

***THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE
October 4, 2012 MEETING
Joint Board of Education Committee***

August 23rd , 2012

A regular meeting of the Joint Board of Education Committee was held on Thursday, August 23rd, 2012 in the John Winthrop Middle School Library, with the following Board Members present:

CHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Lianne Ruty, Amy Safran (7:12 arrival), Peg Reyer, Wendy King, Nicole Sypher (7:06 arrival), David Fitzgibbons
DEEP RIVER BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Christine Daniels, Mark Malcarne, Jim Olson, Kc Nelson-Oliveria, Arthur Robbins, Liz Tracy (7:15 arrival), Dave Berardis,
ESSEX BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Lon Seidman, Adam Conrad, DG Fitton Judie McCann (7:06 arrival)
REGION 4 BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Linda Hall, Jennifer Clark (7:06 arrival), Mary-Beth Harrigan, Mario Gioco, Ann Monaghan, Elaine Fitzgibbons

Also in attendance: Dr. Ruth Levy, Superintendent; Dr. Joanne Beekley, Assistant Superintendent; Garth Sawyer, Business Manager & Jennifer Bryan, Board Clerk.

Audience of Citizens: none present

CALL TO ORDER

Supervision District Committee Chair Linda Hall called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m..

The Chairs of the Deep River, Essex Boards and Region 4 Board of Education called their respective Boards to order at 7:00 p.m. Essex and Chester reached a quorum at 7:06 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion duly made and seconded, the Chester, Deep River, Essex and Region 4 Boards of Education unanimously VOTED to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the June 07, 2012 regular meeting of the Joint Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT – no comments were made

OTHER ITEMS – none needed

REPORTS

JWMS Associate Principal Peter Foxen, who served as the Celebrate Learning Summer Program Principal reviewed the most recent session for the Boards. They had 170 students in K-9 attend from July 2nd – August 2nd. Additionally, an extended day program was piloted this year for students who would benefit from a longer service period of enrichment activities. He pointed out that 9 high school students volunteered for a total of 215 hours of volunteer service. Math and literacy skills were the focus as in past years. He shared some quotes from happy parents and students gathered from surveys. He also shared a video highlighting the different activities of the students who participated in the program. He thanked the Boards for their support of the program.

Superintendent Levy introduced Joanne Beekley, the new Assistant Superintendent and stated how pleased she has been working with her as part of a great administrative team, throughout the summer. She invited all Board members to attend convocation at 8:15 a.m. in the VRHS auditorium on Monday August 27th.

Superintendent Levy reviewed the 2012-13 district initiatives.

Dr. Levy also updated the Boards on the new VRHS Manufacturing Program being done in conjunction with Whelen Engineering, which is the only one of its kind in Connecticut. It is filled to capacity and has a long waiting list of interested students. This program meets the needs of the State requirement to allow students to explore career interests. It also meets many needs for many students at so many levels. It will require a good deal of work on the side of administration to keep up with all of the legal requirements. She is also looking into adding other local manufacturing companies into the program in the future. Although it is a Region 4 program, it is a Tri-town asset and she will be keeping the Joint BOE informed on future developments.

Dr. Levy reviewed the summer hiring at all schools – there were a few hires at each school, but lots of time was spent on administration hires. She mentioned that there are three new school administrators this year, including the Principals at Deep River Elementary, Essex Elementary, and John Winthrop Middle School. There will be an intensive induction process for these administrators. New teacher orientation started this week and included team building activities at Empower Leadership's zipline facilities in Middletown.

Dr. Levy briefly discussed legislative updates in education law. More detailed discussions will take place at the individual September BOE meetings.

Dr. Levy noted that it is time to begin looking beyond the school year. The Boards need to look forward regarding moving Grade 6 to the middle school, based on pedagogical data. She will need volunteers for a study committee that will work on preparing a recommendation to be presented to the Joint Boards on April 4th, 2013. She will also be forming a study committee exploring options for the future of the mandatory preschool services. This Committee will also come back to the Joint Boards with a presentation of recommendations on April 4th, 2013. Working concurrent with these two committees will also be the Region 4 Building Committee,

chaired by Director of Facilities Bruce Glowac. The Building Committee will be studying possible configurations within JWMS to allow for 6th graders to move into that building, if that is the recommendation of the 6th Grade Study Committee. The Building Committee will also render recommendations to the Joint BOE on April 4th, 2013.

