

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE
February 21, 2019 MEETING
Joint Board of Education Committee**

December 03, 2018

A regular meeting of the Joint Board of Education Committee was held on Monday, December 03, 2018 in the John Winthrop Middle School Library, with the following Board Members present:

CHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION:	David Fitzgibbons, Robert Bibbiani, Charlene Fearon, Becky Iselin, Tom Englert, Theresa Myers, John Stack, Maria Scherber
DEEP RIVER BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Paula Weglarz, Miriam Morrissey, Tracy Dickson, Mary Massey, Tatria Ciaglo, Matt Resnisky
ESSEX BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Lon Seidman, Mark Watson, DG Fitton, Judie McCann
REGION 4 BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Jennifer Clark, Mario Gioco, Rick Daniels, Jane Cavanaugh, DG Fitton, Michelle Grow, Kate Sandmann (7:02 p.m. arrival), Lori Ann Clymas (7:14 p.m. arrival)

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

Audience of Citizens: 1 present

CALL TO ORDER

Supervision District Committee Chair Lon Seidman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Chairs of the Chester, Deep River, Essex Boards and Region 4 Board of Education called their respective Boards to order at 7:00 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion duly made and seconded, the Chester (unanimously), Deep River (Y=5 / N=0 / abstention = 1 – Tracy Dickson MOTION PASSED), Essex (Y=3 / N=0 / abstention = 1 – Mark Watson MOTION PASSED), and Region 4 (Y=6 / N=0 / abstention = 1 – Jane Cavanaugh MOTION PASSED) Boards of Education VOTED to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the October 04, 2018 regular meeting of the Joint Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT – 1 present - no comments were made

OTHER ITEMS –

The Boards reviewed the proposed calendar of regular Board meetings for Jan. - Dec. 2019.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Chester, Deep River, Essex & Region 4 Boards of Education unanimously VOTED to approve the calendar of regular Board meetings for Jan. - Dec. 2019 as presented.

REPORTS

Financial Status Update

Ms. Allen gave a brief, high level financial update for each district. More detail will be given at the individual board meetings in January.

Superintendent's Report. Dr. Levy updated the Boards on the JWMS Principal search. An open search was conducted and the search committee concluded that they did not find a perfect match for the school. The Board will appoint an interim in the near future to complete the school year and they will reopen the search in the spring.

Chair Seidman provided a brief overview and history on legislation regarding Cooperative Agreements and work that has been accomplished in the past. He discussed the three possible options available or possibly to the boards i.e. do nothing; fully regionalize; or enter into a cooperative agreement, which would require legislative changes before that could become a true option. He discussed the challenges with each option. The next step is to continue asking the Hartford legislature to change the language by adding a cooperative agreement as one possible definition of an LEA. He noted that even if the legislature changes the, nothing would change for our local school districts unless they wanted to agree to enter into a cooperative agreement.

There was a brief discussion and Board members voiced opinions for and against developing a cooperative agreement option. Many members thanked Chair Seidman for the many years of work and dedication he has put into developing options for everyone to be able to consider.

Committee Reports

Joint BOE Policy Committee - There was a first reading on the following policies, which will now go to the individual BOE meetings in January for further discussion:

- #5141.4 Students - Reporting Suspected Abuse
- #5131.81 Students - Use of Private Technology
- #3323 Business - Soliciting Prices

There was some discussion over the current purview of the Joint BOE Policy and Finance Committees. Some members of the Joint BOE Finance Committee voiced their opinion that only they should make recommendations on any financial policy (*3000 series* in the policy manual) directly to the Joint BOE for possible action. This would differ from the current process whereby the Joint BOE Finance Committee makes recommendations on the *3000 series* to the Joint BOE Policy Committee, who then reviews those recommendations along with the policy, as a whole, before moving recommendations before the Joint BOE for possible action.

On motion duly made and seconded the Chester, Deep River, Essex & Region 4 Boards unanimously VOTED to add a discussion of the process for reviewing the *3000 series* policies to the agenda.

A discussion of the process for reviewing the *3000 series* policies was held.

There was a motion made to allow the Joint BOE Finance Committee to pass through *3000 series* policies directly to the Joint BOE for first readings and possible future action providing those policie(s) don't intersect with other policies

A discussion on the motion was held. The motion was tabled and no action was taken. The process will continue without change for the time being.

