



**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING MINUTES
May 20, 2025**

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on May 20, 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 (remote)	X	
Sonja Charpentier	X		Corey Roberts	X	
Lisa Connelly	X		Suzanne Sack	X	
Jennifer Favalora	X		Jennifer Voegtli	X	
Shawna Goldfarb (remote)	X		Dr. Kathleen Zandi	X	
Heather Pach	X				

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

Visitors: 7

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.

Cougar Pride

Principal Ventura introduced two students, Ryan Perry and Teagan Hollman, who spoke to the Board about being recognized as scholar leaders.

Principal Ventura also introduced George Hebert, who was recognized as a Unified Sports Teammate of the Year recipient. George spoke to the Board about his experience.

Principal Ventura, parents, and students left the meeting at 6:35 pm.

Principal Hayward introduced French teacher Christine Kehrley, who returned to the Board with two students, Reagan Aronson and Wyatt Voegtli, who discussed their French trip to France.

Christine Kehrley and students left the meeting at 6:45 pm.

Board Chair Sack introduced Interim Superintendent Paul Smith, who was in attendance.

Capital Priority List Year-End Purchases

Assistant Superintendent Miller recommended that the facilities subcommittee chair provide an update on the capital priority list year-end purchases, as no action is needed for this month.

The consensus on the Board was to remove item 6.B. from the agenda.

Board Chair Sack held a moment of silence for former HK student Leeha Reddy.

Student Representative Report

Student representative Michael Perry reported to the Board on the following items:

- AAPPL Language Testing has begun for the seal of biliteracy.
- May 23rd is the senior outing at Holiday Hill.
- May 28th is the Streetfest.
- May 30th is the Senior Prom at St. Clements
- June 2nd is the Scholarship Awards

Board Chair Sack presented Michael with a certificate and thanked him for his hard work and service to the Board this year. A certificate will be given to Emma, who was not in attendance.

Superintendent's Report

Assistant Superintendent Miller reported to the Board on the following items:

- The student services SPDG completed their last training for the first year of the grant.

- Haddam-Killingworth High School has received recognition as a Project Lead the Way Distinguished School for 2024-25.

Public Comment

None

HKHS Project Educational Specifications Approval & Establishment of a Building Committee

Heather Pach **MOVED** Jennifer Voegtli **SECONDED** a motion, whereas the Regional School District #17 Board of Education has voted to proceed with the “new high school” project option as “replacing” the high school space is less costly and more educationally appropriate than “renovating” the current school, and whereas the project will seek financial assistance through a State of Connecticut school construction grant which requires various approvals to support the grant application, be it resolved, the following that the Regional School District #17 Board of Education approves the Educational Specifications for the construction of a New Haddam-Killingworth High School dated May 13, 2025, and be it Resolved that the Regional School District #17 Board of Education approves the Educational Specifications for a Central Administration project for the renovation of district support elements, to be constructed in tandem with the high school project, dated May 13, 2025, and be it Resolved that the Regional School District Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to apply for school construction grants for each of these concurrent projects in accordance with CGS Section 10-283 no later than June 30, 2025, and be it Resolved that the Regional School District #17 Board of Education establishes the Haddam-Killingworth High School Building Committee (HKHSBC), with membership to include one member with construction industry experience and one member who is the Chair of the Regional School District #17 Board of Education or is the Chair’s designee, to be responsible for both projects, and be it Resolved that the Regional School District #17 authorizes the HKHSBC to proceed with the design and development of specifications for both concurrent projects, and be it Resolved that a referendum to approve project funding will be conducted at a date to be determined, but in such time that results of the referendum may be forwarded to the State of Connecticut Department of Administrative Services no later than November 15, 2025.

The Board engaged in a discussion concerning the ongoing high school project and the strategic steps required to achieve a successful referendum. Members considered various key factors that will influence the outcome, including the importance of clear and consistent communication with the community, identifying viable pathways for moving the project forward, and determining the most effective timeline for scheduling the referendum.

Board members emphasized educating stakeholders about the project’s scope, benefits, and fiscal impact. Several potential timelines for the referendum were reviewed.

In addition to strategic planning, the Board discussed several concerns raised during the process. These included potential community concerns regarding the project's cost, the risk of misinformation, and the challenge of ensuring access to information for all stakeholders.

Motion passed from the following roll call votes 7-4-0

Member	Vote	Member	Vote
Joseph Centofanti	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A	Dr. Nelson Rivera	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A
Sonja Charpentier	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A	Corey Roberts	☐ YES X NO ☐ A
Lisa Connelly	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A	Jennifer Voegtli	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A
Jennifer Favalora	☐ YES X NO ☐ A	Dr. Kathleen Zandi	☐ YES X NO ☐ A
Shawna Goldfarb	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A	Suzanne Sack	☐ YES X NO ☐ A
Heather Pach	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A		

Principal Hayward left the meeting at 7:58 pm.

Michael Ayles and Jack Butkus left the meeting at 8:05 pm.

Approve a Contract for Services for an Executive Search for a Superintendent of Schools for Regional School District No. 17

Heather Pach **MOVED** Lisa Connelly **SECONDED** a motion that the Board hereby appoints Cooperative Educational Services to serve as a search consultant for an RSD17 Superintendent of Schools, effective immediately, and further move that the Board Chairperson is hereby authorized to sign the related contract on behalf of the Board.

