

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE NEXT MEETING
Joint Board of Education Committee
December 7, 2017

A regular meeting of the Joint Board of Education Committee was held on Thursday, December 7, 2017 in the John Winthrop Middle School Library, with the following Board Members present:

CHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Tom Englert, Charlene Fearon, Rob Bibbiani, David Fitzgibbons, Maria Scherber
DEEP RIVER BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Lenora Grunko, Tracy Dickson, Miriam Morrissey, Bob Ferretti, Tatria Ciaglo, Paula Weglarz,
ESSEX BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Lon Seidman, Loretta McCluskey, Carolyn Rotella (7:10pm Arrival), Judie McCann
REGION 4 BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Lori Ann Clymas, Jane Cavanaugh, Leigh Rankin, Kate Sandmann, Jennifer Clark, Mario Gioco, Rick Daniels(7:52 Arrival)

Also in attendance: Dr. Ruth Levy, Superintendent; Kristina Martineau, Assistant Superintendent, Kim Allen, Business Manager, Kelley Frazier, Substitute Board Clerk.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Paula Weglarz called the meeting to order at 7:08p.m.

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

Essex reached a quorum at 7:10pm.

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion duly made and seconded, the Region 4, Essex, Deep River and Chester Boards of Education unanimously **VOTED** to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular October 5, 2017 meeting of the Joint Boards of Education.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments were made.

OTHER ITEMS –

Introduction of new BOE members

Members from all Boards introduced themselves.

REPORTS

Superintendent's Report

High Level Financial Status Updates for All Boards

Ms. Allen gave a general overview of the district wide financial status. All boards are trending to see a surplus by the end of the year. The budget goal for Supervision District is to come in at or under 2%.

Information and Communication

Dr. Levy noted that all Boards have attended the workshop with Jonathon Costa. It is an exciting time in our district and a time of change. Assessment and building the rubric is being done with Administrators, teachers and Board members. All goals are aligned K-12 which is the source of how we move on and plan for the future.

The schedule is being reviewed. There will be effort made in scheduling meetings which do not interfere with other school activities. Supervision District had their first budget workshop. It will be a difficult budget year. The budgets for Essex, Chester, Deep River and Region 4 are being developed. On Saturday morning there is a Jingle Bell Run to raise money for our schools.

New BOE Member and new BOE Chair Workshop Monday, December 11, 2017 with Shipman and Goodwin Attorney, Kevin Roy @6:00pm in Central Office.

Possible VOTE to Revise Calendar of BOE Meetings for January – May 2018 with Regards to Start Times for the Following Budget Workshop Dates:

The meetings are all on the nights previously schedule but will begin at 7:30pm.

Upon a motion made by Tracy Dickson and seconded by Carolyn Rotella Chester, Deep River, Essex and Region 4 Boards of Education unanimously **VOTED** change the start time of the budget workshops on January 23, 2018 and February 13, 2018, February 20, 2018, March 6, 2018 to start at a later time of 7:30pm.

Dr. Levy asked if members were getting adequate financial information for their individual Board meetings. Ms. Rankin asked for a description of what is included in each budget account. A request was received about getting more detail of items in each category. A Region 4 member also requested additional reporting for categories including Budgeted Amount, Actual Amount Spent and Anticipated Expense by the End of the Year. This was requested to be reported monthly. A percentage of what has been spent of allocated budget monies was also requested. Discussion ensued regarding whether one Board Member should be able to work directly with the Business Manager. A discussion during the next Joint Board meeting will address this issue. Mr. Daniel noted that the Deep River Board of Selectmen would like districts to know the status of their budgets before the end of the year. He distributed a suggested report which he received from the Deep River Town Hall. He noted that the percentages allow you to address overages or things not being spent so that this money can be reallocated. He feels that this would be beneficial and would not create much additional work. He noted that the public is interested in this report. Mr. Gioco suggested getting an Executive Summary of the financials. This will be included on the agenda for the next Joint Board. Dr. Levy would like to structure this discussion to include what is included in each expense category and there will be a discussion of needed back up documentation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Supervision District Committee Update

Updated previously.

Second Reading and possible VOTE to Approve the Joint BOE Policy Committee's Recommended Revisions to the following Policies:

5131.21 Physical Restraint and Seclusion of Students

There is training for process and procedures done yearly for Administrators and teachers who may use this policy. The training is set up the by State Department of Education.

Upon a motion made by Jane Cavanaugh and seconded by Tracy Dickson the Region 4, Deep River Elementary, Essex Elementary and Chester Elementary Schools unanimously **VOTED** to approve Policy Number 5131.21 Physical Restraint and Seclusion of Students as written.

VOTE to Approve the Joint BOE Policy Committee's Recommendation to Remove the Following Policies from the Policy Manual:

#5136 Foreign Students Attending Schools, #5141.22 Communicable/Infections Diseases, 5141.23 Psychotropic Drug Use

These are redundant policies. Tuition is not paid if you have guardianship.

Upon a motion made by David Fitzgibbons and seconded by Loretta McCluskey the Region 4, Deep River, Essex and Chester Elementary Schools unanimously **VOTED** to approve the Joint BOE Policy Committee's recommendation to remove Policy # 5136 Foreign Students Attending Schools, #5141.22 Communicable/Infections Diseases and #5141.23 Psychotropic Drug Use from the policy manual.

First Reading on the Joint BOE Policy Committee's Recommendation to Approve Recommended Revisions to Policy Number 5132 Dress Code.

Discussion was held regarding this policy. Dress code is subjective. It is important to focus equally on both girls and boys dress code. The existing policy was decided adequate but head scarves for religious reasons was included.

Finance Committee Report

Next meeting is January 30, 2018. Dr. Clark noted that this group does not look at the finances or budget, but reviews policy, etc.

Curriculum Committee

A PE teacher from Deep River Elementary presented what they are doing with critical and creative problem solving. John Winthrop Social Studies teachers presented resources which the committee approved and will be discussed during the budget workshops. Next meeting is January 22, 2018.

Policy

Ms. Rankin discussed the policies above. Next meeting is January 22, 2018.

Ad Hoc Committees:

Joint BOE Cafeteria Committee

The group is reviewing whether the cafeteria should be run as a business a service or both. A recommendation is not yet available. Please contact members with questions. The next meeting is January 23, 2018

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Update on Professional Development

No new update on the rubrics. The Boards will discuss this and will review the next three years at the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments were made.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- 7.1 Next Regular Joint BOE Meeting February 22, 2018 @ 7:00 p.m.
- 7.2 Jonathan Costa Presents Update on Strategic Plan (Feb)
- 7.3 End-of-Year Strategic Plan Presentation on Next Steps (Jun)

ADJOURNMENT:

On Motion duly made and seconded, the Essex, Chester and Deep River and Region 4 Boards of Education unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 8:17.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley Frazier, Substitute Clerk