



REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING MINUTES
July 15, 2025

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on July 15, 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 (remote)	X		Dr. Kathleen Zandi	X	
Heather Pach	X				

Also Present- Interim Superintendent Paul K. Smith, Assistant Superintendent Jennifer Miller, Director of Student Services Dr. Aaron Puzarne, Board Administrator Sarah Kaiser

Visitors: 3

Call to Order/Opening of Meeting

Board Chair Suzanne Sack called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Jennifer Voegtli **MOVED** and Dr. Nelson Rivera **SECONDED** a motion to move item 5.C. to item after 7.B.

The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote 11-0-0.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Smith reported to the Board on important updates following the passing of the budget. He provided information on the status of the State Department of Education grant funding impact for Region 17 and the loss of \$37,589. The grants impacted are the Title II grant,

which supports teacher training to improve instruction, and the Title IV grant, which supports student improvement initiatives.

Superintendent Smith provided an update on the status of the IT department's role.

Public Comment

Alison Karam of Killingworth addressed the Board regarding a discussion on the High School diving blocks.

Capital Projects Update

Superintendent Smith provided the Board with an updated accounting of the District's fiscal year 2026 projects. The report provided a listing of the approximate total project cost and project status. He also provided a completed list of capital improvements for FY25 for the district, including the budgeted amount and the actual project costs.

The Board discussed a comprehensive capital project spreadsheet, which is currently being finalized.

Summer Projects Update

An updated status report on the projects that are scheduled for the Elementary Schools was discussed. The projects include flooring, painting, and ballistic window film.

High School Diving Blocks Update and Possible Board Action

Superintendent Smith presented to the Board a proposal to replace the diving blocks at the High school pool and to provide the necessary grounding. Superintendent Smith provided an overview of the block conditions and offered two quotes for service and materials. Additionally, an electrician's quote will be provided within the next day or two to ensure that the blocks are properly grounded.

The Board discussed the options for the timeline, vendors, and block conditions.

Corey Roberts **MOVED** and Dr. Nelson Rivera **SECONDED** a motion that it has been determined that the diving blocks need to be replaced and grounded. Two quotes have been obtained for the replacement of the diving blocks, and quotes have been solicited but have not received for the electrical grounding work. Whereas the estimated time for receipt of the diving block is 6 weeks and practices are scheduled to begin August 18, 2025, for the fall swim team activities. Therefore, be it resolved that due to the timing of the project, the bidding process be waived and the project be awarded based upon the lowest responsible quotes received. It is also resolved that the High School pool diving block replacement project be approved at an amount not to exceed \$60,000 to be charged to the fiscal year 2025 operating budget account Building Improvements HKHS account number 01.02540.720.205.000.5 to the extent that funds are

available and the balance as necessary to be paid from the Educational Expenditures Reserve Fund.

Motion 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		

Proposal for Additional Supplemental Services-Owner's Representative

The Board held a detailed and thorough discussion on the potential need for additional vendor support during the referendum phase of the high school project. The conversation centered on identifying the types of services a vendor could provide, the materials required, and the overall coordination needed. The discussion covered potential costs, scope of work, and the procurement of the appropriate vendor.

Dr. Kathy Zandi **MOVED** and Jennifer Favalora **SECONDED** a motion to take off the table the discussion of the supplemental services-owner's representative and bring it back for discussion.

The motion passed by a show of hands. 6-5-0

The Board discussed whether to include an additional item of the high school project on the agenda.

The owner's representative discussion was brought back to the table for final debate and board action.

Dr. Nelson Rivera **MOVED** and Joseph Centofanti **SECONDED** a motion to approve the owner's representative for \$10,700 that Arcadis proposed.

