

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE NEXT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
CHESTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
SEPTEMBER 26, 2013**

The regular meeting of the Chester Board of Education was held on Thursday, September 26, 2013. In attendance Lianne Rutty, David Fitzgibbons, Peg Reyer, Amy Safran and Wendy King. Also in attendance were Dr. Ruth Levy, Superintendent, Dr. Joanne Beekley, Assistant Superintendent, Michael Barile, Principal, Mr. Garth Sawyer, Business Manager and Kelley Frazier, Clerk. Absent: Nicole Sypher, Ashley Marsh, Shaun Savoie and Laurie Rubinow

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. King called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

CONSENT AGENDA

Peg Reyer moved to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on March 28, 2013, and the Accounts Payable report. Lianne Rutty seconded the motion which carried by a unanimous vote.

STUDENT REPORT

Report will be given in November.

Add Executive Session to Agenda

Upon a motion made by David Fitzgibbons and seconded by Peg Reyer, the Chester Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to add an Executive Session to the end of the Agenda to discuss a residency issue. The motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

OTHER ITEMS:

None

REPORTS:

2012-13 Financial Status

Currently Chester Elementary closed the 2012-13 books with a surplus of \$56,000 due to various cost savings during the year.

Financial Status Report – Mr. Garth Sawyer

Mr. Sawyer gave a brief update of the financial status for the Chester Elementary School for school year 2013-2014. Currently the Chester Elementary budget is projecting a surplus. The Administration will keep the Board informed as we proceed through the year.

Cafeteria Report – Mr. Sawyer

Mr. Sawyer gave an update on the Cafeteria Budget Updates. We were able to use the budgeted subsidy.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance

The Finance Committee was rescheduled and will meet on October 23rd.

Calendar

The recent meeting covered the calendar for school year 2014-15. The proposed calendar will be presented at the next Joint Board of Education meeting.

Curriculum

The Curriculum Committee will meet on November 19th.

Joint PK-12 Policy Committee

No Updates

Supervision District

The Cooperative Agreement was discussed. Supervision District will begin having workshops to create a cooperative agreement; the first one is on September 30th at 6:00 p.m. in the Central Office.

Principal's Update

General Update – Opening of the School Year

Mr. Barile said that it has been a great start to the year. Teachers are looking into new curriculum to be better prepared for the Common Core State Standards. Staff is also working on the new Teacher Evaluation. There is a new roof on the school and gymnasium. This came in under budget. There are new updates to technology and computer software. The solar panels are installed. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony on October 15, 2013 at 2:00pm. Mr. Barile introduced his new staff. Ms. Corcoran is working in the music department and Pam Baklanski is the new Language Arts Consultant.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – J. Beekley

General Update

Dr. Beekley said that Mr. Barile should be very proud of their CMT results. They had very strong scores.

2012-13 CES CMT/CAPT Results Overview

The state is promising much more support for Common Core this year. There will be a Chester Team that will be working with the State. The state will give us three options for testing this year: 1. to complete only CMT and CAPT 2. Common Core Assessment only or 3. To do both. We will do CMT and CAPT testing with the Science Assessment.

Dr. Beekley gave an overview by grade level of the CMT results.

Mr. Barile presented the action plan for school improvement. The staff is having conversations at each level to analyze student work and to increase instructional effectiveness. He discussed the action plans by subject and grade level. He is working on various things to align curriculum with the Common Core State Standards. The Board had various questions regarding the CMT results. All day kindergarten has allowed the students to be ready for the rigor now expected. It has been a remarkable success.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - R. Levy

District Update

Dr. Levy noted that Chester's CMT results are a demonstration of the collective focus that everyone has had on academics, social development and this does not happen without great leadership. It has been wonderful to see scores which are due to the hard work of the staff and Mr. Barile. Dr. Levy had a heartfelt thank you to the Board members for being so supportive. Dr. Levy thanked James for the helping with the identification badges for the district. Security changes have been put into effect and all schools are secure. All staff members are wearing a green identification badge. Substitute teachers will wear yellow badges. Red will be worn by visitors. All Administrators met last night at John Winthrop with the three Selectmen, fire, ambulance and police to prepare for a possible emergency. This allowed us to rehearse real life skills. Training will also take place within our buildings for staff. We will be working with Shipman and Goodwin regarding the Cooperative Agreement. This will be looked at in phases. The Supervision Committee will be the body that creates and reviews the Cooperative Agreement. They will then bring it to the Joint Board meeting for discussion. Cameras have been placed on all buses.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Julie Divis asked if someone is reviewing the tapes on the buses? Dr. Levy said that there are spot checks taking place.

Ms. Divis has written a letter regarding the CMT results. She noted that she is not a proponent of standardized testing. She has twin boys who each had tremendous growth last year. She feels that placement for her children were great last year. She wanted to come to the Board with something good to say about her experiences with Chester Elementary. She feels Chester has fabulous teachers allowing children to blossom. She is very happy to be part of Chester Elementary School. Ms. King said we are fortunate to have a small community where the teachers know the students.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously **VOTED** to move into Executive Session at 8:04pm to discuss a residency matter. Dr. Levy and Mr. Barile were asked to stay.

The Board Moved out of Executive Session at 8:25pm.

On a motion duly made and seconded the Board unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 8:27pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley Frazier, Board Clerk

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- 7.1 Joint BOE Regular Meeting (October 3, 2013)
- 7.2 Next regular CES BOE Meeting (Nov 25, 2013)
- 7.3 Election of BOE Officers (Nov)
- 7.4 BOE & Community Input on 2013-14 Budget (Ongoing)
- 7.5 Presentation of Major Budget Drivers for 2014-15 (Nov)