



**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING MINUTES
ANNUAL HEARING
June 23, 2025**

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on June 23, 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 (remote)	X	
Heather Pach	X				

Also Present: Assistant Superintendent Jennifer Miller, Director of Finance and Operations Alison Pierce (remote), and Board Administrator Sarah Kaiser

Visitors: 16

Call to Order/Opening of Meeting

Board Chair Suzanne Sack called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Presentation of the Board of Education Annual Budget and Third Referendum Budget

Board Chair Sack presented the Board of Education Annual Budget for the Regional School District No. 17 for the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year.

Community Input Regarding the Proposed 2025-2026 Board of Education Annual Budget

Eileen Unger of Killingworth addressed the Board regarding the budget. She thanked the Board for their service and the work put forward through the budget process. She spoke on the need for public input, emphasizing concerns on communication, trust, and fiscal responsibility.

Amy Roberts Perry of Killingworth addressed the Board regarding the budget. She requested clarification from the Board on staffing budget items. She expressed concern about the growth in administrative staff and urged the Board to prioritize student services. She noted the financial challenges faced by Killingworth's older population.

Elias Lowrey of Haddam addressed the Board regarding the budget. He noted that the budget challenges may stem more from public perception and low voter turnout rather than the budget itself. He suggested increased outreach efforts, particularly to younger adults who may have children in the future, to positively impact future budget votes.

Arthur Collins Jr. of Haddam addressed the Board regarding the budget. He expressed his long-standing support for the district, emphasizing that quality education is vital for the country's future and requires proper funding. He voiced concern over low voter turnout and urged the community to stay informed, engaged, and supportive of the budget. He thanked the Board for its efforts.

Jeff Sturges of Haddam addressed the Board regarding the budget. He spoke on the proposed budget, noting it is responsible, aligns with inflation, and compares reasonably to other districts. He emphasized the importance of broad voter participation and encouraged future discussions on specific line items at appropriate meetings. He referenced the budgeting for taxpayers based on enrollment. He also noted that shifts in the student population vary the assessment increases among towns within the regional district.

Cathy Iino of Killingworth addressed the Board regarding the budget. She expressed appreciation for the district's fiscal responsibility, noting that the annual return of unspent funds to the towns demonstrates careful budget management. She thanked the Board for their focused attention and emphasized the importance of being responsible after the budget is approved.

Adjournment

Board Chair Sack adjourned the meeting at 7:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Kaiser
Administrative Assistant to the Board of Education

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