

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE NEXT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
ESSEX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION
January 15, 2015**

The regular meeting of the Essex Board of Education was held on Thursday, January 15, 2015. In attendance were Lon Seidman, Carolyn Rotella, Adam Conrad (7:20 arrival)DG Fitton and Loretta McCluskey. Also in attendance were Dr. Ruth Levy, Superintendent, Dr. Joanne Beekley, Assistant Superintendent, Scott Jeffrey, Principal, Deborah O'Donnell, Assistant Principal, Garth Sawyer, Business Manager. Absent: Mark Watson

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Lon Seidman at 7:01p.m.

STUDENT REPORT

Mr. Seidman asked to move the student presentation up in the agenda to accommodate the attendees. Mr. Jeffrey introduced Mrs. Grace who is a first grade teacher. She introduced her students who discussed their understanding of number representation. Mr. Seidman and the Board thanked the children for coming and presenting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Loretta McCluskey made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of November 13, 2014 and the Accounts Payable report. Carolyn Rotella seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comment.

OTHER ITEMS:

Community and Board Input on 2015-16 Budget

No Comment.

Principal's Update

Mr. Jeffrey gave a brief update of the activities at Essex Elementary. He noted that the winter concert was a great event and well attended. MAP testing started last week. Comparative data will be available soon. The sign committee is hoping to present their ideas in March.

REPORTS:

Financial Status Report – Mr. Garth Sawyer

Mr. Sawyer gave a brief update of the financial status for Essex Elementary School. Currently Essex Elementary is projecting a surplus. The Administration will keep the Board informed if the situation changes as we proceed through the year.

Cafeteria Report – Mr. Sawyer

Mr. Sawyer gave an update on the status of the Cafeteria Budget. More detail of this report will be available during next month's reporting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance – L. Seidman

The Finance Committee is scheduled to meet January 26, 2015.

Policy

The next meeting is scheduled for January 20, 2015

Curriculum

The next meeting is scheduled for January 20, 2015.

Supervision District

We had two budget workshops. The increase is 2.49% which is all benefits and contractual items.

LEARN Committee Update

Dr. Levy presented at the last meeting. She presented on the manufacturing curriculum at the Middle School and the High School.

Declining Enrollment Task Force

The committee is ready to move forward in developing a plan. . Mr. Seidman discussed the changes in legislation for partially regionalized schools.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Essex Elementary School Board of Education **VOTED** to add an item to the agenda to make a request of the regional study committee for the Region 4 Board of Education.

Upon a motion made by DG Fitton and seconded by Carolyn Rotella, the Essex Elementary School Board of Education **VOTED** to ask the Region 4 Board of Education to begin the statutory process to add PreK thru 6 to the Region 4 schools.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – J. Beekley

General Update

Dr. Beekley discussed what the new school profiles will look like. They have been revamped. Items included in this reporting were briefly discussed. This reporting is a bigger picture of the district. This would change if we are regionalized.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - R. Levy

District Update

Dr. Levy reported that we are into budget season. Regionalization has been a focus in the past few weeks. Dr. Levy has also been involved in legislative priorities for special education. She also discussed our obligations to Magnet Schools. She noted that the public and staff have had great acceptance to the administrative changes in our district.

**Information and Communication
Building Committee Update**

The Town did pass this expenditure.

Discussion Regarding Pending Policies

Policies have been discussed previously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comment

ADJOURNMENT

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 7:40pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley Frazier, Board Clerk