

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE NEXT BOARD  
OF EDUCATION MEETING  
CHESTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
March 22, 2018**

The regular meeting of the Chester Board of Education was held on Thursday, March 22, 2018. In attendance were David Fitzgibbons, Tom Englert, Becky Iselin, John Stack, Robert Bibbiani, Charlene Fearon, Theresa Myers, Rebecca Greenberg-Ellis and Maria Scherber. Also in attendance were Dr. Ruth Levy, Superintendent, Kristina Martineau, Assistant Superintendent, Tyson Stoddard, Principal, Kim Allen, Business Manager and Kelley Frazier, Clerk.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Fitzgibbons called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Upon a motion made by Rob Bibbiani and seconded by Tom Englert the Chester Board of Education **VOTED** unanimously to approve the minutes from the January 25, 2018 regular meeting and the Accounts Payable report as written.

**STUDENT REPORT**

Mr. Stoddard introduced CES students who presented their STEAM fair projects. Over 100 students participated. Nine students went to the Regional and seven are recommended to go to the state competition.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No Comment

**OTHER ITEMS:**

**Principal's Update**

Mr. Stoddard gave a brief update. The 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade will participate a program with the Audubon Society. CES has received a grant for school security. Cameras and locks will be the focus. The Lantern Award was given to CES from Camp Hazen. A field trip will be funded in the spring. Social Development sponsored a program with a BMX stunt biker who gave an inspirational talk to the students. Report cards have gone home. The Spring Academy began last week. Kindergarten orientation is Monday at 6:30pm. Downs Syndrome Awareness day was a success. In April the Work for the Good campaign will begin. A learning project/community service project will be held in May. Mr. Stack suggested having workshops during school to encourage participation in the STEAM fair. He also suggested including this in the Academy program.

**Possible VOTE to Accept Donation from Tri Town Leo Club in the amount of \$200 to be used at the Principal's Discretion**

Upon a motion made by Rob Bibbiani and seconded by John Stack the Chester Elementary Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to accept the donation from the Tri Town Leo Club in the amount of \$200 to be used at the Principal's discretion.

## **REPORTS:**

### **Financial Status Report – Ms. Allen**

Ms. Allen gave a brief update. At this time, it is expected that there will be a small surplus of approximately \$24,000. Ms. Allen will keep the board informed of changes.

### **Cafeteria**

We are forecasting level subsidy funding at this time. There are several cafeteria accounts behind. The school continually reaches out to people that have overages. PowerSchool can notify people when balances are low.

### **Committee Reports**

**Finance** - Next meeting is March 27, 2018

**Curriculum** – No Update

**Policy** – There are no policies to vote on. The Committee is reviewing the policy for allowing cell phones in the high school. This will be discussed with the principal of the high school along with students. Regulations and consequences will be discussed.

### **OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Supervision District Committee Update**

Surplus money will be returned to the towns.

### **LEARN**

No report.

#### **Ad hoc Joint BOE Cafeteria Committee**

A final report is being completed and will be presented to the Joint Boards.

#### **Assistant Superintendent's Report**

Ms. Martineau gave a brief update. Teachers are building on K-12 creative problem solving. K-12 content area groups will be meeting. They will be focusing on priority standards to create a report card system to which will align everything. Curriculum development for the elementary schools is being discussed.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

#### **District Update – Critical Thinking and Creative Problem Solving Information and Communication**

##### **Discussion Regarding Pending Policies – Standing Item**

Niche has rated Chester Elementary the 1 elementary school in Middlesex County. Valley was also recognized. During the storms earlier this month, the shelter was open at John Winthrop. On April 4<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:30pm the third of the community forums will be held on resilience. This will be taped to view on the school website. Budgets have been worked on. They will be forwarded to the towns. The manufacturing program is moving forward. This program is expanding and has helped us to have 99-100% graduation rate. This could be used to attract businesses to our district. Dr. Levy has spoken at the Chamber meetings, town meetings, Rotary and Economic Development to make our towns aware of this program. Cinderella was fantastic. James and the Giant Peach will be at the Middle School on April 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.

Security was discussed. The Parkland, Florida high school shooting has been the catalyst for fears and political banter. Both the Middle School and the High School held a walk out to remember the 17 people who lost their lives in Florida. It was very moving. There were police present. Family members and the press were not allowed to attend for security reasons. This was well orchestrated by

the students for the students. All schools have heightened awareness of security. Upgrades are being discussed. Costs are being researched to do a comprehensive audit of our security. Process and procedures are being reviewed. Crisis teams are meeting regularly. Lockdown drills will be at less convenient times to make it more realistic.

**Discussion and possible VOTE to adopt proposed 2018-19 Chester Elementary School budget to be presented to the Town.**

Dr. Levy discussed the budget.

On a motion made by Rob Bibbiani and seconded by Tom Englert , the Chester Elementary School Board of Education **VOTED** to approve the 2018-2019 budget of \$4,663,549(four million, six hundred sixty three thousand, five hundred and forty nine dollars) and to recommend this be brought to the Town of Chester. Abstentions: Maria Scherber

The Board of Finance have requested special education costs trends. This will be provided. Mr. Englert asked that a breakdown of Supervision District costs be explained as well a breakdown of ADM numbers.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Gister stated that Matt Ward has been hired as the resident trooper. There is a regional district working group thorough the Council of Small Towns to look at ADM.

Ms. Lenz was able to attend a high school robotics competition that was fantastic. The success of this program is due to great programs in the elementary school and the junior high schools. It is an amazing program that is building throughout the district.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION –PERSONNEL**

Upon a motion duly made and seconded the Chester Elementary Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to go into Executive Session at 8:00pm. Dr. Levy and Mr. Stoddard were invited to stay.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:28pm.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded the Chester Elementary Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to approve the Staff Non-Renewal Notice as recommended by Superintendent Levy.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- 9.1 Next Joint BOE Meeting is April 5, 2018 @7:00pm @ JWM
- 9.2 Next Chester BOE Regular Meeting May 24, 2018 @7:00pm.
- 9.3 End of Year Data and Strategic Focus Presentation (May)
- 9.4 BOE Self-evaluation (TBD)

**ADJOURNMENT**

On motion duly made and seconded the Board unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 8:29

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley Frazier, Secretary