly Reported that the committee met before the Board meeting. The committee discussed the High School Project communications. There was a CAFE update on the upcoming FOIA and A Day On the Hill events. The last item discussed was budget communication.

LEARN

None

HK Youth and Family Services

Heather Pach reported on the following events:

- February 12th-Virtual Series on Support and Strategies for Raising a Confident and Self-Reliant Child
- March 5th-Food and Mood cooking class
- March 18th and 25th-a two-part series on Girl Talk
- Working with the Towns of Haddam and Killingworth for boys' initiatives for personal health and development

Haddam Killingworth Recreation Department

No report

Haddam Board of Selectmen

None

Killingworth Board of Selectmen

Lisa Connelly reported that there was a question regarding the Clean Air Study.

Announcements/Comments

None

Adjournment

Board Chair Sack adjourned the meeting at 8:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Kaiser

Administrative Assistant to the Board of Education

Approval: _____ Date: _____

Dr. Kathleen Zandi, Board Secretary