

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE
December 06, 2012 MEETING
Joint Board of Education Committee**

October 4th , 2012

A regular meeting of the Joint Board of Education Committee was held on Thursday October 4th, 2012 in the John Winthrop Middle School Library, with the following Board Members present:

CHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Amy Safran, Peg Reyer, Ashley Marsh, Wendy King, David Fitzgibbons
DEEP RIVER BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Christine Daniels, Jim Olson, Kc Nelson-Oliveria, Liz Tracy, Miriam Morrissey
ESSEX BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Lon Seidman, Adam Conrad, DG Fitton, Loretta McCluskey, Jeff Burzin
REGION 4 BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Linda Hall, Jennifer Clark, Mary Beth Harrigan, Chris Riley, Mario Gioco, Ann Monaghan, Elaine Fitzgibbons, Duane Gates

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

Audience of Citizens: Amy Petrone

CALL TO ORDER

Supervision District Committee Chair Linda Hall called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m..

The Chairs of the Chester, Essex Boards and Region 4 Board of Education called their respective Boards to order at 7:09 p.m. Deep River did not have a quorum. At 7:11 p.m., the Deep River Board of Education gained a quorum.

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 August 23, 2012 regular meeting of the Joint Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Amy Petrone – asked that the schools websites be better kept up to date. She noted that she was unable to locate cafeteria menus, and certain meetings were not on the calendar. She noted that it is very hard to find some things on the site

OTHER ITEMS – on motion duly made and seconded the Chester, Deep River, Essex and Region 4 Boards VOTED to add to the agenda a discussion and possible VOTE re: the Network Techs et al. contract.

Dr. Levy reported that the Joint BOE Negotiations Committee entered into negotiations and have reached a tentative agreement to be effective July 1, 2012 through June 22 2015. She reviewed the major provisions, all of which were already factored into the budget for 2012-13.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Chester, Deep River, Essex and Region 4 Boards unanimously VOTED to ratify the collective bargaining agreement between Chester Board of Education, Deep River Board of Education, Essex Board of Education, Region 4 BOE and Local 1303-421, AFSCME, Council No.. 4, AFL-CIO.

REPORTS

Financial Status Update

Mr. Sawyer gave a brief, high level financial update for each district. More detail will be given at the individual board meetings in March. He pointed out all Boards did well in heating oil costs. They had budgeted for \$3.50 per gallon, but were able to lock in at \$3.05 per gallon. He did note however that both Deep River and Chester have some unanticipated special education expenses.

A second reading of the BOE meeting calendar for Jan – Dec of 2013 was held.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Chester, Deep River, Essex, and Region 4 Boards of Education VOTED unanimously to approve the BOE meeting calendar for Jan. – Dec. 2013 as presented.

Dr. Levy updated the Boards on the status of the new Manufacturing Program at VRHS being conducted in conjunction with Whelen Engineering and offered to sophomores, juniors and seniors. She reported that they have had a phenomenal start to the first quarter and she herself has heard some remarkable comments from the current students. She asked them “On a scale of 1 to 10 how would you rate this program?” and some students responded with a 9 or an 8 and so she asked why not a 10? And they said it was because they want more time for the program, and would like it to run as a full year program, not just one quarter. She noted that it is a wonderful opportunity to develop career opportunities, social development and workplace culture experiences for Valley students. Board members encouraged public relations sharing with the media after the 1st quarter has been completed.

She discussed the upcoming meetings of the Preschool and 6th Grade Study Committees. They begin meeting next week. They will each meet once per month for the next 6 months and then each present a report of recommendations at the April Joint BOE meeting.

She also updated the Boards on the status of forming a cooperative agreement. It will be a crucial step and piece of the 6th Grade Study Committee’s consideration. She has just been informed that the State will award a few grants to help districts come together to form a cooperative agreements, but they have less than 2 weeks to write this grant. She is hoping to win one of these grants for possibly \$33,000 to \$50,000 to be used for legal advice and help in writing an agreement, and moving it toward a referendum, while also assisting with public

awareness. She asked if anyone has grant writing experience and/or would like to help in working on this 2 to 3 page succinct document to submit to the State. She will be working on it Monday, October 8th in Central Office at 6:00 p.m., with a goal of submitting it by that Friday. Peg Reyer, Loretta McCluskey, Chris Riley and possibly Ann Monaghan volunteered to join Dr. Levy, Lon Seidman and Linda Hall in working on this.

She notified the Boards of a corrected copy of the 2013-14 district school calendar due to a scrivener's error.

