

**JOINT BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**

**Date:** April 6, 2023

**Regular Meeting – John Winthrop Middle School Library**

CHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION: David Fitzgibbons, Maria Scherber, Rebecca Greenberg-Ellis, Lorraine Connelly, Faith Sprigg

DEEP RIVER BOARD OF EDUCATION: Miriam Morrissey, Pat Maikowski, Nick Rioux, Melissa McIntyre, Bob Ferretti, Lenore Grunko, Betsy Scholfield, Alyson Whelan, Robert Ferretti

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

Also in attendance: Brian White, Superintendent; Sarah Brzozowy, Assistant Superintendent; Robert Grissom, Finance Director; Thomas Peterlik, Director of Food Services

**CALL TO ORDER** and Verbal Roll Call

Mr. Seidman called the meeting to order at 7:01p.m

The Chairs of the Deep River, Essex and Region 4 Boards called their respective Boards to order at 7:02pm.  
*(Note: Chester did not have a quorum and did not gain a quorum during the meeting. All votes missed by the Chester BOE will be taken at their next regularly scheduled BOE meeting on May 25<sup>th</sup>).*

**CONSENT AGENDA**

On motion duly made and seconded the Deep River, Essex and Region 4 Boards unanimously **VOTED** to accept the consent agenda consisting of the minutes from the regular meeting of February 23, 2023.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No Comment.

**REPORTS AND OTHER ITEMS**

**Superintendent Update**

**District Update/Information and Communication**

Mr. White provided a security update of the audit that is being done. Three sites have been completed. Two schools and Central Office will be done in April. A group of emergency responders from all three towns will review this information and recommendations will be shared with Board members. Training will be done after the recommendations are received. A committee will meet to discuss the Capital Plan for all Regional schools after the Spring break. A Board retreat has been scheduled for May 6<sup>th</sup> to discuss a facilities master plan, capital needs and cost. Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance members from all three towns will be invited.

**Assistant Superintendent Report**

**General Update**

No Update.

## **Finance Director's Report**

Held until Individual Board Meetings.

## **Other Items**

### **Presentation of Healthy Food Certification**

Mr. Peterlik discussed the healthy food certification reimbursement and items for purchase.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded the Region 4, Essex Elementary and Deep River Elementary Boards of Education unanimously **VOTED** to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to vote "yes" on implementing the healthy food option of C.G.S. Section 10-215f and to approve the following motion language for the healthy food option: Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-21f, the Board of education or governing authority certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all time and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded the Region 4, Essex Elementary and Deep River Elementary Boards of Education unanimously **VOTED** to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to vote "yes" to allow food and beverage exemptions and approve the following motion language: The board of education or governing authority will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The "regular school day" is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food and beverage sales.

### **Universal Screener Pilot for 2023-24 – S. Brzozowy**

Dr. Brzozowy gave a presentation discussing the need for a Universal Screener and their function.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Policy**

**A First Reading was held on the following policies**, as recommended by the Joint BOE Policy Committee. These will be discussed at individual BOE meetings in May, before coming back in June for a second reading and vote:

### **Update Existing with the following:**

Policy #3160 Transfer of Funds between Categories (Fund Balance Section) (encl #2)

Policy #4118.231/4218.231 Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug Free Workplace (encl # 3)

Policy #5114 Suspension and Expulsion / Due Process (encl # 4)

Policy #5132 Dress Code (encl # 5)

Policy #6162.4 Volunteers (encl # 6)

Policy / Bylaw #9221 (encl # 7)

**A Second Reading was held on the following policies as recommended by the Joint BOE Policy Committee**

**Update Existing with the following:**

- Policy #1110.1 Communication – Parent Involvement (encl #8)
- Policy #1324 Fundraising (encl # 9)
- Policy #1331 Prohibition Against Smoking (encl # 10)
- Policy #3171.1 Non-lapsing Education Fund (encl #11)
- Policy #3542 School Lunch Service (encl # 12)
- Policy #4122 Evaluation, Termination, and non-Renewal of Athletic Coaches (encl #13)
- Policy #5113/5113.2 Attendance / Truancy (encl #14)
- Policy #5131.6 Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Use by Students (encl #15)
- Policy #5131.911 Bullying (encl #16)

