

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE NEXT BOARD
OF EDUCATION MEETING
CHESTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
September 22, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Chester Board of Education was held on Thursday, September 22, 2016. In attendance Tom Englert, Becky Iselin, John Stack, Robert Bibbiani, Arthur Henick, Charlene Fearon and John Ropiak. Also in attendance were Dr. Ruth Levy, Superintendent, Kristina Martineau, Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Joanne Beekley, Principal, Garth Sawyer, Business Manager. Absent: Maria Scherber

CALL TO ORDER

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon a motion made by Arthur Henick and seconded by John Ropiak the Chester Board of Education **VOTED** unanimously to approve the minutes from the May 26, 2016 and the Accounts Payable report.

STUDENT REPORT

No Student Report given.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None at this time

OTHER ITEMS:

Principal's Update

Dr. Beekley introduced new staff at Chester Elementary School. An enrollment report was provided to the Board. The 9th Annual Social Development Day was held on September 9, 2016. Curriculum Night was September 13, 2016.

Thomas Peterlik discussed the healthy food certification from the State of Connecticut. The school menu was based on the items that were most popular with the students.

Upon a motion made by Arthur Henick and seconded by Becky Iselin the Chester Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to renew certification for 2016-17 that all food items sold to students during schools hours, other than those covered by exemption, will meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards to qualify for CSDE's Healthy Food Certification and monetary compensation from the State.

Financial Status Report – Mr. Garth Sawyer

Mr. Sawyer gave a brief update of the financial status for Chester Elementary School for the 2015-2016 school year. Chester ended very well for the year. There was a surplus. Mr. Sawyer discussed areas of savings in the budget.

FY2016-2017

Mr. Sawyer gave a brief update on the budget. This is early in the year. We are currently starting the year with a small surplus. We will remain vigilant of any unforeseen circumstances and we will keep the Board informed of any developments as they arise.

Cafeteria Report – Mr. Sawyer

For the 2015-16 school year the subsidy to the cafeteria increased. It is expected that the same amount will be needed for the 2016-17 school year.

Committee Reports

Finance will be held on September 27, 2016.

Curriculum will be held on September 19, 2016.

Policy will be held on September 19, 2016.

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

Supervision District Committee Update

No update.

LEARN

Charlene Fearon shared the minutes of the LEARN meeting she attended.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Ms. Martineau discussed the math pilot which is moving forward. The resources are being reviewed. We will pilot two assessments in the fall and one in the spring. We are working towards math consistency throughout our three elementary schools. Next generation science had a group of K-12 educators reviewing the science practices. There will be a recommendation for resources in the future. The October Professional Development will focus on Math and Science. Science scores have increased across our three elementary schools.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

District Update – Information and Communication

We have many positive initiatives this year. We have had an excellent beginning of the year. The one to one technology has taken off in all our schools. The teachers are able to monitor students on their Chromebooks in the school and at home. Dr. Levy thanked Pam Murphy for her hard work. Because of her efforts, the rollout went very smoothly. This has moved our schools forward into being global citizens. Educators are very excited about the Google platform. Valley Regional ranked 389 in the top 500 high schools in the United States by *Newsweek*. This is a culmination of the work done in our preschool, elementary schools and the middle school. Strategic Planning will have a kickoff in November. November 13th Valley Regional will be reviewed for our NEASC accreditation. We are sending more teachers to be trained for the baccalaureate program. CIVIS has approved our district to have international students. They will pay tuition. Students will stay with host families. We would also like to develop a sister school relationship. Students from all schools in the region will attend the Anti-Bullying Rally at Empower Leadership on October 6, 2016.

Discussion Regarding Any Pending Policies – Standing Item

No Policies to discuss.

Discussion Regarding Pertinent Legislative Updates for 2016-17

New legislation regarding student privacy was discussed. All contracts that may have access to student information will have a clause that needs to be signed off. There are different levels of authorization in our district. Special Education funding from the State will be reviewed. Payments to magnet schools will also be reviewed. Evaluations for staff and administrators will be discussed. An appeal has been made regarding unconstitutional funding. She will keep the Board updated on this.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comment.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- 8.1 Next Joint BOE meeting is October 6, 2016
- 8.2 Next Chester BOE next regular meeting November 21, 2016 at 7:00pm.
- 8.3 Election of Board Officers
- 8.4 BOE and Community Input for 2017-18 budget
- 8.5 Presentation of Major budget drivers for 2017-18
- 8.6 NWEA Update
- 8.7 BOE Self-evaluation

ADJOURNMENT

On motion duly made and seconded the Board unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley Frazier, Secretary