

***THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE
June 05, 2014 MEETING
Joint Board of Education Committee***

April 03, 2014

A regular meeting of the Joint Board of Education Committee was held on Thursday, April 03, 2014 in the John Winthrop Middle School Library, with the following Board Members present:

CHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Wendy King, Ashley Marsh, Arthur Henick, Robert Bibbiani (arrived 7:08), Rodney Alston, Vacancy, Vacancy, Vacancy
DEEP RIVER BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Christine Daniels, Jim Olson, Augusta Ferretti
ESSEX BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Lon Seidman, DG Fitton, Loretta McCluskey, Mark Watson, Carolyn Rotella
REGION 4 BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Chris Riley, Jennifer Clark (arrived 7:07 p.m.), Mario Gioco, Ann Monaghan, Jane Cavanaugh, Leigh Rankin, Laurie Wichtowski

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

Audience of Citizens: 1

CALL TO ORDER

Supervision District Committee Chair Christine Daniels called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

The Chairs of the Chester, Essex, and Region 4 Boards of Education called their respective Boards to order at 7:04 p.m.

The Deep River Board did not have a quorum.

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion duly made and seconded, the Chester, Essex and Region 4 Boards of Education unanimously VOTED to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the February 27, 2014 regular meeting of the Joint Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT – no comments were made

OTHER ITEMS –

There was a discussion regarding the Superintendent's recommendation to renew the cafeterias' Healthy Food Certification. Director of Food Services Thomas Peterlik reviewed the guidelines for the certification which the schools have participated in the last three years. This would simply be a renewal of that certification in which the Boards have approved the guidelines with the allowed fundraiser exemption. Compliance with the program provides for money back from the State on every meal sold at the schools. Chris Riley stated that he would be voting against this certification due to what he believes is inconsistency of message, by allowing the waiver for after school hour sales.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Essex Board unanimously VOTED to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to renew certification that all food items sold to students during school hours other than those covered by exemption, will meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards to qualify for CSDE's Healthy Food Certification and monetary compensation from the State.

The Chester Board VOTED (5 yes, 1 abstention - Robert Bibbiani = Passed) to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to renew certification that all food items sold to students during school hours other than those covered by exemption, will meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards to qualify for CSDE's Healthy Food Certification and monetary compensation from the State

The Region 4 Board VOTED (4 yes, 1 no - Chris Riley, 1 abstention - Jennifer Clark = Passed) to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to renew certification that all food items sold to students during school hours other than those covered by exemption, will meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards to qualify for CSDE's Healthy Food Certification and monetary compensation from the State

The Deep River Board will add this item to their upcoming special meeting agenda at which time they expect to have a quorum.

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 May. He pointed out that some boards are in a better financial position than others at this point in the year, and if all four boards were regionalized into one budget, there would be an overall surplus as opposed to the deficits currently facing some individual districts.

Dr. Levy discussed the Minimum Budget Requirement (MBR) issue as it currently affects Chester.

She reported that she had recently met with the three First selectmen, and discussed how they and the Boards of Finance feel they need to do something regarding declining school enrollment and its fiscal effect on school districts through the cost of buildings and services. She will be organizing a meeting to include a member from each town's Board of Finance and Board of Selectman, and a member from each Board of Education to being an initial discussion regarding issues related to declining enrollment. As talks progress, more and more people will be brought

into the discussion. Dr. Levy noted that all three towns and their school districts have a common problem and a common goal in facing it.

Dr. Levy noted that Joint BOE Policy Committee recommended the following policies for a Second Reading and vote this evening:

- #5114 Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process – Students
- #4111.1/4211.1 Equal Employment Opp/Affirm Action – Personnel
- #4111.3 Minority Staff Recruitment Plan – Personnel
- #4112.6 Personnel Records – Personnel

She reported that neither she, nor any of the Board Chairs or Joint BOE Policy Committee members had received any questions or concerns in the 5 weeks since the First Reading at the February 27th Joint BOE meeting.

Several questions were then raised by Board members regarding policy #5114. There was a lengthy discussion regarding a variety of issues and possible additional revisions to the current policy. The Boards decided to vote on each policy individually.

The Boards with quorums then voted as follows: *(please note that because this vote was not approved by all Boards eligible to vote this evening, the current policy will remain unchanged).*

On motion duly made and seconded, the Chester Board VOTED (5 yes, 1 no – Robert Bibbiani = motion passed) to approve policy #5114 Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process with the recommended revisions of changing the word “knowingly” to “unlawfully “ in section c and d and the word “unleaded” to “unloaded”.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Essex Board VOTED (4 yes, 1 no – Mark Watson = motion passed) to approve policy #5114 Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process with the recommended revisions of changing the word “knowingly” to “unlawfully “ in section c and d and the word “unleaded” to “unloaded”.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Region 4 Board VOTED (3 yes, 4 no – Jane Cavanaugh, Leigh Rankin, Ann Monaghan, Mario Gioco = motion DID NOT pass) to approve policy #5114 Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process with the recommended revisions of changing the word “knowingly” to “unlawfully “ in section c and d and the word “unleaded” to “unloaded”.

There was discussion among the Board regarding the failure of members to follow the prescribed procedure for addressing comments or concerns with regards to the Joint Board Policy Committee recommendations between the first and second readings.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Chester, Essex and Region 4 Boards unanimously VOTED to approve revisions to policy #4111.1/4211.1 Equal Employment, as presented.

The Deep River Board will add this item to their upcoming special meeting agenda at which time they expect to have a quorum.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Chester Essex, and Region 4 Boards unanimously VOTED to approve revisions to policy #4111.3 Minority Staff Recruitment Plan, as presented.

The Deep River Board will add this item to their upcoming special meeting agenda at which time they expect to have a quorum.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Chester, Essex, and Region 4 Boards unanimously VOTED to approve revisions to policy #4112.6 Personnel Records, as presented.

The Deep River Board will add this item to their upcoming special meeting agenda at which time they expect to have a quorum.

Joint BOE Finance Committee update – Mr. Sawyer reported that the Committee cancelled their March meeting and will instead meet next on a date still to be determined, but sometime before the end of April.

Joint BOE Curriculum Committee update – Chair David Fitzgibbons reported that the Committee met on March 17. They discussed a variety of items including school to career, the educator evaluation plan, and assessment software. The next meeting will be held on May 20th.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Dr. Beekley gave an update on Educator Evaluations.

She also reported that SBAC testing began at the high school and has gone very well. They've completed English/Language Arts and will take Math after vacation. Elementary grades will complete their testing after the Spring Recess.

Dr. Beekley reported that the PD and Evaluation Committee has met several times recently. They continue to examine evaluation plan documents closely, and they will adopt a new plan that includes the new state rubric in the near future.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: none present

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Next Regular Joint BOE Meeting, June 05, 2014 @ 7:00 p.m.

Executive Session –Superintendent contract negotiation (June)

Vote on recommendation to appoint legal counsel for 2014/15 (June)

Vote on recommendation to appoint audit firm for 2013-14 FY (June)

ADJOURNMENT:

On Motion duly made and seconded, the Chester, Deep River, Essex and Region No. 4 Boards of Education unanimously VOTED to adjourn 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Bryan, Clerk