Additionally, Dr. Levy discussed the following: Common Core State Standards, the new evaluation instrument for teachers and administrators that will be in place by next year, and issues around food services and technology.

She asked Board members to please let Jennifer Bryan know if they would like to serve on one of the new study committees -Preschool and/or 6th Grade.

Financial Status Update

Mr. Sawyer stated that he would discuss detailed financial updates for each district at their individual meetings in September.

A first reading of the BOE meeting calendar for Jan-Dec 2013 was held. Members are asked to share any comments with their Board Chair or Dr. Levy prior to the next Joint BOE meeting where the calendar will be voted on for adoption.

Dr. Levy also updated the Boards on the status of forming a cooperative agreement – She and Essex Board Chair, Lon Seidman will continue working on this to move it forward at the State level.

Committee Reports

The Joint BOE Policy Committee Chair Elaine Fitzgibbons reported that they last met on August 14, 2012. The Committee reviewed several policies and continued their systematic review of all policies older than 2002.

A First Reading was held on the following policies:

- #1110 Communications with the Public
- #1120 Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings

Policy #5145.51 Peer Sexual Harassment which was on the agenda for a first reading was tabled while administration confers with both CABA and Board counsel regarding the language and new bullying legislation requirements.

Policy #1230 Booster Clubs, also listed on the agenda, was tabled and will return to the committee for review

Board members were asked to please talk to their Joint BOE Policy Committee board representatives or Dr. Levy with any concerns prior to Joint BOE vote in October

Board members were reminded that with regards to policies being reviewed by the Committee, if no changes were deemed necessary, then the policies are marked as reviewed and they don't come before the Boards as no action is required. Dr. Levy also commented that the Committee has spent hours and hours reviewing these policies. The Committee is ready to start reviewing

the 2000 series at their next meeting. She asked for help in getting questions, comments, concerns to them ahead of time to keep things moving forward.

Joint BOE Finance Committee – Garth Sawyer reported that they last met on April 26th . They will meet again on Sept. 25th .

Joint BOE Curriculum Committee - Chair Mary-Beth Harrigan reported that Committee last met on March 20th. They plan to meet again on Sept. 18th

Ad Hoc committees – nothing to report

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Dr. Joanne Beekley provided an update on Professional Development and Curriculum. She discussed professional development in a variety of areas provided for the administration over the summer. She also discussed upcoming development for teachers, staff and administrators.

There was a short discussion regarding the process as to how goals for data examination are set to maximize student achievement.

Dr. Beekley also discussed curriculum work completed over the summer with an emphasis on the switch to full day kindergarten, as well as student evaluation methods to be compatible with the Common Core Standards. FLES has reworked their curriculum to accommodate the shift of not starting instruction until 3rd grade. Science and math curriculum had a great deal of time spent on those areas, as well as work on text complexity at the high school level in order to better prepare students for college level texts.

Dr. Beekley discussed the upcoming survey that will be distributed to grades 2nd , 4th , 6th , 8th , and 10th students, their parents and all staff during the Fall and Spring, in accordance with recent anti-bullying legislation. Letters will go out on Sept. 13th to parents. There was a discussion regarding the logistics of having these completed and some concerns that some Board members had regarding the execution and helpfulness of these surveys. Data will go to school climate teams, which include parents, to help shape the social development plans in our districts. Dr. Beekley also noted that the State said our School Climate Plan was an exemplar in the State because it also addresses social development of all students.

Dr. Beekley also provided a very general overview of CMT and CAPT scores. Detailed discussions for each school will occur at their individual September meetings.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: none present

The Board moved into Executive Session at 8:50 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – presentation of Superintendent's goals for 2012-13

The Boards moved out of executive session at 9:09 p.m.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Insurance discussion for budget planning (Oct)
2. Second Reading and VOTE on BOE meeting calendar for upcoming calendar year (Oct.)
3. Second Reading and VOTE on the following policies: (Oct.)
 - #1110 Communications with the Public
 - #1120 Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings
4. First Reading on the following policies: (Dec.)
 - 5145.51 Peer Sexual Harassment
 - #1230 Booster Clubs

ADJOURNMENT:

On Motion duly made and seconded, the Chester, Deep River, Essex and Region 4 Boards of Education unanimously VOTED to adjourn at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Bryan, Clerk