



REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING MINUTES
August 28, 2025

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on August 28, 2025, in the Central Office Board Room.

Board Member Attendance:

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

Also Present- Interim Superintendent Paul K. Smith, Assistant Superintendent Jennifer Miller

Visitors: 0

Note: Several present tried to activate the video recording of the meeting but due to technical issues were unable to activate it successfully.

Call to Order/Opening of Meeting

Board Chair Suzanne Sack called the meeting to order at 5:34 PM.

Chairwoman Sack explained, with the assistance of Interim Superintendent Smith, to the Board of Education members, that we have recently learned that in order to properly pass a motion(s) to approve the High School Project, including District Resources, and send the appropriate question to referendum to the community, the Board would have had to:

- be presented with motions that were legally sufficient,
- hold a public hearing, noticed in a public paper five days before the hearing and at least 30 days prior to the referendum, and
- conduct a Board of Education meeting following the hearing to deliberate over and pass the motions.

As evidenced in previous meeting minutes, the Board of Education was presented with and passed a motion to approve the High School Project and send it to community referendum. However, bond counsel needed and should have been consulted prior to presenting the motion(s) to the Board of Education. The Interim Superintendent reported that when he very recently consulted with bond counsel and shared the original motion, it was determined to be legally insufficient to present to the public for a referendum. In addition, bond counsel advised the Interim Superintendent that the District did not conduct the necessary public hearing.

In addition, Interim Superintendent shared that both towns had advised him that the referendum date could not be moved to a later date and still take place before the November State required deadline, due to other election/municipal issues.

In order for the Board of Education to remedy the situation, to move forward with the October 7th referendum, it would have to meet tonight to start the process to complete the steps mentioned earlier in this meeting that were not completed last spring. Due to the October 7th referendum date, those steps would all have to occur in the subsequent next seven days.

The Board discussed the pros and cons of community awareness of completing these steps within the next seven days. The Board briefly discussed moving forward and the ramifications of not moving forward.

The Board acknowledged that there should be further discussion at the upcoming Regular Board of Education Meeting on September 16th regarding next steps with the High School project when the public can be present to comment or watch on video.

The Board did not take any action.

Adjournment

Board Chair Sack adjourned the meeting at 8:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Kaiser
Administrative Assistant to the Board of Education

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