

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO COMMITTEE APPROVAL AT THE
February 28, 2012 MEETING
REGIONAL SUPERVISION DISTRICT COMMITTEE**

December 01, 2011

A regular meeting of the Regional Supervision District Committee was held on Thursday, December 1st, 2011 in the John Winthrop Middle School Library, with the following Committee members present:

CHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Peg Reyer, Laurie Rubinow
DEEP RIVER BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Christine Daniels
ESSEX BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Lon Seidman, DG Fitton, Loretta McCluskey
REGION 4 BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Mary-Beth Harrigan, Linda Hall

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

Audience of Citizens:

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Linda Hall called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Committee unanimously VOTED to appoint Wendy King as Vice-Chair through Nov 2012.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Committee unanimously VOTED to approve Mary-Beth Harrigan as Treasurer/Secretary through November 2012.

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 October 06, 2011 with the following correction:

Amend minutes to put Lauri Wichtowski as secretary signor at bottom

OTHER ITEMS

Assistant Superintendent Ian Neviasser provided a review of the Foreign Language in Elementary School (FLES) program. He reminded the Committee that last year they did make a reduction to the program for the current budget year. He reviewed the history of the FLES program in our districts. In 1996 a committee was created to research the possibility of bringing foreign language into the elementary schools. The committee researched several languages and chose Spanish for several reasons which Mr. Neviasser reviewed. The FLES program began in Chester in 2000 for K-3; Deep River in 2001 for K-4; and Essex in 2002 for K-5. Each year each school added one grade level until the program became K-6 in 2003. A new committee has been examining this issue. He reviewed the research they found on FLES programs and early language acquisition showing the importance of learning languages at a young age. He also reviewed the Connecticut Plan for academic and personal success for every middle and high school student which strongly recommends foreign language learning begin as early as possible in grades K-5 and formal instruction no later than 6th grade. He reviewed statistics regarding FLES for school districts throughout Connecticut. The Committee gathered information through a statewide survey regarding instructional specifics at schools throughout the state.

Megan Sirimongkhoun, coordinator of our world language programs at the middle school and high school also spoke. She discussed how FLES affects the Region 4 students. Early language learning has allowed for greater advancement

in the middle and high school. She noted that “Students in 7th grade Spanish assessed in 2010 proved that concepts taught in FLES created a solid foundation as evidenced by results on a summative assessment”. Assessments compared from 2005 and 2011 clearly showed that FLES allowed students to be more prepared and to excel when presented with more advanced concepts. FLES has also been shown to help the world language program in general at the middle and high school, whereby those with Spanish content early on also performed better in French and Latin. A short discussion followed and more will be discussed at the Supervision District Budget Workshops beginning on Tuesday, December 6th.

PUBLIC COMMENT -

14 citizens were present.

Miranda Barley noted that she lives in Ivoryton and is a bus driver for First Student. She complained that was she was let go from driving for Chester, and now in Essex. She feels that she has been treated unfairly and asked the Committee to review her case and reinstate her. Mrs. Hall thanked Ms. Barley for her comment and informed Ms. Barley that her comments will be looked into.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION

Financial Status – Business Manager Garth Sawyer reviewed the highlights of the Supervision District financial status updates. No major changes since the last report in October. At this time the numbers are showing that the accounts will remain within the original appropriations at the end of the school year.

Individual BOE reports

Chester Board Chair Wendy King reported that they have 2 new Board members after the election. They may also have a vacancy coming up due to a possible resignation.

Deep River Board Chair Christine Daniels reported there is one leak in the building and the town is being very helpful in dealing with it. Otherwise things are going well. The entire school recently enjoyed a social development trip to the Roger Williams Zoo.

Essex Board Chair Lon Seidman reported they met last evening with a first look at their major budget drivers. They have a need for a roof repair or replacement.

Region 4 Board Chair Linda Hall reported students are busy with both of the middle and high school musicals coming up. Region 4 is also enjoying successful sports teams and academic achievements with rigorous work in all curricular activities.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Information and Communication

The presentation of the draft of the 2012-13 Supervision District Budget was held until the Joint BOE meeting immediately following this Supervision District Committee meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT –

No comments were made

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Supervision District Committee Budget Workshops Dec. 06th, Jan 10th & Jan. 17th 6:00 p.m. CO
Board Workshop December 10th JWMS 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.
Review Supervision District Audit Report for 2010-11 (TBD)
Regular Meeting and VOTE on Supervision District 2012-13 budget (Feb. 28, 2012)
Exec Session for Superintendent's recommendation regarding staff non-renewals (Feb 28th)
Vote/approve recommendation for legal counsel for 2012/13 (June)

ADJOURNMENT:

On motion duly made and seconded, the Committee unanimously VOTED to adjourn at 7:07p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary-Beth Harrigan, Secretary,
Jennifer Bryan, Clerk