

***THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE
June 02, 2016 MEETING
Joint Board of Education Committee***

April 07, 2016

A regular meeting of the Joint Board of Education Committee was held on Thursday, April 07, 2016 in the John Winthrop Middle School Library, with the following Board Members present:

CHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION:	David Fitzgibbons, Arthur Henick, Robert Bibbiani, John Stack, Becky Iselin, Tom Englert
DEEP RIVER BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Michelle Grow, Miriam Morrissey, Nelle Andrews, Hadley Kornacki, Paula Weglarz, Tracy Dickson, James Talbott, Imran Munawar, Tatria Ciaglo
ESSEX BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Lon Seidman, Adam Conrad arrived 7:12, DG Fitton, Loretta McCluskey, Mark Watson, Carolyn Rotella
REGION 4 BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Chris Riley, Jennifer Clark, Mario Gioco, Susan Hollister, Lori Ann Clymas, Elaine Fitzgibbons arrived 7:10 p.m., Jane Cavanaugh, Leigh Rankin, Jim Olson

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

Audience of Citizens: none present

CALL TO ORDER

Supervision District Committee Chair Chris Riley called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

The Chairs of the Chester, Deep River, Essex Boards and Region 4 Board of Education called their respective Boards to order at 7:03 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

Paula Weglarz noted that she had already requested a correction of the February 25th minutes to remove the recording of her abstention on the consent agenda vote, as she had voted in the affirmative. The Board Clerk reported that the correction has already been made.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Chester (unanimously), Deep River (unanimously), Essex (5 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstained – DG Fitton = motion passed) and Region 4 (unanimously) Boards VOTED to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the February 25, 2016 regular meeting of the Joint Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT – no comments were made

OTHER ITEMS – None were needed

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 January.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Levy presented the revised 2016-17 Supervision District budget approved by the Committee earlier in the evening. The total revised appropriation approved by the Committee was for Six Million, eight hundred sixty seven thousand, four hundred thirty two dollars (\$6,867,432)

She noted that this is the Supervision District budget amount that the individual Boards have already voted to incorporate into their own individual school budgets. John Stack voiced his concern that funds to support a math coach position, which would directly impact students, had been removed from the budget. He would rather have seen something from administrative costs be removed to reduce the budget instead.

Dr. Levy noted that the reduction amounted to a maintenance budget on the matter. She said that nothing was lost, as the math coach was to have been a new position, and she noted that the funds still existed in the budget to maintain the current level of math support by paying for the continuing math consultants. Dr. Levy further noted that the reduction in the Supervision District budget was a good faith effort to reduce the shared budget costs at the request of the Deep River Board of Selectmen, as the town of Deep River has a particularly challenging budget this year. Deep River Chair Michelle Grow pointed out that the \$25,000 removed was only a portion of what would be needed to support the math coach, as the rest of the funds were to come from a grant. Therefore, those grant funds would not be guaranteed to be available in future years. She stated her appreciation that the Boards had been willing to make the adjustment.

Dr. Levy noted that if there is not support garnered from all stakeholders, for all of the various school budgets, then the Boards may be forced to re-open the Supervision District budget anyway, and then cuts would likely be even deeper.

Mr. Stack again voiced his concern over the choice of the funds that were removed.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Chester (unanimously), Deep River (unanimously), Essex (unanimously), and Region 4 Board (8 Yes, 1 No – Mario Gioco = motion passed) Boards VOTED to approve the revised 2016-17 Supervision District budget in the total appropriation amount of Six Million, eight hundred sixty seven thousand, four hundred thirty two dollars (\$6,867,432)

Committee Reports

Joint BOE Policy Committee Chair Leigh Rankin reported that the Committee met on March 21st and spent a long time reviewing a new policy, as well as several old policies that needed review based on their last approval date. She presented the following policies for a First Read.

- #5118 Resident/non-Resident Tuition
- #4134#4134 Tutoring
- #4138/4238 Non-School Employment
- #4147/4247 Employee Safety
- #4152.6/4252.6 Family Medical Leave Act
- #4212.42 Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus Drivers

There was a brief discussion regarding the process that policies go through prior to approval. Each Board will have time to discuss these at their individual meetings in May and then they will be on the Joint BOE agenda for a second reading and a VOTE for approval at the June 02nd meeting.

Joint BOE Curriculum Committee – The Committee Chair, David Fitzgibbons reported that they met on March 21st, 2016 and discussed the following: Testing, alignment to Next Generation Science Standards, and future work on Math and Science resources.

Joint BOE Finance Committee - The Committee Chair Mark Watson reported that their January 19th meeting had been cancelled and has been rescheduled for April 11th.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Assistant Superintendent Martineau gave an update on Professional Development and Curriculum.

She also presented the updated Teacher Evaluation Plan, reviewing the minor changes, which were basically just the updating of dates throughout the document this year. Assistant Superintendent Martineau noted that she was required to review these minor changes with the Boards prior to submitting the plan to the State as mandated by law.

Dr. Levy discussed the numerous state mandates that must be provided for by school budgets. Many of these mandates get approved at the end of the year's legislative session in the summer and go into effect almost immediately on July 1st, well after school budgets have already been voted on for the next year.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: No comments were made

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Next Regular Joint BOE Meeting, June 02, 2016 @ 7:00 p.m.
- Second Reading and VOTE on pending policies (June)

ADJOURNMENT:

On Motion duly made and seconded, the Deep River Board of Education unanimously VOTED to adjourn 7:40 p.m.

*** The Chester Board of Education stayed in Session for the following business:**

- Discussion and Possible VOTE to appoint a candidate to fill the Board vacancy until the next municipal election

On motion duly made and seconded, the Chester Board unanimously VOTED to appoint Charlene Fearon to fill the Board vacancy until the next municipal election on November 7, 2017.

*** Essex Board of Education will stay in Session for the following business:**

- Discussion and possible VOTE to accept amended budget amount

On motion duly made and seconded, the Essex Board unanimously VOTED to accept the amended 2016-17 budget in the amount of Seven million, six hundred thirty five thousand, four hundred eight dollars (\$7,635,408)

***Region 4 Board of Education will stay in Session for the following business:**

- Possible VOTE to move a recommended Region 4 Budget for 2016-17 to the public hearing on April 25, 2016 and the annual meeting on May 02, 2016 in the amount of Nineteen million, four hundred eighty thousand, three hundred seventy four dollars (\$19,480,374).

On motion duly made and seconded, the Region 4 Board (8 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstained – Mario = motion passed) VOTED to move a recommended Region 4 Budget for 2016-17 to the public hearing on April 25, 2016 and the annual meeting on May 02, 2016 in the amount of Nineteen million, four hundred eighty thousand, three hundred seventy four dollars (\$19,480,374).

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Bryan, Clerk