

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE  
December 05, 2013 MEETING  
Joint Board of Education Committee**

**October 03, 2013**

A regular meeting of the Joint Board of Education Committee was held on Thursday, October 03, 2013 in the John Winthrop Middle School Library, with the following Board Members present:

CHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Lianne Ruty, Amy Safran, Peg Reyer, Ashley Marsh, David Fitzgibbons
DEEP RIVER BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Christine Daniels, Mark Malcarne, Jim Olson, Kc Nelson-Oliveria, Miriam Morrissey
ESSEX BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Lon Seidman, 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

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

Audience of Citizens: 8

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

On motion duly made and seconded, the Chester, Deep River, and Essex Boards of Education unanimously VOTED to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the August 22, 2013 regular meeting of the Joint Board. The Region 4 Board of Education VOTED (6 yes; 1 abstained Chris Riley)

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – no comments were made

## **OTHER ITEMS –**

Director of Food Services Thomas Peterlik presented a donation to be used by the Food Services Programs at Chester, Deep River, Essex, and Region 4 Schools. The donation of \$4000 was raised throughout the summer through *Dinners at the Farm* events. Dr. Levy thanked Thomas Peterlik and Jonathan Rapp for their commitment throughout the year to the Chester, Deep River, Essex, and Region 4 Food programs, as well as their promotion and support of healthy eating for all of our students.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Chester, Deep River, Essex, and Region 4 Boards unanimously VOTED to accept the generous donation of \$4000 from *Dinners at the Farm* as presented.

Mr. Peterlik also presented a donation of \$1000 from David Harlow of White Gate Farm, in East Lyme, who hosted some of the dinners this summer. After listening to Mr. Peterlik's speech regarding the work that the districts are trying to do, Mr. Harlow asked to make a donation to the Food Services programs at Chester, Deep River, Essex, and Region 4 Schools

On motion duly made and seconded, the Chester, Deep River, Essex, and Region 4 Boards unanimously VOTED to accept the generous donation of \$1000 from White Gate Farm as presented.

Dr. Levy asked Chester Elementary Facilities Manager James Gryzbowski to stand and be recognized for all of his work in photographing and producing identification badges/fobs for all employees in every school building throughout Chester, Deep River, Essex and Region 4 including Central Office.

## **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 highlights as well as some unexpected costs that are evident at this point in the year.

Dr. Levy discussed upcoming meetings of the Preschool and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Study Committees. They will be continuing the work they started last year, and will once again be making another presentation at the April Joint BOE meeting later in the year. They continue their meetings starting next week.

Dr. Levy reminded everyone that on October 9<sup>th</sup> there is an Internet Safety Presentation for all parents that will be held at JWMS at 7:00 p.m. She stated that the presentation would be critical for parents of children of all ages.

Dr. Levy thanked all of the soon-to-be-leaving Board members. There will be quite a turnover after the November elections. She thanked each and every one for their time and dedication to the students and their community over the past several years. She wished them all the best and let them know they will be missed.

Dr. Levy reviewed the day's events regarding a suspicious incident at Deep River Elementary School and the subsequent evacuation of students to JWMS. Everything moved very smoothly. Principal Byars, as well as the entire staff's and students' behavior was exemplary. Dr. Levy

reported that the entire Administrative Team met this afternoon to debrief and review the day's events and learn from the activities of the day. She also relayed that there will be no charge from First Student for the bus transportation in this emergency situation; they considered it part of their service in a time of need. Christine Daniels asked Dr. Levy to convey to the staff her thanks, as well as that of the Boards, for the professional way the matter was handled.

The first Supervision District Cooperative Agreement Workshop was held September 30<sup>th</sup>. The next one will be held later in October.

There was a second reading on the proposed BOE meetings calendar for Jan. – Dec. 2014.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Chester, Deep River, Essex, and Region 4 Boards unanimously VOTED to approve the proposed BOE meetings calendar for Jan. – Dec. 2014 as presented.

#### Committee Reports

The Policy Committee will meet again on October 15, 2013.

Joint BOE Finance Committee – The September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013 meeting was postponed until October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The Joint BOE Curriculum Committee will meet again on Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

#### Assistant Superintendent's Report

Dr. Beekley provided the Board with an update on Professional Development and Curriculum. She handed out a calendar of professional development for certified and paraprofessionals throughout the year. She is meeting with all curriculum committees now and continuing tying curriculum to Common Core assessments throughout the year.

She briefly discussed interviews and the orientation held for substitutes. She also reviewed the handbook that all substitutes have/will receive. She said that the orientation was very well received and productive with good feedback from both new and veteran substitutes.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Amy Petrone of the Deep River PTO asked if there would be a public meeting regarding the incident at Deep River? Dr. Levy responded that there are student confidentiality issues that must be honored, and that all of the information that can be shared publicly has already been given to the parents.

#### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Next regular Joint BOE meeting is December 05, 2013.

Superintendent presents draft Supervision District 2014-15 budget (Dec.)

Appoint members to Joint BOE Committees for 1 year terms if not filled already (Dec.)

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

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

On Motion duly made and seconded, the Chester, Deep River and Essex Boards of Education unanimously VOTED to adjourn 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jennifer Bryan, Clerk