

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO COMMITTEE APPROVAL AT THE
February 23, 2017 MEETING
REGIONAL SUPERVISION DISTRICT COMMITTEE**

December 01, 2016

A regular meeting of the Regional Supervision District Committee was held on Thursday, December 01, 2016 in the John Winthrop Middle School Library, with the following Committee members present:

CHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION: David Fitzgibbons, Charlene Fearon, Arthur Henick

DEEP RIVER BOARD OF EDUCATION: Michelle Grow, Nelle Andrews, Miriam Morrissey

ESSEX BOARD OF EDUCATION: Lon Seidman, Loretta McCluskey, DG Fitton

REGION 4 BOARD OF EDUCATION: Chris Riley, Jennifer Clark, Jane Cavanaugh

Also in attendance: Dr. Ruth Levy, Superintendent; Kristina Martineau, Assistant Superintendent; Garth Sawyer, Business Manager, and Jennifer Bryan, Committee Clerk.

Audience of Citizens: 1 present

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair David Fitzgibbons called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. (The position of Committee Chair rotates yearly among BOE Chairs, and it rotated to Chester Nov. 2016-17). Michelle Grow was appointed Vice-Chair (as Deep River will be the next BOE Chair in the rotation). Essex BOE Chair, Lon Seidman was appointed to the position of Secretary/Treasurer.

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion duly made and seconded the Committee unanimously VOTED to accept the consent agenda consisting of the Accounts Payable Report, and the minutes from the October 06, 2016 regular meeting.

OTHER ITEMS -none needed

PUBLIC COMMENT - no comments made

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION

Financial Status – Business Manager Garth Sawyer reviewed the highlights of the Supervision District financial status updates for the current year.

Individual BOE reports

Chester – Board Chair David Fitzgibbons said he didn't have much to report. He mentioned that the biggest discussion at the last Chester BOE meeting was regarding repairs requested for the Project Adventure course.

Deep River – Board Chair Michelle Grow reported that because DRES is experiencing some unanticipated Special Education costs their budget has been frozen for now.

Essex – Board Chair Lon Seidman reported that EES recently held their Veterans Day event which was well attended. They also anticipate having an MBR issue for next year's budget due to declining enrollment.

Region 4 – Board Chair Chris Riley reported the following: Valley football won their first playoff game and will play again Monday night; VRHS held its first Scheduling Committee meeting to look at possible changes to the high school schedule; and the biggest news was the recent visit by the NEASC accreditation committee. They are now awaiting the accreditation committee's final report.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Held until the Joint BOE meeting

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Information and Communication

Superintendent Levy's main district report was held until the Joint Board meeting.

Superintendent Levy presented the second reading of the proposed District School Calendars for 2017-18 and 2018-19 as recommended by the Joint BOE Calendar Committee. There was a brief discussion.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Committee unanimously VOTED to approve the District School Calendars for 2017-18 and 2018-19 as presented.

The Committee revisited the discussion regarding the Distribution of Supervision District Services that was first raised at the October meeting. In November each BOE held their own discussion at their individual BOE meetings and tonight each BOE Chair summarized their Board's individual discussions and conclusions.

Chester BOE Chair David Fitzgibbons reported that the Chester Board determined that no change was needed, as the current system had worked well financially, systematically, and philosophically in the past.

Deep River BOE Chair Michelle Grow reported that the Deep River Board determined it should heed further study, but that there was no need to take administration or the boards off task at this time. She stated that the Board would like some considerations to be looked at at a later time, and would like to make sure that everything is as transparent as possible, but they are fine with the status quo for now. She did note however, that she will be meeting with the Deep River Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen to share the outcome of this discussion. She said that she has a commitment to town leaders to represent their views, so she's not ready to say forget it entirely, but she would be fine with putting it on hold, as again, she does not want to take anyone off task of budget development at this time.

Essex BOE Chair Lon Seidman reported that the Essex Board determined that the current set-up allows for better flexibility for administrative concerns and also provides financial assurances to absorb unanticipated mid-year fluctuations. The Board feels that there is a greater need to focus on governance as a whole, but

did allow that some parts of the Supervision District budget covering the areas of art, music, and FLES are least likely to have mid-year fluctuations, and thus may warrant a closer look at a later date.

Region 4 BOE Chris Riley said that he was all for a substantive discussion, but that would require a lot more work/study to address an issue that may or may not exist. He feels that to take that on in the midst of both budget development and discussions surrounding a lot of other initiatives throughout all of the districts, would strain the administration's and the Board's time and resources for something that represents a miniscule portion of the budget.

There was also a brief discussion regarding the larger picture and the amount of paperwork, oversight, and loss of flexibility that would occur if the current methods were changed.

Chair Fitzgibbons asked if the Committee could reach a consensus regarding whether to leave the calculations as they currently are versus reopening the topic at a later date. After much discussion it was determined that the discussion would be placed on hold for the time being and Dr. Levy and Mr. Sawyer would bring back their recommendation on the matter once the budget season has passed.

There was a brief discussion regarding the offered donation of used books on the topic of special education from Mariann Rossi-Ondusky.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Committee unanimously VOTED to accept the donation of used special education books from Mariann Rossi-Ondusky.

PUBLIC COMMENT –

None present

The Committee moved into Executive Session at 7:04 p.m. for a personnel matter to perform a mid-year evaluation of the Superintendent..

The Committee moved out of Executive Session at 7:08 p.m.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Supervision District Budget Workshop I: December 06, 2016 @ 6:00 p.m. @ CO
- Supervision District Budget Workshop II: January 04, 2017 @ 6:00 p.m. @ CO
- Supervision District Budget Workshop III (if needed): January 10, 2017 @ 6:00 p.m. @ CO
- Supervision District Public Meeting on Budget: February 06, 2017 @ 7:00 p.m. @ JWMS
- Next regular Supervision District Committee meeting – February 23, 2017
- Vote to Approve Proposed Supervision District Budget for 2017-18 (Feb.)
- Executive Session to Vote on Supervision District Staff Non-Renewals (Feb.)
- Review/approval of Supervision District Audit Report for 2015-16 (Feb.)
- BOE and Community input on 2017-18 Budget (on-going)

ADJOURNMENT:

On motion duly made and seconded, the Committee unanimously VOTED to adjourn at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

DG Fitton, Secretary,
Jennifer Bryan, Clerk