

**DEEP RIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING  
DRES LIBRARY  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2023 7:00pm**

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Morrissey called the meeting to order at 7:07pm.

**VERBAL ROLL CALL FOR BOE MEMBERS**

<b>Deep River BOE</b>	<b>Administration</b>
Miriam Morrissey	Brian White
Scott Hallden	Josh Torchia
Bob Ferretti	Sarah Brzozowy
Alyson Whelan	Robert Grissom
Lenore Grunko	
Betsy Scholfield	
Melissa McIntyre	
<b>Absent:</b> Nick Rioux, Pat Maikowski	
Other Attendees: Kelley Frazier, Clerk	

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Upon a motion duly made and seconded the Deep River Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to combine the consent agenda and accounts payable report into one vote.  
Mr. Grissom answer questions asked by members. Ms. Grunko discussed the food scrap program and the savings that could be realized.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded the Deep River Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on May 18, 2023 and the Accounts Payable report as written.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No Comment

**REPORTS AND OTHER ITEMS:**

**Deep River Elementary Student Representatives**

Zuhany Nieuwoudt gave the student report and update of activities at the school.

**Superintendent's Report**

**District Update – Information and Communication**

Mr. White noted that the new year started out very positive.

**Assistant Superintendent's Report**

**General Update**

Ms. Brzozowy held her report until her presentation.

## **Financial Status Updates**

### **End of Year Financial Status Update**

The expended budget was 98%. The year has ended positively. The town and school will have a conversation regarding surplus funds sometime this fall.

### **Current Year to Date Financial Status Update**

All financial obligations are expected to be met. This is very early in the year. The committed balance is 90% of the budget.

### **Cafeteria Fund Update**

Discussion regarding the lunch and breakfast program. Revenue received was from the state grants and the Smart Funds from the state.

### **Medical Reserve Tracking**

The reserve fund has increased and is in a healthy position. The insurance consultant will present at the next Finance Committee Meeting.

### **Grants Update**

No update

### **Cafeteria Equipment Update**

A needs assessment by building was done. Equipment for Deep River Elementary was purchased from the reserve. Mr. Grissom gave an update on the new equipment purchased.

### **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT- D. Torchia**

Mr. Torchia gave a brief update. He discussed the improvements made to the school over the summer.

### **Other Items**

#### **Early Grade Literacy**

Ms. Brzozowy discussed the K-3 Literacy Program update. She discussed the Science of Reading and what it means to our students. Our district decided not to implement this program due to our success in literacy. The continued plan was discussed and how to support students to be successful.

#### **Discussion and possible VOTE to accept a donation of \$4,000 from Tri-Town Sustainability Team to be used at the discretion of administration to support a pilot food scraps program at Deep River Elementary for up to two years.**

Upon a motion duly made and seconded the Deep River Elementary Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to accept a donation of \$4,000 from Tri-Town Sustainability Team to be used at the discretion of administration to support a pilot food scraps program at Deep River Elementary for up to two years.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Curriculum**

No Update.

**Finance**

No Update.

**Policy**

No Update.

**Supervision District Committee Updates**

No Update.

**Other Committee Reports**

**LEARN Committee Update**

No Update.

**DRES Facilities (Buildings and Grounds)Committee**

Ms. Morrissey discussed the playground which will be removed Columbus Day Weekend. Parts will be salvaged and given to a non-profit. Metal left will be scrap metal. Ms. Morrissey discussed the process of building the new playscape. A meeting with the installers will be held on September 26, 2023 to discuss the final details.

**Discussion Regarding any Pending Policy for all BOE's**

No Action taken. The policies will be reviewed and voted on at the next Joint Board of Education meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

A resident asked if ingredients could be listed on the cafeteria menu. This will be discussed with the Food Service Director.

Two members were present from the PTO board.

Ms. Morrissey noted that she and Betsy Scholfield will not be running for the BOE. She asked members to think about who will be chairman of the Board which will be voted on at the November meeting. Board members need to be sworn in before the November Board of Education meeting. There is a special meeting on September 27, 2023 for all Board members.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

