

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE
NEXT JOINT BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Joint Board of Education Committee
February 23, 2017**

A regular meeting of the Joint Board of Education Committee was held on Thursday, February 23, 2017 in the John Winthrop Middle School Library, with the following Board Members present:

CHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION: John Ropiak, Maria Scherber, Becky Iselin, John Stack, Tom Englert, Charlene Fearon, Rob Bibbiani,

DEEP RIVER BOARD OF EDUCATION: Nelle Andrews, Tracy Dickson, Miriam Morrissey, Michelle Grow, Paula Weglarz, Jim Olson

ESSEX BOARD OF EDUCATION: Lon Seidman, Loretta McCluskey(via Conference Call), Carolyn Rotella, DG Fitton(Via Conference Call)

REGION 4 BOARD OF EDUCATION: Mario Gioco, Jennifer Clark, Susan Hollister, Jane Cavanaugh, Jim Olson

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

CALL TO ORDER

Supervision District Committee Chair David Fitzgibbons called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.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.

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion duly made and seconded, the Region 4, Essex, Deep River and Chester Boards of Education **VOTED** to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular December 1, 2016 meeting of the Joint Boards of Education.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments were made.

OTHER ITEMS

None needed

REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

High Level Financial Status Updates for all Boards

Mr. Sawyer gave a general overview of the district wide fiscal status. More detailed reports of the fiscal year's activity will be discussed at the individual Board meetings.

Information and Communication Items

Budgets continue to be worked on.

Presentation and VOTE to approve the 2017-18 Supervision District Budget as presented

Dr. Levy discussed what was included in the Supervision District budget. She is confident that we are able to meet the needs of our students with this budget. The finalized budget has a decrease of -0.47%. This will become the foundation for the elementary budgets. Ms. Grow questions whether there is a need this year for a dyslexia specialist. This would allow us time to review our needs. Dr. Levy stated that currently we use outside services for this expense and it is more costly. She asked members to contact their legislators regarding the cost to the towns for the unfunded mandates.

On a motion made by Jane Cavanaugh and seconded by Rob Bibbiani, the Region 4, Essex, Deep River and Chester Boards of Education **VOTED** to approve the 2017-2018 budget of \$6,835,149 (six million, eight hundred thirty five thousand, one hundred and forty nine dollars) as presented.

Chester Ayes: 8, Nays: 0, Abstentions: 0

Essex Ayes: 4, Nays: 0, Abstentions: 0

Deep River Ayes: Miriam Morrissey, Nelle Andrews, Tracy Dickson Nays: Michelle Grow, Paula Weglarz, Abstentions 0

Region 4 Ayes: Jennifer Clark, Jim Olson, Jane Cavanaugh, Nays: Mario Gioco Abstentions: Susan Hollister

Discussion and possible VOTE regarding an increase in lunch prices

Portion size was discussed. It may be a consideration in the future to not be part of the federal healthy food initiative. The increase in price would not be put into effect until the next school year. A survey was suggested for students and parents. It was also suggested that adult lunches be charged at the rate that it costs the school. The next steps are to meet with the Region 4 team that has been working on this and then to decide what they want to recommend to the Region 4 Board of Education. This will be placed on each individual board's agenda to discuss at a future meeting.

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

Supervision District Committee Update

The budget was passed in committee and voted on in this meeting.

Committee Reports

Policy

Next Meeting on March 20, 2017

Finance

Next meeting is March 28, 2017

Curriculum

Next meeting March 20, 2017

Ad Hoc

No update.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Update on Professional Development – Update on Curriculum

Ms. Martineau noted that the next professional development day will focus on technology. Thirty technology workshops will be offered and teachers will select four workshops to attend. The Professional Development Committee has begun planning professional development for next year.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No comments.

Mr. Seidman asked that all members consider attending the CABE meeting in Hartford with our legislators. This is on March 8th.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

7.1 Next Regular Joint BOE Meeting, April 6, 2017@ 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

On Motion duly made and seconded, the Region 4, Essex, Chester and Deep River Boards of Education unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 7:58p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley Frazier, Substitute Clerk