

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO COMMITTEE APPROVAL AT THE
April 16, 2015 MEETING
REGIONAL SUPERVISION DISTRICT COMMITTEE**

February 26, 2015

A regular meeting of the Regional Supervision District Committee was held on Thursday, February 26, 2015 in the John Winthrop Middle School Library, with the following Committee members present:

CHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Arthur Henick
DEEP RIVER BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Michelle Grow, Miriam Morrissey (arrived at 6:03 p.m.)
ESSEX BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Lon Seidman, DG Fitton
REGION 4 BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Chris Riley, Lauri Wichtowski

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

Audience of Citizens: none present

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Lon Seidman called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion duly made and seconded the Committee unanimously VOTED to approve the consent agenda consisting of the Minutes from the regular meeting of December 04, 2014; the special meeting of December 15, 2014, and the Accounts Payable Report.

OTHER ITEMS

None needed

PUBLIC COMMENT -

None present

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION

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

Mr. Sawyer reviewed the Supervision District Audit Report for 2013-14.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Committee unanimously VOTED to accept the report as presented.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Committee unanimously VOTED to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to return to the participating Towns of the Regional Supervision District the end of year surplus for FY2013-2014 in the amount of \$2,877. On motion further made and duly seconded, the Committee unanimously VOTED to return the appropriations to the Towns of Chester, Deep River, and Essex as follows:

Chester	\$708
Deep River	\$914
Essex	<u>\$1,255</u>
TOTAL	\$2,877

Mr. Sawyer presented recommended Supervision District budget transfers for 2014-15 based on current projections.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Committee unanimously VOTED to approve the recommended Supervision District budget transfers for 2014-15 as presented:

Object 100:	Salaries	Budget Decrease of	(\$45,921)
Object 200:	Fringe Benefits	Budget Increase of	\$26,766
Object 300:	Purchased Services	Budget Increase of	\$6,699
Object 500:	Other Purchased Services	Budget Increase of	\$9,042
Object 600:	Supplies	Budget Increase of	\$ 426
Object 800:	Other Objects	Budget Decrease of	(\$ 12)

Net Amount of Increases versus (Decreases) \$ 0

There was a discussion regarding whether or not to initiate a request for proposals for transportation services beginning 2015-16. The Committee discussed the pros and cons of renegotiating the current contract with First Student versus issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for transportation services as the current 4 year contract for bus transportation with First Student is ending this year.

Dr. Levy and Mr. Sawyer discussed their research into contract extensions versus issuing an RFP. Mr. Sawyer found that districts that had recently negotiated contracts have fared better than those who have put out full RFPs. Dr. Levy discussed her negotiations with First Student to see what they would offer for a new contract. She stated that given First Student's new contract offer, and the research information Mr. Sawyer had gathered, she recommended renewing the contract as proposed. The Board discussed and considered all of the information presented.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Committee unanimously VOTED to sign a 4 year contract for bus transportation with First Student with the following yearly increases: 2.25%, 2.8%, 3.0% and 3.0% as proposed.

The contract will begin with the 2015-16 school year and be set to expire at the end of the 2018-19 school year.

Individual BOE reports

Chester – Board member Art Henick reported that the Chester BOE has held one budget workshop to date and things look good so far. Additional workshop(s) will be held.

Deep River – Board Chair Michelle Grow reported that ice dams were causing leaking at Deep River Elementary School, but they have been managed as best as they can. She also mentioned the upcoming Invention Convention and 3rd Grade field trip to Bushy Hill. She reported that the DRES PTO will be hosting Dr. Levy to come talk to all interested citizens about adding PK-6 to Region 4. The PTO is trying to get the word out to as many community members as possible.

Essex – Board Chair Lon Seidman reported that Essex Elementary has a large MBR (Minimum Budget Requirement) problem to deal with for next year's budget. It largely stems from \$100,000 of special education costs that will not be needed next year, but still counts towards the calculation for MBR. He also reported that the new natural gas boiler is installed and is already saving money.

Region 4 – Board Chair Chris Riley reported that they concluded their budget deliberations in two workshops. He reported that Region 4 had very significant unanticipated special education costs pop up this year which will continue into the next year. As a result, the administration has removed valid budgetary

requests in order to help deal with the unanticipated costs. He feels that the administration has put together a very responsible budget and has shown great leadership. Mr. Riley also discussed the work done thus far, and still needing to be done, in order to develop a plan to add PK-6 to Region No. 4. He said the Board is very enthusiastic and looks forward to starting the actual writing of the plan on March 7th.

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.

She did discuss a recommended for revision made by the Calendar Committee for the 2015-16 District Calendar to align the spring recess dates to better match surrounding districts. The proposed new spring recess dates for 2016 are April 18-22nd with ½ a Professional Development day to be held on April 15th

On motion duly made and seconded, the Committee unanimously VOTED to approve the revision of the 2015-16 District Calendar as presented.

Dr. Levy updated the Committee on the Region 4 Board's work to develop a plan to add PK-6 to Region 4. She discussed her recent meeting with the Commissioner and others from the State Department of Education. Out of that meeting has come a written memo stating the State Department's position that a referendum to add PK-6 to Region 4 would need to pass in all three towns individually. This has always been the desire of the administration, the Boards and all those involved, so that was good news.

The Committee discussed the proposed Supervision District budget for 2015-16.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Committee unanimously VOTED to approve the 2015-16 Supervision District budget for a total appropriation of six million, seven hundred eighty-five thousand, two hundred fifty-five dollars (\$6,785,255).

PUBLIC COMMENT –

None present

EXECUTIVE SESSION – The Committee moved into Executive Session to discuss a Personnel matter at 6:48 p.m.

The Committee moved out of Executive Session at 6:52 p.m.

ACTION ITEM

On motion duly made and seconded, the Committee unanimously VOTED to approve the Superintendent's recommendation regarding staff non-renewals as presented in Executive Session.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Next Regular Supervision District Meeting, April 16, 2015

ADJOURNMENT:

On motion duly made and seconded, the Committee unanimously VOTED to adjourn at 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Riley, Secretary,
Jennifer Bryan, Clerk