The Joint BOE Finance Committee met on Nov. 27th. Ms. Allen reported the Committee reviewed three more *3000 series* policies and sent their recommendation on to Policy Committee for their future review. She also reported that the Finance Committee decided to meet monthly, due to the many meetings missed last year due to weather cancellations.

The Joint BOE Curriculum Committee met on Nov. 27th. Committee member Tracy Dickson reported that faculty member Matt Mesite gave them a math update for middle school, and the use of math resources. The Committee will be hear a presentation on International Baccalaureate program at their next meeting.

The School Security Advisory Committee met last week and will continue to meet monthly. Chair of the Committee, DG Fitton reported that the Committee prepared budget recommendations for the Supervision District 2019-20 budget that Administration will incorporate into their proposed 2019-20 budget. Access control and emergency egress are the top two needs for that budget. They will continue preparing recommendations for each of the individual Board budgets. Any recommendations will appear as individual lines in the appropriate proposed budgets.

John Stack reviewed the recommendations of the Tuition Ad Hoc Committee for a Tuition Fee structure effective 2019-20. He reviewed the pricing model which is based on variable pricing and designed to bring more student into district(s) for no additional costs. He discussed the idea of determining pricing controls which are to not exceed variable costs from year to year. He

also, mentioned that any marketing costs should be covered by tuition income that is brought in, so that the bottom line is budget positive. First and foremost tuition is intended to be a revenue generating mechanism. There was some discussion regarding the current process by which the districts may already accept tuition fee students. It was noted that because Board policy is currently in place to allow tuition students, the current discussion and vote is only regarding the structure and amount of the tuition fees to be charged by each school.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Chester, Deep River, Essex, and Region 4 Schools unanimously VOTED to approve the Tuition Fee structure as presented (see attached) minus the “bullet points” or ”Ala cart” listings under Region 4, as the R4 BOE will make decisions regarding the specifics of those at a later date.

Assistant Superintendent’s Report

Assistant Superintendent Martineau reported she had no new updates to provide the Boards since their last individual meetings and the earlier Joint BOE Curriculum Committee report.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: 2 present; no comments were made

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Next Regular Joint BOE Meeting, February 21, 2019 @ 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

On Motion duly made and seconded, the Chester, Deep River and Essex Boards of Education unanimously VOTED to adjourn at 8:15 p.m.

The Region 4 Board stayed in session to discuss the following business:

Discussion and possible VOTE to approve payment from the capital reserve fund for invoices #2018201_#2018214 received Nov. 15, 2018 from Advanced Environmental Interface, Inc. for work associated with mandated heating oil tank removal.

The following were presented for the approval of payment, from the capital reserve fund: Invoice 2018201 - \$12,344.22 and Invoice 2018214 - \$1500.00. The invoices were for professional services rendered, related to the project.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Region 4 BOE VOTED (Y = 5 Cavanaugh, Clymas, Fitton, Grow, Sandmann / No = 2 Daniels, Gioco / Abstentions = 0 – MOTION PASSED) to approve payment, from the capital reserve fund: Invoice 2018201 for \$12,344.22 and Invoice 2018214 for \$1500 as presented for work associated with mandated hearing oil tank removal.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Region 4 BOE unanimously VOTED to adjourn at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Approved at Joint BOE meeting, Dec. 03, 2018 (minus High School bullet points – those are to be decided by Region 4 Board at a later date)

Joint BOE Ad Hoc Tuition Committee Recommendation for Proposed Yearly Tuition Fee Structure for 2019-20*

High School - \$16,500/yr. – (2nd and subsequent children at VRHS would equal \$15,500/yr.)

(Plus fees for: International Baccalaureate(IB), Advanced Placement(AP), & Virtual High School(VHS) as applicable)

- ~~IB Diploma Programme – additional \$1,000/yr. for two years, non-refundable~~
- ~~AP – Responsible for additional testing fees~~
- ~~VHS – \$500 per course where available~~
- ~~Sports – *fees dependent on CIAC regulations~~
- ~~\$1,000/yr. discount on subsequent students from the same family~~

Middle School - \$15,500/yr. – (2nd and subsequent children at JWMS would equal \$14,500/yr.)

- \$1,000/yr. Discount on subsequent students from the same family

Elementary Schools - \$13,500/yr. – (subsequent students from same family discounts as listed below)

- \$13,500/yr. 1st Child
- \$13,000/yr. 2nd Child
- \$12,500/yr. 3rd Child
- \$12,000/yr. 4th and Subsequent Children