Motion passed from the following roll call votes: 8-2-1

Member	Vote	Member	Vote
Joseph Centofanti	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A	Dr. Nelson Rivera	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A
Sonja Charpentier	☐ YES ☐ NO X A	Corey Roberts	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A

Lisa Connelly	☐ YES ☒ NO ☐ A	Jennifer Voegtli	☒ YES ☐ NO ☐ A
Jennifer Favalora	☒ YES ☐ NO ☐ A	Dr. Kathleen Zandi	☐ YES ☒ NO ☐ A
Shawna Goldfarb	☒ YES ☐ NO ☐ A	Suzanne Sack	☒ YES ☐ NO ☐ A
Heather Pach	☒ YES ☐ NO ☐ A		

Consent Agenda

- a. Enrollment Report
- b. Personnel Report
- c. Sick Bank Activation Notification Memo-Item of Information
- d. Approval of Minutes from the June 17, 2025, Board of Education Meeting
- e. Approval of Minutes from the June 19, 2025, Board of Education Special Meeting (Budget Workshop)
- f. Approval of Minutes from the June 23, 2025, Board of Education Special Meeting (Annual Hearing)
- g. Approval of Minutes from the June 23, 2025, Board of Education Special Meeting
- h. Approval of Minutes from the July 7, 2025, Board of Education Special Meeting (Annual Meeting)

Corey Roberts **MOVED** and Lisa Connelly **SECONDED** a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented without the enrollment report.

The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands. 11-0-0

The Board discussed the enrollment report and the estimated July counts.

Corey Roberts **MOVED** and Dr. Kathy Zandi **SECONDED** a motion to approve the enrollment report as presented.

The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands. 11-0-0

Personnel and Evaluation Subcommittee

Corey Roberts reported that the committee met in July and discussed contract negotiations. Assistant Superintendent Miller presented to the committee an update on the Middle school structure and staffing plan. An update was provided on the climate study, and Superintendent Smith presented the committee, as well as the full Board, with annual goals for review.

LEARN

No report

HK Youth and Family Services

Heather Pach reported on the following items and events:

- July 29th, A Community GiveBack Summer: Haddam Social Services
- August 5th & 7th, Partnership with BES & KES for Kindergarten Meet and Greets
- August 8th, Partnership with Spectrum of Light: Where Neurodiverse Youth Can Shine
- August 14th, QPR Suicide Prevention & Naloxone Training
- August 17th, Back-to-School Free haircut event
- School Supply Program

Haddam Killingworth Recreation Department

No report

Haddam Board of Selectmen

Heather Pach reported that the Board discussed the construction issues that may be faced at the two roundabout intersections in Haddam until November.

Killingworth Board of Selectmen

Lisa Connelly reported that a conversation took place regarding the grant funds that will be withheld from Connecticut School Districts, as reported by the State Department of Education.

Announcements/Comments

Heather Pach noted that she was grateful that, as a Board, there is a sick bank that can be activated for whoever needs it.

Shawna Goldfarb thanked everyone for all their hard work in the budget process.

Corey Roberts **MOVED** and Heather Pach **SECONDED** a motion to move into an executive session for the purposes of negotiation strategy, inviting the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent.

The motion passed by a show of hands vote by all members present. 9-0-0

Jennifer Voegtli and Lisa Connelly were not present for the vote.

Sarah Kaiser and Aaron Puzarne left the meeting.

The Board entered into Executive Session at 8:20 pm.

The Board exited the Executive Session at 8:27 pm.

Dr. Nelson Rivera **MOVED** and Corey Roberts **SECONDED** a motion to approve the contract agreement between the Regional Schools District No. 17 and the Municipal Employees Union covering the period between July 1, 2025, and June 30, 2028.

Motion 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		

Board Chair Sack expressed gratitude to the Custodians for their ongoing dedication to the district and acknowledged how deeply they are valued and appreciated by the entire school community. Board Chair Sack also shared the Board's appreciation for the collaborative effort of everyone involved in the negotiations.

Adjournment

Board Chair Sack adjourned the meeting at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Kaiser
Administrative Assistant to the Board of Education

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