

***THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE
June 07, 2012 MEETING
Joint Board of Education Committee***

April 5th , 2012

A regular meeting of the Joint Board of Education Committee was held on Tuesday, February 28th , 2012 in the John Winthrop Middle School Library, with the following Board Members present:

CHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Laurie Rubinow, Amy Safran arrived at 7:20 p.m. , Peg Reyer, Ashley Marsh, Wendy King, David Fitzgibbons, James Gordon
DEEP RIVER BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Christine Daniels, Mark Malcarne, Jim Olson, Kc Nelson-Oliveria, Arthur Robbins, Dave Berardis, Julia Grabowski, Miriam Morrissey
ESSEX BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Lon Seidman, Adam Conrad, DG Fitton, Loretta McCluskey, Judie McCann
REGION 4 BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Linda Hall, Laurie Tomlinson, Jennifer Clark arrived 7:11 p.m., Mary Beth Harrigan, Chris Riley, Mario Gioco arrived 7:15 p.m., Ann Monaghan, Elaine Fitzgibbons,

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

Audience of Citizens: Director of Food Services Thomas Peterlik and local business owner Jonathan Rapp, Director of Technology Pam Murphy.

CALL TO ORDER

Supervision District Committee Chair Linda Hall called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m..

The Chairs of the Deep River, Essex Boards and Region 4 Board of Education called their respective Boards to order at 7:07 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion duly made and seconded, the Chester, Deep River, Essex and Region 4 Boards of Education unanimously VOTED to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the February 28, 2012 regular meeting of the Joint Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT – no comments were made

OTHER ITEMS

Dr. Levy introduced Director of Food Services Thomas Peterlik and local business owner Jonathan Rapp. She noted that both have been very helpful to all of our schools and recently donated \$5000 to our cafeterias from money raised at a Dinner at the Farm event. She said she wanted to publicly thank them and show appreciation for all they have done for each of our boards of education and all of our students. Mr. Rapp and Mr. Peterlik discussed plans for future fundraisers and donations to the school cafeterias in Chester, Deep River, Essex and Region 4 Schools. Every week at the River Tavern Mr. Rapp has a pre-fix menu for kids priced at \$10, all profits from those meals are donated to the cafeteria budgets. They would also like to hold a major fund raiser on June 9th which will be a picnic style family event. Dick Smith has already offered the use of Devitts Field. The cost of food would be reimbursed from proceeds, but all labor and other costs will be donated. The Board voiced their approval of the fund raiser and also their appreciation for Mr. Rapp and Mr. Peterlik's generosity.

There was a discussion regarding the Superintendent's recommendation to renew the cafeterias' Healthy Food Certification. Mr. Peterlik reviewed the guidelines for the certification which the schools have participated in the last two years. This would simply be a renewal of that certification in which the Boards have approved the guidelines with the fundraiser exemption.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Chester, Deep River, and Essex Boards 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 Region 4 Board VOTED (7 yes, 1 no, Chris Riley) 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

There was a second reading on the District Technology Plan. Director of Technology Pam Murphy reviewed the process used in creating this plan, which must be renewed every 3 years. She noted that there were not many changes from the last plan.

On motion duly made and seconded the Chester, Deep River, Essex and Region 4 Boards VOTED to approve the District Educational Technology Plan effective July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2015 as presented.

There was a discussion regarding the revision to the proposed Supervision District 2012-13 budget. The Supervision District Committee voted earlier in the evening to bring the proposed revised budget in the amount of \$6,261,738 (Six million, two hundred sixty-one thousand, seven hundred thirty-eight dollars) before the Joint Boards for vote.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Chester, Deep River, Essex and Region 4 Boards of Education unanimously VOTED to approve the 2012-13 Supervision District budget in the revised amount of \$6,261,738 (Six million, two hundred sixty-one thousand, seven hundred thirty-eight dollars).

REPORTS

Superintendent Levy summarized the past several very busy months spent building 5 different budgets. She noted that after 4 1/2 years of study and planning, all three elementary budgets include full day kindergarten. She's thrilled at the solid educational foundation that full day kindergarten will provide for all of our incoming students.

She also discussed the recently adopted manufacturing curriculum program at the high school that will begin next year. Contrary to needing to recruit students, they are already having to shut the door on any more students signing up due to the high volume of interest.

Dr. Levy raved about the level of professionalism by the high school students in their recent production of Titanic the Musical. By all accounts it was phenomenal. She offered many thanks to Ingrid Walsh and her team. There was additional excitement as Dr. Robert Ballard attended the Saturday evening performance and spoke with the audience after the performance.

In other district news, Dr. Levy reported that CMTs and CAPT have just finished. She also mentioned that the JWMS mini boat is on its way to Cape Hatteras for a May launch and incorporation into the curriculum next year.

Chris Riley thanked Dr. Levy for her commitment to the arts and the kids, recently evidenced by her volunteering of time to do hair and makeup for the Titanic cast.

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.

Dr. Levy presented a first reading of the 5 year strategic plan, which is a culmination of work completed over the past year. She asked for feedback to be sent to Board Chairs and discussed at May individual meetings. The plan will come back for a vote at the June Joint BOE meeting for enactment on July 1st, 2012.

