

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE NEXT BOARD
OF EDUCATION MEETING
CHESTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
November 21, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Chester Board of Education was held on Monday, November 21, 2016. In attendance were David Fitzgibbons, Tom Englert, Becky Iselin, John Stack, Robert Bibbiani, Arthur Henick, Charlene Fearon, Maria Scherber and John Ropiak. Also in attendance were Dr. Ruth Levy, Superintendent, Kristina Martineau, Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Joanne Beekley, Principal, Garth Sawyer, Business Manager and Kelley Frazier, Clerk.

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Levy called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Dr. Levy opened the floor for the nominations for the office of chairman.

A motion made by John Stack to nominate David Fitzgibbons as the Chairman of the Chester Board of Education. Rob Bibbiani seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Fitzgibbons opened the floor for the following nominations:

A motion made by Rob Bibbiani to nominate Arthur Henick as the Vice Chair of the Chester Elementary Board of Education. Charlene Fearon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Abstentions: Arthur Henick

A motion made by John Ropiak to nominate Charlene Fearon and Rob Bibbiani as the Co-Secretaries of the Chester Elementary Board of Education. Arthur Henick seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Special Committees:

Tom Englert will join Finance

Maria Scherber will be an alternate on Policy

All other committee assignments remain the same.

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon a motion made by Arthur Henick and seconded by Tom Englert the Chester Board of Education **VOTED** unanimously to approve the minutes from the September 22, 2016 regular meeting and the Accounts Payable report.

STUDENT REPORT

Dr. Beekley introduced the CES Agents of Change who did a slide show of the anti-bullying rally they attended. Mr. Fitzgibbons thanked the students for coming and presenting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comment

OTHER ITEMS:

Community and Board Input on 2017-18 Budget

This will be delayed until Dr. Levy's report.

Principal's Update

Dr. Beekley discussed the CES town meeting to share the first session of Academies. There are new Academies this year and students are very excited about this. Things are going well.

Dr. Beekley discussed the Capital Improvement Plan. An insurance claim for Project Adventure was received. Trees need to be removed from the course. Project Adventure will then place their apparatus. Repairs should be complete next year. Mr. Stack asked if this is what we want to do with this money. Are there other projects that may be better suited for the school? This has been part of the identity of the school for years. The students enjoy this program. Dr. Levy noted that Project Adventure is something schools want to teach communication, problem solving and teamwork. Mr. Bibbiani asked how this purchase will fit into the Strategic Plan. Discussion ensued. The Board agrees that the repairs should be done.

Review and Possible VOTE to Approve CES Capital Improvement Plan for Submission to Town of Chester

Upon a motion made by Rob Bibbiani and seconded by John Stack the Chester Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to approve the CES Capital Improvement Plan and to submit it to the Town of Chester for review.

Financial Status Report – Mr. Garth Sawyer

Mr. Sawyer gave a brief update on the financial reporting for Chester Elementary. We are currently projecting a small surplus. We will remain vigilant of any unforeseen circumstances and we will keep the Board informed of any developments as they arise. We have locked in for next year's fuel oil.

Cafeteria Report – Mr. Sawyer

The subsidy has been increased.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance will be held on November 29, 2016.

Curriculum will be rescheduled.

Policy will be held on January 27, 2017.

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

Supervision District Committee Update

There was discussion regarding an additional committee who would review ideas about what we want to do in our district and to develop a financial and tactical plan. There was also discussion of how we fund our ADM billing

LEARN Committee Update

Mrs. Fearon gave an update about the LEARN Board of Directors meeting on November 10, 2016. Patrice McCarthy, Deputy Director and General Counsel for the CT Association of Boards of Ed reported on the Judges ruling on the CT Coalition for the Justice in Education lawsuit. The State has appealed the decision that was upheld by the CT Supreme Court. She also discussed the many task forces in place, including a RESC Special Education task force, addressing funding issues. Following the meeting, Mrs. Fearon and another board member from the Region #4 Board of Education participated in a focus group to provide input to the CT State Board of Education regarding its Federal ESSA application.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – K. Martineau

General Update

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Ms. Martineau discussed the K-5 Math Pilot. After piloting math programs, the recommendation from the teachers is to continue with the Bridges program, which is a good fit in all three schools. Ms. Martineau will present the experiences of working with Bridges at the next Curriculum meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

District Update – Information and Communication

It has been a busy time. The high school completed their NEASC visit. There is much work and time that goes into getting this accreditation. The report is expected in 6-8 weeks. Strategic Planning is ongoing. Scheduling for the high school is being worked on. The Veteran's Day celebration was remarkable. It was a time to acknowledge the people involved in keeping our country safe. Budgets are being prepared.

Discussion Regarding Any Pending Policies – Standing Item

No Policies to discuss.

Review Proposed District Calendars for 2017-18 and 2018-19

There was a discussion about the calendar. It is voted on at Supervision District. There are many things legislated in the regional calendar. This year Election Day was legislated as a day off for students but a professional day for teachers. The calendar is built around the children and their needs.

Discussion Regarding Supervision District Services Payment

There was a discussion regarding allocation for ADM and how we currently bill. Should the Boards bill by usage or by ADM allocation? This will continue to be reviewed. The staffing needs will be reviewed and watched. There is not a clear benefit to making any changes at this time. Mr. Stack proposed the need for a committee to plan a financial strategy for the district. This financial strategy would support the schools' strategies. It leads to tactical decisions.

Presentation of Major Budget Drivers for 2017-18

Major needs for the 2017-18 budget were reviewed. Our enrollment projections have been accurate. Chester is in a leveling off. Mr. Stack suggested showing the original projection.

He would like to go back two years. Special educators may be used in a new way. Additions to the budget include a dyslexia specialist and a behavioral specialist. A math coach has also been added for consideration for each elementary school to help our educators implement the new math program materials. The capital items include replacing the stage folding door.

In January the Board would like to have their Self Evaluation in Executive Session after the regular meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comment.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

9.1 Next Joint BOE meeting is December 1, 2016

9.2 Next Chester BOE next regular meeting January 26, 2017 at 7:00pm.

9.3 BOE and Community Input for 2017-18 budget (on-going)

9.4 BOE Self-Evaluation (TBD)

ADJOURNMENT

On motion duly made and seconded the Board unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley Frazier, Secretary