She discussed her plans to hold a legislative breakfast with newly elected Board of Selectmen members in Nov or early December. 8-9 or 9:30 in Central Office with any interested Board of Education members.

She said that in the effort to collaborate with local Boards of Selectmen and Boards of Finance she will be holding a dinner meeting on Oct. 15th for all BOE Chairs, BOF Chairs and First Selectmen as well as the Central Office administrative staff to start off budget season and help facilitate a smooth budgeting process. She's hope to help build common understandings moving forward and to assist in building the best budgets for the constituents.

She also announced a Nov. 14th parent information night with open community dinner at 6:00 pm followed by a full presentation by the entire administrative staff regarding new Common Core State Standards at 7:00 p.m. Babysitting will be offered. They are still determining whether this will be held at JWMS or VRHS.

All of the schools had a very smooth opening, and all is currently going well. She noted that this is an especially impressive feat for all involved given that we have 3 new school Principals and a new Assistant Superintendent.

Dinners at the Farm – Thomas Peterlik and Jonathan Rapp – held 24 dinners during the season, and our districts are 1 of 4 beneficiaries. Through working with them, she has become aware of just how deeply they care about the nutrition of the children in our districts and how much they give of themselves. She noted that the districts will be receiving a substantial donation from proceeds of that program.

Dr. Levy mentioned that LEARN has a new Director. Mary-Beth Harrigan asked Board members from Essex and Deep River to see if they can get a representative for LEARN's monthly meeting in Old Lyme. She highly recommends it because you learn so much from interacting with all of the other districts who also participate.

Dr. Levy reported that she is heading up the CAPSS Special Education Committee and will continue working on that throughout the year.

She handed out an article on technology based education via the use of iPads in the hands of every student. She told the Board that they need to keep in mind while enacting Common Core State Standards that everything the State is asking the schools to do is centered around personalized learning both for students and teacher professional development. She noted that with technology, every year that we stay stagnant, we actually fall behind.

Dr. Levy presented the major budget drivers for the Supervision District budget for 2013-14, representing things that are major needs for this year and moving forward. This represented a

very high level look. Major requests that they may be included in the budget include a Special Education Supervisor, math coaches for elementary schools, a speech and language pathologist, and a technology integration teacher at each school, professional development, climate controlled room in the lower level of Central office and transportation for summer programming.

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Beekley discussed PD 360, a personalized approach to teacher professional development. This is also anticipated to be part of the Supervision District Budget

Other major considerations include contractual increases, health insurance, continuation of the technology lease, and fuel costs. Detailed budget request will be presented in December, in time for budget workshops.

Dr. Levy shared ADM for next year.

She also reviewed the major components of the new teacher and administrator evaluation plan that will be enacted July 1, 2013 per State statute and has a large percentage of ratings coming from student performance. At this point is just an evaluation document and is not tied to pay or tenure. Along with this will come mandated training and professional development with budgetary impacts not funded by the State – in other words, an unfunded mandate.

Committee Reports

The Joint BOE Policy Committee Chair Elaine Fitzgibbons reported that they will meet again on October 16th when they will continue their systematic review of all policies older than 2002.

Second Reading on the following policies:

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

Discussion: No questions have been raised in the last 2 months since the first reading.

On motion duly made and seconded the Chester, Deep River, Essex and Region 4 Boards of Education VOTED unanimously to approve the following policies: #1110 and #1120 as presented.

Joint BOE Finance Committee – Garth Sawyer reported that they are next scheduled to meet on November 27th.

Joint BOE Curriculum Committee - Committee Chair Mary-Beth Harrigan reported that Committee will meet again on October 16th .

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Joanne Beekley provided an update on upcoming Professional Development planned for each school, as well as Curriculum Committee work. She continues to meet with all of the committees to assess their needs in moving their particular curriculum areas forward. Text complexity is being integrated into all curriculum areas, including non-testing areas.

She also presented the Board with a detailed overview of the Common Core State Standards. There was much discussion regarding the upcoming implementation of these standards.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No comments

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Insurance discussion for budget planning – (Dec.)

Superintendent presents draft Supervision District 2013-14 budget (Dec.)

Executive Session – mid-year evaluation of Superintendent (Dec.)

Appoint members to Joint BOE Committees for 1 year terms (Dec.)

ADJOURNMENT:

On Motion duly made and seconded, the Chester, Deep River, Essex and Region 4 Boards of Education unanimously VOTED to adjourn at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Bryan, Clerk