Summary of August 2025
RSD17 Board of Education Meeting

NEW BOARD MEMBER

Chair Sack welcomed Ben Sodergren, of Killingworth, as the newest member of the Board. Ben fills the seat left by Nelson Rivera. Ben heads the Killingworth Public Library and is an HK graduate. He is very interested in education and holds degrees in computer science and library science.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Finance

Initial audit planning sessions were held with the Region's new audit firm, CliftonLarsonAllen LLP (CLA).

The Connecticut Education Finance System reporting of all district expenditures was due September 1 and has been completed on time.

Facilities

The summer building projects at the two elementary schools have been completed, and the maintenance and custodial staff across the district have been hard at work getting the grounds and buildings ready to welcome students and staff back for the new school year. The starting block process at the pool has begun, and the blocks are on order.

Technology

The viewboards that were approved for KES & BES have been installed, and this completes two buildings being fully switched from a SMARTboard learning environment to a more robust Viewboard learning environment. The computer labs at the High School (graphics & TV studio) have new desktops installed and ready for the students to use this school year. The 400 Chromebooks that we purchased have all been set up for the beginning of the school year.

Student Services

The department had a successful Extended School Year program. Students were able to participate in learning that helped to mitigate summer loss in their IEP goals and objectives.

Food Services

Final detail menu planning for the new school year is completed, and the cafeteria leadership team (our director and school managers) engaged in sampling and learning activities at a trade show sponsored by our primary food distributor on August 14th.

Talent, Accountability, & Human Resources

The department has been working hard to onboard all new staff in preparation for the start of school. RSD17 is on track to fill all certified positions for day one.

New Teacher Orientation was held on 8/20 and 8/21. We are excited to welcome and orient a great group of educators new to RSD17! Topics include: Curriculum, Instruction, Technology, Human Resources, Practices/Procedures, Student Services, and more!

PDEC met monthly during the summer to prepare for the upcoming school year. Together, they developed the district-wide Growth and Support Plan slideshow, exemplar goal list, and FAQ. These efforts will strengthen the implementation of year two.

Curriculum Office

Curriculum Coordinators have been planning for the opening of school with Principals, PDEC, and New Teacher Orientation.

TECHNOLOGY UPDATES

The Technology department, led by Chance Davis, has reviewed all aspects of district operations and identified the areas of most significant concern, and the Superintendent presented the Board with a detailed proposed action plan. The Board unanimously voted to purchase antivirus software at the cost of $21,606.00 and the server operations at the cost of $648.00. Director Asetta is researching the opportunity to utilize E-rate funds to offset some of the costs.

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH

The Board of Education is deep in the process of working with Cooperative Educational Services (CES) to hire the next Superintendent of Schools. As part of the process, CES previously conducted electronic surveys and focus groups to gain a sense of the school community's opinion of the strengths and weaknesses of the school district, as well as key performance criteria for a successful Superintendent in RSD17. As a result, CES has released a document for the community to review.

ON OUR WEBSITE

RSD17 Board of Education information and past updates may be found at: https://www.rsd17.org/district/board-of-education.

For more information on the superintendent search, the Stakeholder Feedback Report and Leader Profile is now completed and available on the district website under the District tab or by clicking here.