

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE NEXT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
ESSEX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION
September 11, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Essex Board of Education was held on Thursday, September 11, 2014. In attendance were Lon Seidman, Adam Conrad, Carolyn Rotella, 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 and Kelley Frazier, Clerk.
Absent: Mark Watson

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Lon Seidman at 7:00p.m. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Loretta McCluskey made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of May 8, 2014 and the Accounts Payable report. Carolyn Rotella seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

STUDENT UPDATE

No report given.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cara Paligonia discussed the need for crosswalks to be painted in our town. People are not stopping and children are at risk. She asked the school board to ask the Town to respond to this.

OTHER ITEMS:

Introduction of New Hires

Mr. Jeffrey introduced new staff members and discussed other new staff members who were not present. There is an open position in sixth grade that will be filled in the near future.

Principal's Update

Mr. Jeffrey gave a brief update on the opening of school this year. He noted that students are adjusting well. Our enrollment projections are less than anticipated. Next week the school will host two curriculum nights. Troop F conducted their roll call at Essex Elementary in August and did a walk through.

CMT-Science – Grade 5 Only

Mr. Jeffery discussed the CMT science results. He discussed the action plan to improve the scores.

REPORTS:

2013-14 Financial Status

Essex Elementary ended the school year with a surplus. We did get money from the state for the Excess Cost Grant. Meetings will be scheduled to decide how to spend this grant money.

Cafeteria Report – Mr. Sawyer

Mr. Sawyer gave an update on the status of the Cafeteria Budget. Mr. Peterlik will contact families to offer other options if accounts are not up to date. We now have the ability to update cafeteria accounts by using a credit card.

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.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance – L. Seidman

The Finance Committee is scheduled to meet on September 30, 2014.

Policy

The next meeting will be rescheduled in the near future.

Curriculum

The next meeting is September 16, 2014.

Joint PK-12 Policy Committee – L. Seidman

No Update

Supervision District

No Update

LEARN Committee Update

No Update

OTHER ITEMS:

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – J. Beekley

General Update

Dr. Beekley noted that we had our first Professional Development training with all staff members. We are now involved in MAP assessments. We will be filing with the state the data for Educator Evaluation. Teachers are more at ease with system.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - R. Levy

District Update

Dr. Levy noted that the High School and the Middle School each observed 9-11 with a moment of silence. Essex Elementary also observed 9-11 by reading a paragraph prepared by Mr. Jeffrey.

This has been a smooth opening to school. We have had a number of new hires in the district. Dr. Levy is involved in a number of different committees. She noted that we have received funding for additional security items. We will be installing video recording systems, cameras, a video management system and other items to increase security in our schools. We will be submitting an application for a grant this year which will fund additional security purchases and training. We will have consistency through all of our schools. Dr. Levy noted that we have already begun the budget process.

Information and Communication

Building Committee Update

Dr. Levy thanked Mr. Jeffrey for his hard work on this project. The boiler will be delivered soon. Administration is scheduling installation when students and staff are not in the building.

Discussion Regarding Any Pending Policies

Policy #5114 Expulsion

This will be voted on October 2, 2014 at the Joint Board of Education meeting. The Board is supportive of accepting this policy as presented.

Discuss Fall Reception

The Board agreed to have the reception October 8th. Ms. McCluskey and Ms. Rotella will coordinate this event.

There is a CABA conference on November 14th. The Board is encouraged to attend.

Evaluate Participation as Preschool Host Community per Collaborative Agreement

Mr. Jeffrey verified that space is adequate for this program. The Board and Administration agreed there are many benefits to housing the preschool for another year.

Vote to keep the preschool at Essex Elementary next year.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Fitton the Essex Elementary Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to extend the site of the preschool for one year. Ms. McCluskey seconded the motion.

Discuss Legal Services

Dr. Levy noted that she likes the diversity of Shipman and Goodwin, our current provider of legal services. They can handle all school issues. The Board feels strongly that we should continue to use Shipman and Goodwin. Professional Development is a valuable service that they currently provide.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Paligonia asked if a sign will notify the public that the school is under surveillance. Dr. Levy noted that this will be done.

Ms. Strecker noted that her kids do not drink milk, but when buying lunch they are required to take it. She asked if we have to throw this milk in the garbage? We may try to institute a plan to have this available for other students.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously **VOTED** to move into Executive Session at 8:30pm to discuss a Student Matter and a Personnel Issue. The motion passed. Dr. Levy, Dr. Beekley and Mr. Jeffrey remained at the meeting.

The Board Moved out of Executive Session at 9:13pm.

On a motion duly made and seconded the Board unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 9:14pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley Frazier, Board Clerk

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- 9.1 Joint BOE Next Regular Meeting October 2, 2014 @7:00pm(JWMS)
- 9.2 Essex BOE Next Regular Meeting November 13, 2014 @7:00pm
- 9.3 Discussion and Possible Vote re: New Sign for Front of School(Nov)
- 9.4 Presentation of Major Budget Drivers for 2015-16(Nov)
- 9.5 Election of Board officers(Nov. or after seating of new members)
- 9.6 BOE and Community input for 2015-16 Budget(on-going)
- 9.7 BOE Self-evaluation (TBD)