Regional School District No. 17

Board of Education

Special Meeting

Minutes

A special meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 was held on April 21, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. via Google Meet Video Conference**.**

Members Present: Suzanne Sack, Lisa Connelly, Kathleen Zandi, and Jennifer Voegtli

Also Present: Superintendent Jeffrey Wihbey, Assistant Superintendent Jennifer Miller, Principal Dorothy Ventura, and Assistant Principal Heather Persson of Haddam-Killingworth Middle School, Administrative Assistant Sarah Kaiser, students, students' parents, Attorney Rebecca Rudnick Santiago, and Attorney Stephanie Antone.

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Suzanne Sack.

At 9:03 a.m., Kathy Zandi **MOVED** and Lisa Connelly **SECONDED** a motion to go into executive session for the purposes of discussing confidential student records and matters. The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands.

At 10:11 a.m., Board members took a brief recess to review part 1 of the hearing and make a final determination. They returned at 10:18 a.m. to ask for additional clarifying information.

At 10:21 a.m., the Board members resumed deliberations and returned at 10:43 a.m.

At 10:47 a.m., the Board resumed public session.

At 10:47 a.m., Dr. Kathleen Zandi read the official decision that the Regional School District No.17 Board of Education finds, based on the evidence in the record of this hearing, that on *March 26, 2025,* student *04.21.25* violated Board Policy # 5131.d; #15 and #17; and, thus is an expellable offense. The Board of Education moves that the Student shall be expelled from Haddam-Killingworth Middle School for 180 school days. However, if the Student agrees to and completes, where appropriate, all of the following conditions, as determined by the Administration, the expulsion shall be held in abeyance and the student may return to school as soon as Tuesday, April 22, 2025.

a. During any period of exclusion during the term of this expulsion, the Board will provide the Student an alternative educational opportunity recommended by the PPT.

b. If the Student becomes ineligible to attend the Region 17 Public Schools due to residency or other reasons pursuant to Board Policy and/or if the Parents withdraw the Student from enrollment as a student within the Region 17 Public Schools, the Board will have no obligation to provide the Student with the alternative educational opportunity described herein.

c. During the period of expulsion, the Student will not be permitted to be on school grounds and will not be permitted to attend or participate in any school-sponsored activities, except to participate in the alternative education program, if necessary.

d. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Student shall be readmitted to school on a probationary and limited basis beginning April 22, 2025 school year, subject to continued compliance with the following:

   i. The Student must refrain from committing any expellable or suspendable offense under Board policies during the period of expulsion and the probationary period.

   ii. During the term of expulsion, the Student shall actively participate in drug education/counseling through the JRB process.

   iii. During the term of expulsion, the Student shall complete 40 hours of community service.

The Student will not be permitted to attend or participate in any school-sponsored after-school activities or field trips through the last day of school during the 2024-25 school year.

If the Student engages in misconduct that would warrant suspension or expulsion from the Region 17 Public Schools during the probationary readmission, the Administration reserves the

right to reimpose the full period of exclusion from school (through April 9, 2026) without the need to reconvene the Board-level hearing. The Administration shall also be entitled to impose separate disciplinary consequences for any such misconduct in accordance with Board policies and applicable law.

The student must make a good faith effort to attend school and class on time, complete all assignments, and make good educational progress;

During any period of expulsion or during any subsequent reinstatement of the expulsion, the student who is the subject of this hearing shall be provided an alternative educational opportunity by the Regional School District No. 17 Public Schools. Transportation for tutoring will not be provided by the District. During the expulsion period, the Student will not be allowed to enter any school property and/or participate in any school-sponsored events, and activities, except to comply with the above conditions.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m.