**Adopt New:**

- Policy #3542.22 Food Services Personnel Code of Conduct (encl #17)
- Policy #3542.41 Food Services Personnel Professional Standards (encl # 18)
- Policy #3542.43 Charging Policy Food Service (encl # 19)
- Policy #4118.234 Psychotropic Drug Use (encl # 20)
- Policy #5131.62 Chemical Health for Student Athletes (encl # 21)
- Policy #5144.4 Physical Exercise and Discipline of Students (encl # 22)
- Policy #5163 Policy to Improve Completion Rates of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) (encl # 23)
- Policy #6141.51 Enrollment in an Advanced Course or Program and Challenging Curriculum (encl # 24)
- Policy #6172.1 Equitable Identification of Gifted and Talented Students (encl #25)

Upon a motion duly made and seconded the Region 4, Essex Elementary and Deep River Elementary Boards of Education unanimously **VOTED** to adopt the above listed policies (encl #8 - #25) as presented.

**Finance**

No Report

**Curriculum**

No Report

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No Comments made

**\*ADJOURNMENT:**

On motion duly made and seconded, the Essex and Deep River Boards of Education unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 7:45p.m.

\*Region 4 remained in session to discuss the following business:

There was a discussion regarding the approval of payment to East Coast Sports Surfaces from the capital reserve account for emergency crack repair and repainting of the VRHS tennis courts. This work is expected to be reimbursed by the state.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded the Region 4 Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to approve payment to East Coast Sports Surfaces in the amount of \$12,732 from the capital reserve account for emergency crack repair and repainting of the VRHS Tennis Courts.

Two potential donations were discussed.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded the Region 4 Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to accept a donation of \$500 from the Lee Co. to be used at the discretion of the administration to benefit the VRHS Robotics Program.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded the Region 4 Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to accept a donation of \$4,000 to JWMS from the R4 Foundation to be used at the discretion of the administration to enhance the technology education classroom with virtual reality headsets.

A discussion was held regarding the security update at John Winthrop. We've 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

#### **ADJOURNMENT OF REGION 4 BOE**

Upon a motion duly made and seconded the Region 4 Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 8:20pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley Frazier, Clerk

# **Universal Screener Assessment**

Chester, Deep River, Essex, and Region 4

2023-2024 Pilot Program

# What is a Universal Screener?

Universal Screening uses a systematic process for identifying students who may be at risk of not meeting learning outcomes, including academic, behavioral, social, emotional, school completion, and college and career readiness outcomes. For our purposes this evening, we are focusing on academics.

## How Often?

Minimally three times a year: Fall (September), Winter (January), Spring (May)

# Why do we need it?

Universal screening is the process of assessing all students to identify individuals who are at risk or in need of more individualized support (Hughes & Dexter, 2008).

Universal screening data are used in two ways.

- Used to determine if core instruction is sufficient for at least 80% of students.
- Used to identify students who need additional support or enrichment.

# Grade Level

- All students: Grades 3-9
- Select students in Grade 10
- Exploring options for K-2

Any chosen universal screener would be aligned with grade level standards and be a predictor of success on other assessments like Smarter Balanced

Grade 9 assessment would allow measure of transition from grade 8-9 as well as future success on SAT

K-2 assessments are being evaluated currently but will help provide additional information regarding early skills

# Process for Choosing Screener?

Teachers in all 5 schools had an opportunity to pilot one of the 4 assessments

Teachers provided feedback via written/email, Google Form, in person conversation, Google meet

## 4 Assessments Piloted

- STAR
- Aimsweb
- **iReady**
- NWEA/Map

## **Screener Cost**

Cost of program:

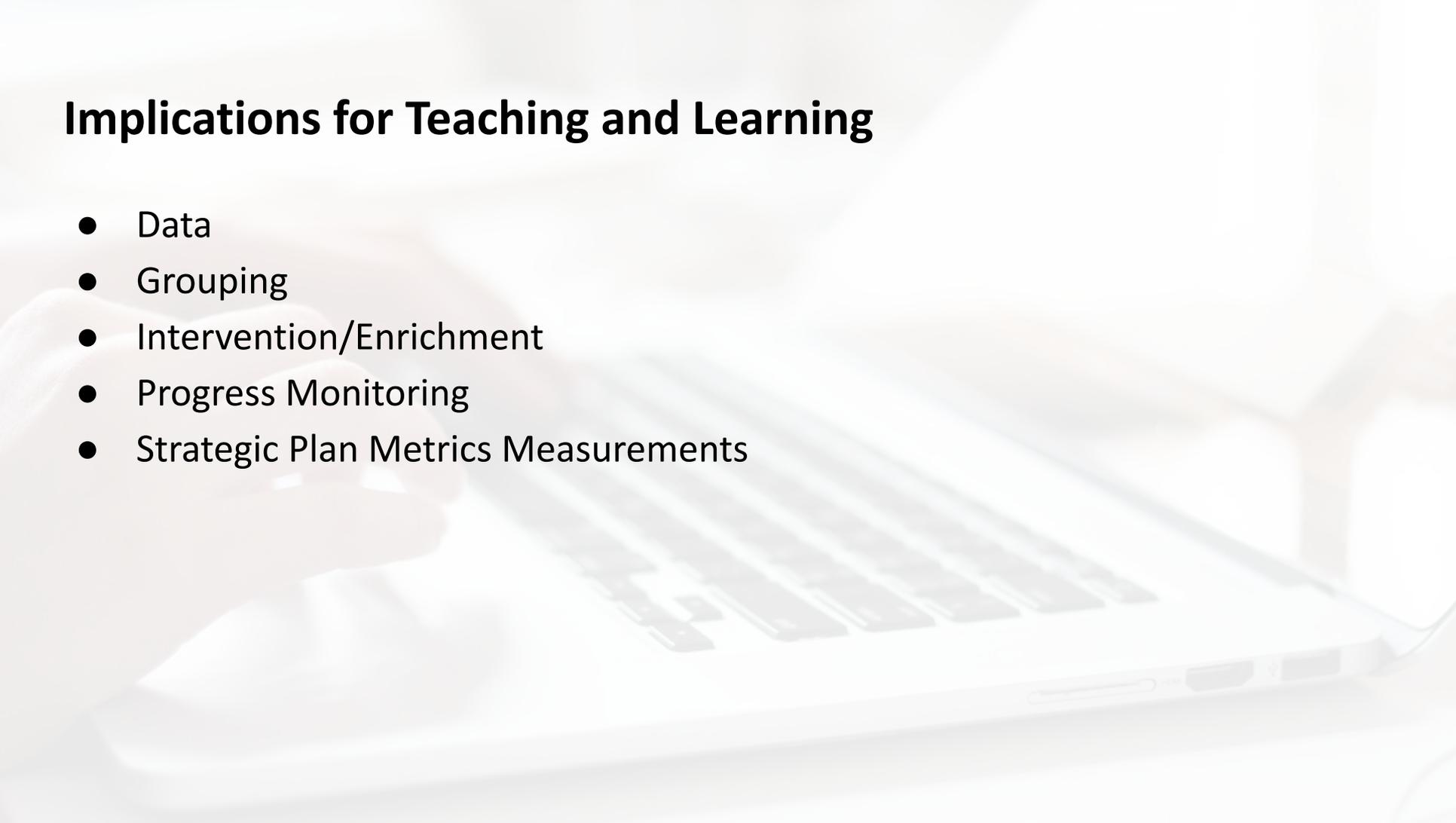
- Professional Development = \$2500
- Per Pupil cost \$14.50/per student

*We will be leveraging grant dollars for the purposes of the 2023-2024 pilot. A successful pilot could result in a budgetary ask for 2024-2025.*

## **Other Districts Implementing iReady**

- 133 districts in the state of Connecticut
- Approximately 13,000 districts nationwide

# Implications for Teaching and Learning



- Data
- Grouping
- Intervention/Enrichment
- Progress Monitoring
- Strategic Plan Metrics Measurements