Motion unanimously passed from the following roll call votes 11-0-0

Member	Vote	Member	Vote
Joseph Centofanti	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A	Dr. Nelson Rivera	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A
Sonja Charpentier	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A	Corey Roberts	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A
Lisa Connelly	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A	Jennifer Voegtli	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A
Jennifer Favalora	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A	Dr. Kathleen Zandi	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A
Shawna Goldfarb	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A	Suzanne Sack	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A
Heather Pach	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A		

Policies for Review-Second Read

- 6146 P - High School Graduation Requirements
- 6147 P - Weighted Grading and Calculation of Grade Point Averages

Sonja Charpentier **MOVED** Jennifer Voegtli **SECONDED** a motion to approve the policies presented for a second read.

Motion unanimously passed from the following roll call votes 11-0-0

Member	Vote	Member	Vote
Joseph Centofanti	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A	Dr. Nelson Rivera	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A
Sonja Charpentier	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A	Corey Roberts	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A
Lisa Connelly	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A	Jennifer Voegtli	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A
Jennifer Favalora	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A	Dr. Kathleen Zandi	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A
Shawna Goldfarb	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A	Suzanne Sack	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A
Heather Pach	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A		

Consent Agenda

- a. Enrollment Report
- b. Personnel Report
- c. Approval request for the inventory disposal of specified HKMS Theater materials and costumes from Spongebob the musical and Pirates of Penzance. Submitted by Principal Haddam-Killingworth Middle School, Dorothy Ventura.
- d. Policies for Review-First Read
 - 1250 P - Visitors and Observations in Schools
 - 1440 P - School Security and Safety
 - 5133 P - Restorative Practices

Items of Information:

- 1250 R - Administrative Regulations Regarding Visitors and Observations in Schools

- 1440 R - School Security and Safety Administrative Regulations

- e. Approval of Minutes from the April 21, 2025, Board of Education Special Meeting
- f. Approval of Minutes from the April 22, 2025, Board of Education Meeting
- g. Approval of Minutes from the May 5, 2025, Board of Education Annual Meeting
- h. Approval of Minutes from the May 5, 2025, Board of Education Special Meeting

Lisa Connelly **MOVED** Dr. Kathy Zandi **SECONDED** a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented on the agenda.

Motion unanimously passed from the following roll call votes 11-0-0

Member	Vote	Member	Vote
Joseph Centofanti	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A	Dr. Nelson Rivera	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A
Sonja Charpentier	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A	Corey Roberts	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A
Lisa Connelly	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A	Jennifer Voegtli	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A
Jennifer Favalora	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A	Dr. Kathleen Zandi	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A
Shawna Goldfarb	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A	Suzanne Sack	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A
Heather Pach	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A		

Personnel and Evaluation Subcommittee

Corey Roberts reported that the committee met and was presented with an updated PDEC process year to date. There was a review of job descriptions, and the committee discussed the start of the custodian negotiation process.

Policy Subcommittee

Heather Pach reported that the committee reviewed the policies presented for first read. The committee also discussed an administrative letter related to artificial intelligence. The committee discussed upcoming topics.

Communications Subcommittee

Lisa Connelly reported that the committee did not meet but was busy with items related to the budget, the superintendent search, and the high school project.

Curriculum Subcommittee

Dr. Kathy Zandi reported that Dr. Puzarne presented the committee with an update on MTSS and behavior support systems. He also provided an update on the 18-22 program. Heather Rigatti spoke to the committee about the district technology committee and reported on items such as electronic forms, digital signage, and artificial intelligence training.

Facilities Subcommittee

Shawna Goldfarb reported that the committee discussed the master plan update. The itemized replacement cost options were reviewed, including the HVAC system, the oil tank, and the generator. There was a discussion about the district's emergency needs, including the white barn and the KES freezer compressor. There was a discussion on the summer project recommendations. The consensus of year-end projects is to move forward with information contingent on the fund balance, with formal recommendations for approval in June.

Finance Subcommittee

Joe Centofanti reported that the committee was provided with monthly financial reports and discussed the budget line, including school lunch. There was a discussion on the high deductible insurance plan for 2025-2026 and the capital asset policy plan draft. The other items will be carried over to June.

LEARN

Jennifer Favalora reported that the Regional Program for multi-district online classes has been set for 2025-2026. There will be four classes to start, which will take place after school.

HK Youth and Family Services

Heather Pach reported on the following items and events:

- HKYFS is working on the messaging for prom and graduation safety cards
- The younger children's mentor program is coming to a close
- On May 30th, there will be a concert at Parmalee Farms
- On June 1st is Run-A-Muck
- June 20th is the Summer Solstice Family Fest

Haddam Killingworth Recreation Department

Jennifer Voegtli reported that the summer program registration has begun.

Haddam Board of Selectmen

None

Killingworth Board of Selectmen

None

Announcements/Comments

Corey Roberts noted that the Middle School track team students will attend the state competition this weekend.

Adjournment

Board Chair Sack adjourned the meeting at 8:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Kaiser

Administrative Assistant to the Board of Education

Approval: _____ Date: _____

Dr. Kathleen Zandi, Board Secretary