

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE NEXT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
ESSEX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION  
May 11, 2017**

The regular meeting of the Essex Board of Education was held on Thursday, May 11, 2017. Lon Seidman, DG Fitton, Carolyn Rotella and Adam Conrad. Also in attendance were Dr. Ruth Levy, Superintendent of Schools, Kristina Martineau, Assistant Superintendent, Garth Sawyer, Business Manager, Jennifer Tousignant, Principal, Jennifer Nucci, Assistant Principal and Kelley Frazier, Clerk. Absent: Mark Watson, Loretta McCluskey

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Lon Seidman at 7:00p.m.

**STUDENT REPORT**

Reagan Doyan, Finn Boyles, Kendra Cika and Grace Lunz presented their Invention Convention entries which were presented at the state competition last month. Mr. Seidman thanked the students for coming and presenting their inventions.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Upon a motion duly made by DG Fitton and seconded by Carolyn Rotella the Essex Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of March 9, 2017 and the Accounts Payable report.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No Comment.

**OTHER ITEMS:**

**Principal's Update**

Ms. Tousignant gave a brief update. The Kindergarten orientation was well attended. Ms. Tousignant worked with Mr. Strickland, Deep River Elementary School (DRES) Principal, to model the orientation after DRES. The Evening of the Arts was very well attended. Ms. Tousignant met with the art and music teachers to discuss how we can make it better for next year. The PTO had a fundraising dance in April. It was well attended and will be done again next year.

Ms. Tousignant discussed the EES front office safety renovation and costs associated with this. This would be proposed to be funded from the sinking fund. The Board feels that these upgrades make sense.

**Discussion and Possible VOTE regarding Front Foyer Security**

Upon a motion made by DG Fitton and seconded by Carolyn Rotella the Essex Elementary Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to make a recommendation to send the front foyer security upgrade request to the Essex Board of Finance and request funds be taken from the sinking fund and not to exceed \$38,935.

## **REPORTS:**

### **Financial Status Report – Mr. Garth Sawyer**

Mr. Seidman thanked Mr. Sawyer for his years of service in teaching and reporting the financials for our district. Mr. Sawyer gave a brief update on the financial status for Essex Elementary School. Currently the budget is projecting a surplus for the end of the year. 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**

Mr. Sawyer gave an update on the status of the cafeteria budget. There was an increase in full price lunch sales. We are on target.

### **Committee Reports**

Finance - Next meeting in September.

Curriculum – Next meeting in September.

Policy – Next meeting in September.

## **OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Supervision District Committee Update**

No additional update.

## **LEARN**

No Update.

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

Ms. Martineau gave a brief update. This is assessment month. The K-12 Curriculum committees have met. There is excitement for the strategic plan and how we can impact student learning long term. Curriculum is changing to provide opportunities that are authentic so students are able to apply their learning.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

### **District Update - Information and Communication**

It is budget season. Dr. Levy thanked the work on the budget for Essex and Region 4. Both budgets were approved. Deep River and Chester's vote is in the next two weeks. The Math Coach position is a wonderful step forward for math in our district. There will be a memo sent explaining the agreement with Spiral International to bring students from China. This summer 30 students and teachers will visit for two weeks. We are hoping to have up to four students attend Valley Regional for the next school year. Host families are being requested. Congratulations to Valley Regional High School for being named number 21 out of 288 Connecticut schools in *Newsweek*. The new scheduling for next year will be a much more fluid and consistent methodology. Dr. Levy met with our legislators and the Department of Education and Labor to discuss moving the manufacturing program forward. This is something all parties want to move forward with. A meeting at Valley Regional is scheduled. The students who are part of this program may receive an advanced certificate of manufacturing. This would be an additional certification along with their diploma.

The high school received full accreditation for NEASC. It has been an exciting year for the high school. The Region 4 board has approved a Clinical Therapeutic program at the high school. This will be for only Region 4 students.

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

This will be voted on at the Joint Board of Education meeting.

**Discussion and possible VOTE to renew the Agreement Concerning the Establishment and Operation of an Interim Collaborative Preschool Program dated February 13, 2008. The Original contract expires June 30, 2012 per agreement may be renewed in 1 year increments upon agreement of all signing parties (Boards of Education for Chester, Deep River, Essex and the Regional Supervision District Committee) no later than June 30, 2017.** Upon a motion made by DG Fitton and seconded by Carolyn Rotella, the Essex Elementary Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to extend the site of the preschool for one year.

**Discussion and Possible VOTE to renew YMCA afterschool Care Contract on Yearly Basis**  
This program is working well. Discussion was held regarding if this should go out to bid. This will be discussed again next year and a decision will be made at that time. Upon a motion made by Mr. Fitton and seconded by Ms. Rotella, the Essex Elementary Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to renew the YMCA Afterschool Care Contract for one year. Ayes: Adam Conrad, Carolyn Rotella and DG Fitton.  
Abstentions: Mr. Seidman

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No Comment.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION –PERSONNEL-EVALUATION OF SUPERINTENDENT**

Upon a motion duly made and seconded the Essex Elementary Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to go into Executive Session at 8:18 pm. Dr. Levy was invited to stay.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:34pm.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Next Joint BOE meeting June 1, 2017
- Next Essex BOE Meeting is September 14, 2017 @ 7:00pm
- BOE Self-evaluation (TBD)

**ADJOURNMENT**

On motion duly made and seconded the Board unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at \_\_\_\_\_8:23p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley Frazier, Secretary