



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

A meeting of the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education was held on October 28, 2025, in the Haddam-Killingworth High School Community Room.

Board Member Attendance:

Board Member	Present	Absent	Board Member	Present	Absent
Joseph Centofanti		X	Corey Roberts	X	
Sonja Charpentier	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, Director of Finance and Operations Karen Asetta, Director of Student Services Dr. Aaron Puzarne, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent Sarah Kaiser, Principal Donna Hayward, Interim Principal Heather Persson, Principal Eric Larson, Principal Dennis Reed, Principal Brienne Whidden, Assistant Principal Kelly Brown, Curriculum Coordinators Heather Rigatti and Jennifer Beermuender, Student Services Coordinator Tonya Gorgone, Elementary Coordinator Rebecca Templeton, and Dr. Patricia Sullivan-Kowalski

Visitors: 3

Call to Order/Opening of Meeting

Board Chair Suzanne Sack called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM.

The Board discussed and reached consensus to discuss the KES boiler replacement before the appointment of the Superintendent.

KES Boiler Replacement Discussion and Possible Board Action

Superintendent Smith presented to the Board that one of the boilers at Killingworth Elementary has failed, provided its condition, and stated that it must be replaced due to its irreparable

condition. The Superintendent provided information on the acquired quote as of the meeting and reported that additional quotes are in process. He requested authorization from the Board to proceed with obtaining quotations and replacing the boiler.

Shawna Goldfarb **MOVED** and Jennifer Voegtli **SECONDED** a motion to authorize the Superintendent to collect quotations and select a company to replace the boiler equipment at KES. The approved amount will not exceed \$60,000 and will be sourced from the reserve fund pending review of the budget.

Motion passed from the following roll call votes: 10-0-0

Member	Vote	Member	Vote
Joseph Centofanti	ABSENT	Corey Roberts	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A
Sonja Charpentier	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A	Ben Sodergren	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		

Appointment of the Superintendent of Schools Discussion and Possible Board Action

Lisa Connelly **MOVED** and Dr. Kathy Zandi **SECONDED** a motion that in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-157 the Board hereby elects Dr. Patricia Sullivan-Kowalski to serve as Superintendent of Schools for the Region 17 Public Schools, for a term commencing on December 1, 2025, and further moved that the Board hereby authorizes its Chairperson to execute the related employment agreement on behalf of the Board.

Motion passed from the following roll call votes: 10-0-0

Member	Vote	Member	Vote
Joseph Centofanti	ABSENT	Corey Roberts	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A
Sonja Charpentier	X YES ☐ NO ☐ A	Ben Sodergren	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		
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Board Chair Sack spoke about the process and read a brief statement of Dr. Sullivan-Kowalski's qualifications.

Dr. Sullivan-Kowalski addressed the Board and read a brief statement. She thanked the Board and noted her commitment to a partnership with the Board of Education, the Leadership Team, families, staff members, and community members, and continuing to make Region 17 such a great place. She thanked everyone for the warm welcome and is excited for the work ahead.

The Board Chair also thanked the Board and CES for their work through the interview selection process.

The meeting adjourned at 5:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Kaiser
Administrative Assistant to the Board of Education

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