

F.O.I. Compliance – Subject to BOE approval at a future meeting

JOINT BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Date: June 1, 2023

Regular Meeting – John Winthrop Middle School Library

CHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION: David Fitzgibbons, Rebecca Greenberg-Ellis, Lorraine Connelly, Faith Sprigg, Dale Bernardoni, Stuart Johnson

DEEP RIVER BOARD OF EDUCATION: Miriam Morrissey, Pat Maikowski, Nick Rioux, Bob Ferretti, Alyson Whelan, Lenore Grunko

ESSEX BOARD OF EDUCATION: Lon Seidman, Mark Watson, Nancy Johnston, Justin Pillion, Marjorie Russell

REGION 4 BOARD OF EDUCATION: Kate Sandmann, Richard Strauss, Lon Seidman, John Stack, Jennifer Clark, Lol Fearon, Jane Cavanaugh

OTHER ATTENDEES: Brian White, Superintendent (7:22 Arrival)
Sarah Brzozowy, Assistant Superintendent
Kelley Frazier, Clerk

CALL TO ORDER and VERBAL ROLL CALL

Mr. Seidman called the meeting to order at 7:05p.m

The Chairs of the Deep River, Essex, Chester and Region 4 Boards called their respective Boards to order at 7:06pm.

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion duly made and seconded the Deep River, Chester, Essex **VOTED** to accept the consent agenda consisting of the minutes from the regular meeting of April 6, 2023 and the Joint BOE Retreat May 6, 2023 as **amended**. Rich Daniels abstained.

Discussion held regarding attaching slides presented in the meetings to the minutes. Mr. Daniels does not feel this is necessary.

Amendments:

Dr. Clark has suggested that slides be attached to the minutes.

The following wording should be included in the minutes under the JWMS Security Project Update:

“We have had challenges moving forward on the JW Security Project. The original plan was voted on by the public in 2019. Since then there have been delays at the state level and also changes in the building codes that we now have to accommodate. We are working with our architects and the town of Deep River. It is not clear yet how this all affects the overall cost of the project.”

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comment.

REPORTS AND OTHER ITEMS

Superintendent Update

District Update/Information and Communication

No report.

Assistant Superintendent Report

General Update

Senior awards were celebrated. The Public should be made aware of the senior awards and the plans of students after graduation. The Valley Boys Baseball team were Shoreline champions.

Finance Director's Report

Held until Individual Board Meetings.

Other Items

Update on Evaluation Software Platform

Unified Talent is the platform which will be used. This is an evaluation software from PowerSchool. This will be implemented this fall and will be aligned with metrics for the Strategic Plan.

Summary of Key Provisions of the Paraeducators Contract Negotiated for July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2026.

Dr. Brzozowy discussed the key provisions of this contract

Possible VOTE to approve the Agreement Between Chester, Deep River, Essex and Regional School District No. 4 Boards of Education and Municipal Employees Union Independent, Seiu Local 506 (Paraeducators)

Upon a motion duly made and seconded the Essex, Deep River, Chester and Region 4 Boards of Education unanimously **VOTED** to approve the Agreement Between Chester, Deep River, Essex and Regional School District No. 4 Boards of Education and Municipal Employees Union Independent, Seiu Local 506 (Paraeducators)

Substitute Pay Rates for 2023-24

Dr. Brzozowy discussed the pay rates for substitute staff per enclosure #3.

Discussion and Possible VOTE to approve tuition rates for the 2023-24 school year as recommended by the Joint BOE Tuition Committee

Discussion held regarding fees for CIAC participation. This varies by sport. Discussion ensued. This will be revisited in the future.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded the Essex, Chester, Deep River and Region 4 Boards of Education **VOTED** to approve the recommended tuition rates for 2023-24 as recommended by the Joint BOE Tuition Committee per enclosure #4.

Discussion and possible VOTE to renew the *Agreement Concerning the Establishment and Operation of an Interim Collaborative Preschool Program dated February 13, 2008*. The Original contract expires June 30, 2012 per agreement may be renewed in 1 year increments upon agreement of all signing parties (Boards of Education for Chester, Deep River, Essex and the Regional Supervision District Committee) no later than June 30th.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded the Chester and Deep River unanimously **VOTED** to renew the *Agreement Concerning the Establishment and Operation of an Interim Collaborative Preschool Program dated February 13, 2008*. The Original contract expires June 30, 2012 per agreement may be renewed in 1 year increments upon agreement of all signing parties (Boards of Education for Chester, Deep River, Essex and the Regional Supervision District Committee) no later than June 30th.

