

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE NEXT BOARD  
OF EDUCATION MEETING  
CHESTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
November 20, 2017**

The regular meeting of the Chester Board of Education was held on Monday, November 20, 2017. In attendance were David Fitzgibbons, Tom Englert, Becky Iselin, John Stack, Robert Bibbiani, Charlene Fearon and Maria Scherber. Also in attendance were Dr. Ruth Levy, Superintendent, Kristina Martineau, Assistant Superintendent, Tyson Stoddard, Principal, Kim Allen, Business Manager and Kelley Frazier, Clerk.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. Levy called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Dr. Levy opened the floor for the nominations for the office of chairman.

A motion made by Tom Englert to nominate David Fitzgibbons as the Chairman of the Chester Board of Education. John Stack seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Fitzgibbons opened the floor for the following nominations:

A motion made by David Fitzgibbons to nominate John Stack as the Vice Chairman of the Chester Elementary Board of Education. Tom Englert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion made by David Fitzgibbons to nominate Charlene Fearon and Rob Bibbiani as the Co-Secretaries of the Chester Elementary Board of Education. Ms. Fearon declined. David Fitzgibbons nominated Becky Iselin and Rob Bibbiani. John Stack seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Special Committees:**

Supervision District: Tom Englert, John Stack and David Fitzgibbons. Please email Mr. Fitzgibbons for interest in committee assignments.

Cafeteria Ad Hoc committee: Rob Bibbiani.

Regional Calendar Committee: Tom Englert

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Upon a motion made by Rob Bibbiani and seconded by Charlene Fearon the Chester Board of Education **VOTED** unanimously to approve the minutes from the September 28, 2017 regular meeting and the Accounts Payable report.

**STUDENT REPORT**

Mr. Stoddard introduced Elliot Stack, Hannah Gessner and Melody Saunders who gave an update on their 6<sup>th</sup> grade science and engineering practices project.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No Comment

## **OTHER ITEMS:**

### **Community and Board Input on 2018-19 Budget**

Mr. Englert feels that this will be a challenging budget year. He noted that it will be difficult for towns to finance the state reductions. The first budget workshop is February 1<sup>st</sup>. This will be a standing agenda item until the budget workshop. Kathy Raymond, third grade teacher, spoke how important the math coach is for the math program. Kids are really benefiting from this position. The math program is rigorous and students need hands on activities to reach students who may be struggling with math.

### **Principal's Update**

Mr. Stoddard gave a brief update. He discussed the CMT Science and Smarter Balanced Data. The Grade 5 CMT science test will not be taken this year, but the field test for Next Generation Science will be given. The last year results is a transition phase. Chester did very well. Bridges and the math coach have had a huge impact in our math instruction and will help bridge the gap in our scores. Mr. Stoddard discussed the Improvement Plan for 2017-18. Eleven students attended the Bully Free Rally at Empower. There was a collection for the Food Pantry in October. The Look for the Good Campaign was completed. There have been field trips to Plymouth Plantation and the Chester Historical Society. Fire Prevention week discussed fire prevention and safety. In November there was a dedication of the nature trail to Elizabeth Buckley. The Veteran's Day assembly was a wonderful program. Mr. Tyson read two letters of thanks from Veterans for the Veteran's program.

## **REPORTS:**

### **Financial Status Report – Ms. Allen**

Ms. Allen gave a brief update. At this time, it is expected that there will be a small surplus of approximately \$22,000. This is from salary and benefit lines. She will keep the board informed of changes.

### **Cafeteria**

No additional comments.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Finance**

The next meeting is November 27, 2017.

### **Curriculum**

The next meeting is November 27, 2017.

### **Policy**

A first read was done on Physical Restraint and Seclusion at the Joint Board Meeting. This is rarely used. Questions should be emailed to Dr. Levy.

## **OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Supervision District Committee Update**

The district transportation update was given. Finding enough drivers is an issue. There was an update regarding the land purchase. The audit is scheduled to begin in January.

## **LEARN**

Overview of the 5 year \$15,000,000 grant to support the magnet schools support of their programs.

### **Ad Hoc Cafeteria Committee**

The Committee toured Valley Regional High School, John Winthrop Middle School and Deep River Elementary school. Accommodations have been made and the food is wonderful. Reporting is done for each school. This is labor intensive and costly. The high school students like the many things offered and the flexibility. Forty nine percent of students purchase food from the cafeteria. Sharing staff and becoming more efficient between schools is important. Mr. Stack feels that sharing these costs is the right thing to do and we need to find a way to do this. Dr. Levy has worked at the state level to get Supervision District to be its own district. The state has been reluctant to do this. If this happens more things could be moved into Supervision District. Mr. Stack feels that there may be ways to deal with this. The next meeting is after the holidays.

### **Assistant Superintendent's Report**

Ms. Martineau gave a brief update. She discussed the rubrics. The Professional Development Committee has worked with the K-12 rubrics. The rubrics are being piloted throughout the district. Alignment has been developed K-12, for critical and creative problem solving. Feedback is being collected. Lesson plans and design templates are the next step. The Math Curriculum and math coach are providing wonderful support. The structure of the Tech Summit Professional day will be reviewed to support critical and creative problem solving. CMT Science is not going to occur this year. Next generation science will become the focus.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

### **District Update**

#### **Critical Thinking and Creative Problem Solving**

Goal setting is the focus. All Boards will be aligned with our goals. We are functioning as a K-12 district. Chester will have a workshop with Jonathon Costa. Alignment of all Boards will be presented to move our initiatives forward. There will also be a new board member workshop with Shipman and Goodwin and CABE. The Regional Calendar Committee will be meeting. The Social and Emotional Wellness Committee is a collaborative effort with Tri-town. The Courage to Speak Foundation will present on November 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at John Winthrop. They will also meet with the middle school and high school kids to discuss the opioid crisis and mental health issues. Anxiety and resiliency will be discussed in two additional programs. Administrators are working with a consultant to review a coaching model for working with teachers on what excellent instruction looks like. Walk throughs will be done to identify excellent practice.

#### **Information and Communication**

The state now has a budget. There are many unfunded mandates. A mentorship program for new educators is still a mandatory activity, but the expense for this has been transferred to the district. ECS funds from the State were reduced.

#### **Discussion Regarding Any Pending Policies – Standing Item**

##### **#5131.21 Physical Restraint and Seclusion of Students**

No additional information.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

Mr. Fitzgibbons asked the Board members to look for people who would be interested in serving on the Board of Education. Two seats are open and all Democratic seats are filled. Mr. Bibbiani questioned the need for nine members. Mr. Fitzgibbons stated that it could only be changed by town ordinance. Mr. G stated that this is something the Selectmen will be reviewing. No action was taken at this time.

#### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Next Joint BOE meeting December 7, 2017 at 7:00pm
- Next Chester BOE Meeting is January 25, 2018 @ 7:00pm
- BOE and Community Input for 2018-19 Budget(on-going)
- BOE Self-evaluation (TBD)

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

On motion duly made and seconded the Board unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 8:35p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley Frazier, Secretary