

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO COMMITTEE APPROVAL AT THE
December 07, 2017 MEETING
REGIONAL SUPERVISION DISTRICT COMMITTEE**

October 05, 2017

A regular meeting of the Regional Supervision District Committee was held on Thursday, October 05, 2017 in the John Winthrop Middle School Library, with the following Committee members present:

CHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION:	David Fitzgibbons, Charlene Fearon
DEEP RIVER BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Michelle Grow, Miriam Morrissey, Nelle Andrews
ESSEX BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Lon Seidman, DG Fitton, Loretta McCluskey(arrived at 6:33 p.m.)
REGION 4 BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Chris Riley, Jennifer Clark, Jane Cavanaugh

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

Audience of Citizens: 0

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair David Fitzgibbons called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. (The position of Committee Chair rotates yearly among BOE Chairs, and moved to Chester this year.)

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion duly made and seconded the Committee VOTED (9 Yes; 0 No; 1 abstention - Michelle Grow = motion passed) to approve the consent agenda consisting of the Accounts Payable Report, and the minutes from the June 01, 2017 regular meeting.

OTHER ITEMS –

Beginning of Year Transportation Report – Frank Kulick of First Student reported on the first month of school transportation. He reported on the number and length of bus routes and the replacement of a total of 7 buses, so that everything is within contract specifications for the age of the buses. They retain 4 backup buses, and a larger passenger bus for special group needs as well. They started the year short on drivers, as is the trend nationwide, but they run continuous recruiting efforts, and are not critically short. He noted that they pay above average for the area. There were minimal route changes from last year, and the same drivers assigned to every route this year as last, so it was a very smooth start to the school year. He attributes this to a very consistent, smooth team of drivers, mechanics, and school staff who work to make it so.

Dr. Levy noted that for her administrative team it was a flawless start up; a great start all the way around and the buses were a huge part of that. She also commended Mr. Kulick and his staff due to their very accommodating manner on some special requests last year. Board member Jennifer Clark thanked him for the service that First Student has provided for her child the last 17 years and noted that the drivers have always been very friendly and competent. There was a short discussion regarding how declining enrollment hasn't yet translated to fewer buses because it all depends on where the kids live and the need for keeping route time to 1 hr or less.

PUBLIC COMMENT -

None present

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION

Financial Status – Business Manager Kim Allen reviewed the highlights of the Supervision District financial status updates for the current year. She said they are currently looking at around a \$37,000 surplus for Supervision District but that will not be finalized until the audit is complete. The District hasn't been given an audit date yet.

Individual BOE reports

Chester – Board Chair David Fitzgibbons reported that the Chester BOE started their year with a new principal, Tyson Stoddard. They are very happy to have him, and everyone has been given a chance to get to know him over the past year. The student population has been fairly stable from last year to this year, and is anticipated to remain fairly stable for next year as well. In September, the Board held a 3 hr workshop with Jonathan Costa and it was very helpful in cementing a well-functioning, cooperative board. The rest of the boards will be participating in one of these at the end of November. The focus was on translating the strategic plan and the goals onto the Board goals.

Deep River – Board Chair Michelle Grow reported they had a smooth transition into school. She discussed a summer renovation of the courtyard due to damage by tree roots. The courtyard can now be accessed and enjoyed by everyone. She also discussed the state budget situation right now, and how unsettling it is not having a state budget at the moment. She believes that the biggest hurdle as a board moving forward will be continuing to provide quality education during tough financial times.

Essex – Board Chair Lon Seidman reported that things went well for opening. The school received spotlight award for social development presented at the Bully Free Rally earlier today. The PTO's Fall Festival was held recently, and the lowered enrollment was evident, making it harder for the PTO to raise the funds they have been able to in past years. This year the school has just a single administrator, as they eliminated the position of Associate Principal with the new school year, but everyone seems to be adjusting.

Region 4 – Board Chair Chris Riley reported that after several discussions, and negotiations, the Board recently purchased property adjacent to VRHS. The purchase was made entirely from sinking funds, so they were able to do it without a mortgage, or any public financing. He noted that this was a very forward thinking plan for the future, and is an investment for a decade or two down the road.

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.

PUBLIC COMMENT –

None present

The Committee moved into Executive Session at 6:52 p.m. for a personnel matter to hear the Superintendent's presentation of her goals.

The Committee moved out of Executive Session at 7:00 p.m.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Supervision District Budget Workshop I – December 5th, 2017
- Next regular Supervision District Committee meeting – December 7th, 2017

ADJOURNMENT:

On motion duly made and seconded, the Committee unanimously VOTED to adjourn at 7:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

DG Fitton, Secretary,
Jennifer Bryan, Clerk