Committee Reports

The Joint BOE Policy Committee Chair Elaine Fitzgibbons reported that they last met on March 20, 2012. The Committee started a systematic review of all policies older than 2002.

As a result of that review, the Committee discussed and decided to bring forward recommended changes to a number of policies that they reviewed that evening. They will continue to review older policies at each meeting. In many cases, the Committee is recommending the adoption of the CAFE model policies to update current policies.

First Reading on the following policies:

- #5118 Resident/Non-Resident Attendance
- #1000 Concept and Roles in Community Relations
- #1110 Communications with the Public
- #1112 News Media Relationships
- #1120 Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings

Any questions on these policies should be directed to Board members' Board Chair for answer by the Superintendent prior to the June 7th Joint Board Meeting.

Although listed on the agenda, the following policies were removed from the agenda to spend more time in committee before coming back to the Joint Board for first readings at a later date:

- #1210 Community Organization
- #1220 Citizens' Ad Hoc Advisory Committees
- #1230 Relations with Booster Organizations

There was a second reading and VOTE on the following policies:

- #6115.1 Religious Holidays

There were no questions during discussion.

On motion duly made and seconded the Chester, Deep River, Essex, and Region 4 Boards of Education unanimously VOTED to approve policy #6115.1 Religious Holidays as presented.

Joint BOE Finance Committee – Mr. Sawyer reported that they last met on January 30th. They postponed their planned March meeting until April 26th.

Joint BOE Curriculum Committee - Chair Mary-Beth Harrigan reported that Committee last met on March 20th. They discussed the manufacturing curriculum previously discussed. The school will be able to utilize the existing curriculum currently being used in New Hampshire by the local school and Whelen Engineering's site there.

Ad Hoc committees – no reports

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Mr. Neviasser provided an update on Professional Development and Curriculum. He reported to the Boards on the new Common Core Standards and the large amount of work the faculty been doing across all of the schools. He also mentioned text complexity, a requirement to look at what students have been reading and to challenge students to be exposed to perhaps harder levels of text than they are capable of reading on their own through book groups, teacher readings, etc.

He also talked about a focus on student success plans. Each school sent representatives to LEARN to discuss implementation of them across academic, career and social/emotional areas. We're already doing many of the things that will be expected of us.

Mr. Neviasser talked about upcoming events including the Civics Bee and Celebrate Learning program over the summer. On June 7th the annual data fair will be held, giving Board members and any interested citizens the chance to view teachers' data boards.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: 1 citizen present – no comments made

On motion duly made and seconded, the Chester, Deep River, Essex and Region 4 Boards unanimously VOTED to move into Executive Session at 7:50 p.m. for the Superintendent's self-evaluation.

The Chester, Deep River, Essex and Region 4 Boards moved out of Executive Session at 8:12 p.m.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Next regular Joint BOE meeting is June 07, 2012

View Teacher Data Boards in JWMS cafeteria (June)

Discuss Educational Transformation Project – *R. Levy* (June)

VOTE on recommendation to approve legal counsel (June)

Semi-annual First Student Bus update (June)

Second Reading and VOTE on the following Policies: (June)

#5118 Resident/Non-Resident Attendance

#1000 Concept and Roles in Community Relations

#1110 Communications with the Public

#1112 News Media Relationships

#1120 Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings

First Reading on the following policies: (June)

#1210 Community Organization

#1220 Citizens' Ad Hoc Advisory Committees

#1230 Relations with Booster Organizations

Executive Session to present written BOE evaluation of Supt /contract negotiation (June)

ADJOURNMENT:

On Motion duly made and seconded, the Chester and Deep River Boards of Education unanimously VOTED to adjourn 8:12 p.m.

The Essex and Region 4 Boards remained in session to discuss the following business:

The Essex Board discussed renewal of the contract with YMCA for their after school care program.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Essex Board of Education unanimously VOTED to renew the agreement with the Valley Shore YMCA to allow the operation of an after school program

The Essex Board discussed a need to request sinking funds to pay for the replacement of the broken boiler.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Essex Board unanimously VOTED to request a \$109,711.81 transfer from the Essex Elementary School sinking fund for reimbursement on

boiler replacement costs, removal of carpeting and installation of flooring in B-Wing, and an upgrade of the security system in B-Wing

The Essex Board discussed a revision to the Supervision District proposed budget for 2012-13 which will reduce their Essex Elementary proposed budget for 2012-13.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Essex Board of Education unanimously VOTED to approve the proposed 2012-13 Essex Elementary School budget in the revised amount of \$7,534,591.

On Motion duly made and seconded, the Essex Board of Education unanimously VOTED to adjourn 8:28 p.m.

The Region 4 Board of Education moved into Executive Session at 8:15 p.m. to discuss a Personnel matter. Superintendent Levy and Assistant Superintendent Neviasser were invited to sit in the session.

The Region 4 Board of Education moved out of Executive Session at 9:10 p.m.

On Motion duly made and seconded, the Region 4 Board of Education unanimously VOTED to adjourn at 9:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Bryan, Clerk