Discussion and possible VOTE to approve revised BOE Meeting calendar through December 31, 2023

Upon a motion duly made and seconded the Chester, Essex, Deep River and Region 4 Boards of Education unanimously **VOTED** to approve the revised BOE Meeting calendar through December 31, 2023 per enclosure #6.

Discussion regarding general process for superintendent contract negotiations per enclosure #7
Mr. Seidman noted that language will be written and approved by legal. This will be discussed at future meetings.

Committee Reports

Joint BOE Policy

There was a First Reading of the Joint BOE Policy Committee's recommendation to update and/or adopt the following policies: These will be on the individual agendas for each BOE during the month of September, for discussion, before returning for a second reading and vote at the October Joint BOE meeting.

Update on Existing with the following:

Policy #5141 Student Health Services

Creation of New Policy

Policy 3542.44 Reserve Fund for School Food Service Accounts

There was a Second Reading and possible VOTE to adopt the following policies as recommended by the Joint BOE Policy

Update Existing with the following:

Policy #3160 Transfer of Funds between Categories (Fund Balance Section)

Policy #4118.231/4218.231 Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug Free Workplace

Policy #5114 Suspension and Expulsion / Due Process

Policy #5132 Dress Code

Policy #6162.4 Volunteers

Policy / Bylaw #9221

It was noted that the first page (a) of Policy #3160 was not discussed by the Finance Committee. Mr. Daniels feels this usurps the Board of Education approval process. Discussion ensued. Voting will be done on the 2nd (b) page of the 2 page policy. It was suggested that the Finance Committee come back to this Board with a recommendation for information found in the first page (a) of Policy #3160. Policy 3160 is for all school boards and will need to be approved by all boards.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded the Chester, Deep River, Essex and Region 4 Boards of Education unanimously **VOTED** to adopt policies as recommended by the Joint BOE per the enclosures, Policy #3160 Transfer of Funds between Categories (Fund Balance Section), Policy #4118.231/4218.231 Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug Free Workplace, Policy #5114 Suspension and Expulsion / Due Process, Policy #5132 Dress Code, Policy #6162.4 Volunteers, Policy / Bylaw #9221.

Finance

No Report

Curriculum

No Report

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comments made

EXECUTIVE SESSION – PERSONNEL SUPERINTENDENT'S CONTRACT NEGOTIATION

Upon a motion duly made and seconded the Joint Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to go into Executive Session at 7:52pm to discuss the Superintendent's Contract Negotiation.

Executive Session Ended at 8:32pm.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded the Essex, Deep River, Chester and Region 4 Boards of Education unanimously **VOTED** to renew the Superintendent's Contract as presented.

***ADJOURNMENT:**

On motion duly made and seconded, the Essex, Chester and Deep River Boards of Education unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 8:35pm. Region 4 remained in session.

Region 4 Business Only

Possible VOTE to direct the Superintendent to renew the Realtor contract with Berkshire Hathaway for a 1 year period, under the same terms, for the district owned property at Falls Landing.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded the Region 4 Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to direct the Superintendent to renew the Realtor contract with Berkshire Hathaway for a 1 year period, under the same terms, for the district owned property at Falls Landing.

Discussion held regarding have the time period being 6 months. It was decided that 1 year was the best timeline.

Update on JWMS Security Project and Timeline from Architect

Superintendent White gave a brief update. Rusty Malik was present to discuss what is needed to move forward with this project. Several options were presented. The scope has changed and additional costs will need to be incurred to move forward. The timeline and additional funding was discussed.

Recommendations from JWMS Security Project Building Committee

Mr. White discussed the process to gain approval as well as the timeline of the steps needed. Mr. Daniels discussed the Security Project Building Committee recommendation which includes having an elevator. It was recommended by the school attorney to have a referendum for funding approval.

Discussion and Possible VOTE to approve the project revisions as recommended by the JWMS Security Project Building Committee.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded the Region 4 Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to approve the project revisions as recommended by the JWMS Security Project Building Committee.

Discussion and Possible VOTE to direct the Administration to engage with legal counsel to proceed with the project revisions as recommended by the JWMS Security Project Building Committee and approved by the Board.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded the Region 4 Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to direct the Administration to engage with legal counsel to proceed with the project revisions as recommended by the JWMS Security Project Building Committee and approved by the Board.

ADJOURNMENT OF REGION 4 BOE

Upon a motion duly made and seconded the Region 4 Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 9:13pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley Frazier, Clerk