

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE NEXT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
ESSEX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION
September 14, 2017**

The regular meeting of the Essex Board of Education was held on Thursday, September 14, 2017. Lon Seidman, DG Fitton, Loretta McCluskey, Carolyn Rotella and Adam Conrad. Also in attendance were Dr. Ruth Levy, Superintendent of Schools, Kristina Martineau, Assistant Superintendent, Kim Allen, Business Manager, Jennifer Tousignant, Principal and Kelley Frazier, Clerk. Absent: Mark Watson

CALL TO ORDER

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

STUDENT REPORT

No student update.

Ms. Tousignant gave the Board a tour of the newly renovated front office.

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon a motion duly made by Loretta McCluskey and seconded by Carolyn Rotella the Essex Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of May 11, 2017 and the Accounts Payable report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comment.

OTHER ITEMS:

Principal's Update

Ms. Tousignant introduced the new staff hired at Essex Elementary School.

Ms. Tousignant gave a brief update. The opening of the new school year went smoothly. Professional development for teachers and a flipped classroom presentation was discussed. Bridges is underway. Professional Development for teachers in August was done. Open House was successful. There are 311 students. Curriculum night is next Tuesday. Picture days were this week. The PTO meeting was last Tuesday. The Executive Board has three new members. The Harvest Fair is October 1st. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony for the solar panels at the Harvest Fair. The Book Fair will also occur in October.

Ms. Tousignant discussed the projects completed over the summer. The office safety renovation along with painting in various parts of the building were complete. A garden has been dedicated to Dr. Beekley in the courtyard. Sidewalks have been placed near the playground.

REPORTS:

Financial Status Report – Ms. Allen

Ms. Allen gave a brief update on the financial status for Essex Elementary School. Closing the books for last year indicates that we are projecting a surplus. There have been savings in many areas.

Recurring services may need to be reviewed and it may be beneficial to go out for bid to make sure pricing is competitive. This will be discussed at each Board's meeting.

Ms. Allen will remain vigilant of any unforeseen circumstances and we will keep the Board informed of any developments as they arise.

Cafeteria Report – Ms. Allen

Ms. Allen gave an update on the status of the cafeteria budget.

Committee Reports

Cafeteria

The new Cafeteria Ad Hoc Committee had its initial meeting. All cafeterias will be reviewed. The committee will spend time in each cafeteria when the kids are there to discuss efficiencies. It was suggested that the cafeterias all move into Supervision District for budgeting purposes. This will be discussed in the future. Inviting the Boards of Finance to a cafeteria meal was discussed and thought to be beneficial.

Finance - Next meeting is September 26th.

Curriculum – Next meeting is September 18th.

Policy – Next meeting is September 18th.

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

Supervision District Committee Update

The next meeting is in October.

LEARN

No Update.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Ms. Martineau gave a brief update. There was Professional Development done in August regarding the math program using Bridges. The focus was on how to roll it out to staff. The teachers who piloted the program will now be grade level leaders to support the work. K-12 curriculum groups will focus on critical and creative problem solving. K6 and 7-12 will be broken into grade level bands. This will allow us to make sure the curriculum is aligned. As teachers become more comfortable, the next step will be to discuss supporting the communication end with parents. The three math coaches are working closely together. Next generation Science 6-12 professional development days focused on making things are aligned and planned out in scope and sequence. It is still being decided by the State Department if our district will need to participate in CMT and CAP.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

District Update - Information and Communication

It has been a great opening across all schools in the district. The administrative changes have been very positive. It is the district goal to allow teachers opportunities to grow in our district. The Math Coach positions have allowed this to happen. Dr. Levy thanked the Board for allowing teachers to move into growth positions. The Niche Report has named Region 4 number 20 in the state for schools. The Strategic Planning Process was worked on this summer. A new committee has been formed for Social Issues. This committee will present priority topics to our students and parents and to the community at large. There is an Attendance Committee to help parents and kids who do not want to go to school. The Clinical Program has 4 students. It is fluid and continues to grow. The Chester Board will have a workshop with Mr. Costa on Tuesday. The other Boards will schedule a workshop in the near future.

Due to not having a finalized state budget it is a difficult time for our state and school. Reductions in funding to schools have been very difficult. Changes are being suggested in how decision will be made for our towns and schools. One suggestion is to give the towns the ability to make decisions on budgets and administrative positions of the schools. Dr. Levy is attending a CAPS meeting on Monday.

Discussion Regarding Any Pending Policies – Standing Item

No discussion needed.

Jonathan Costa Workshop

The dates of November 29th or 30th is suggested dates for the workshop. It may be best to have EES and DRES on the same evening. Region 4 will attend another evening The Board agrees that either night would work. This will be confirmed by Dr. Levy's office.

The yearly teacher recognition reception was discussed. The suggested date is October 11th at the Corinthian beginning at 4:30pm. This will be funded by sponsors. This will be confirmed by Ms. McCluskey.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comment.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Next Joint BOE meeting October 5, 2017
- Next Essex BOE Meeting is November 9, 2017September 14, 2017 @ 7:00pm
- Election of Board Officers (Nov. or after seating of new members)
- BOE and Community Input for 2018-19 Budget(on-going)
- Presentation of Major Budget Drivers for 2018-19(TBD)
- BOE Self-evaluation (TBD)

ADJOURNMENT

On motion duly made and seconded the Board unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 8:40p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kelley Frazier, Secretary