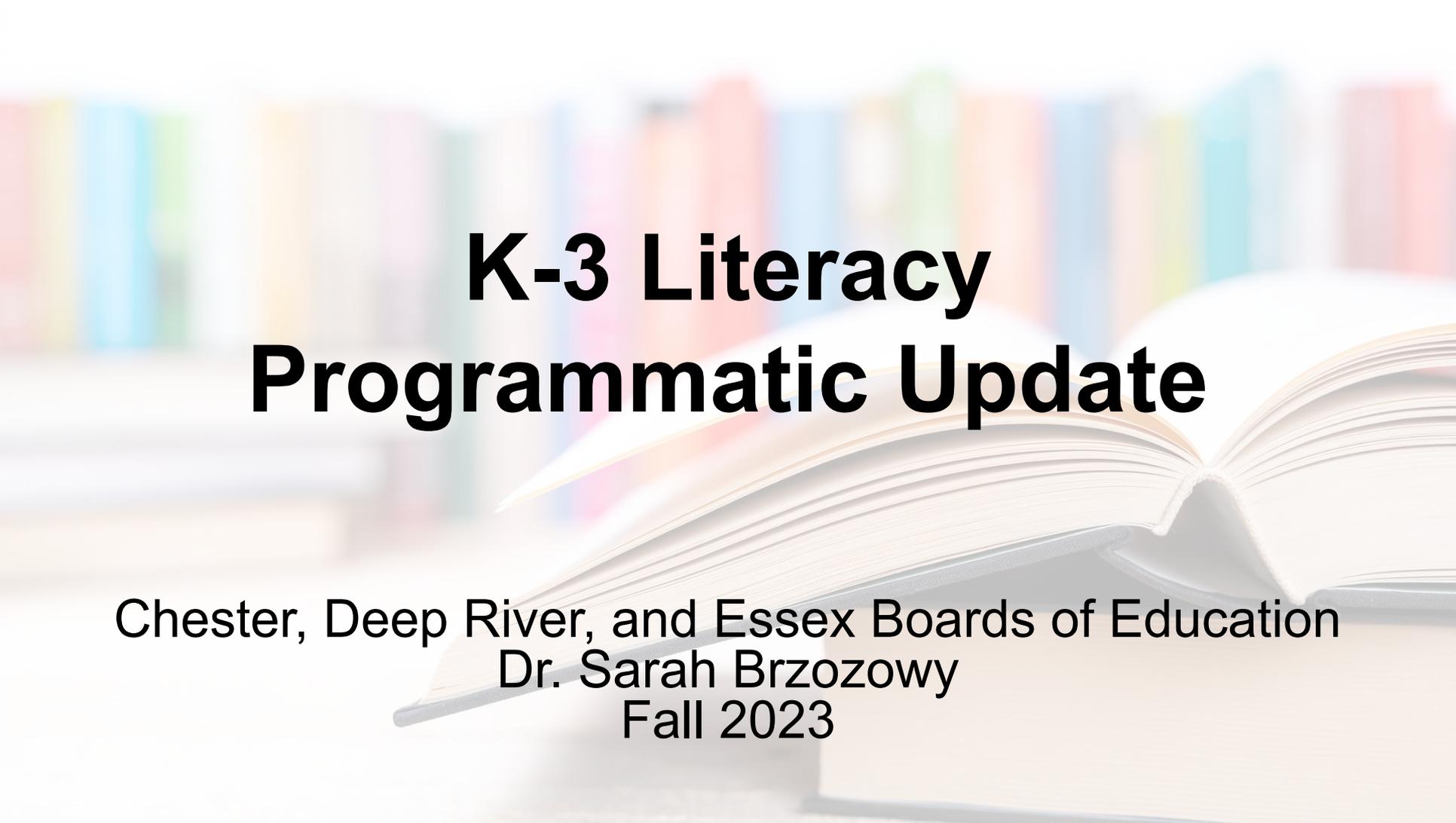
- Joint BOE Meeting October 5, 2023 @ 7:00pm VRHS Media Center Library
- Deep River BOE Regular Meeting November 16, 2023 @7:00pm

**ADJOURNMENT**

On motion duly made and seconded the Board unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 7:53p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley Frazier Clerk



# **K-3 Literacy Programmatic Update**

Chester, Deep River, and Essex Boards of Education  
Dr. Sarah Brzozowy  
Fall 2023

# Right to Read Legislation

- Implement a coordinated statewide reading plan for K-3.
- Research and develop a birth-to-12 reading success strategy, in collaboration with the Office of Early Childhood.
- All districts are required to implement early literacy reading curricula that are evidence-based and approved by state Literacy Center
- Support local boards of education and district leadership in improving reading outcomes for K-3 students.
- In June 2021, the Connecticut legislature passed the “Right to Read” legislation in Sections 394-404 of the Budget Implementer Bill, [Public Act No. 21-2](#).

# Why the Science of Reading and What it means for:

## Boards of Education:

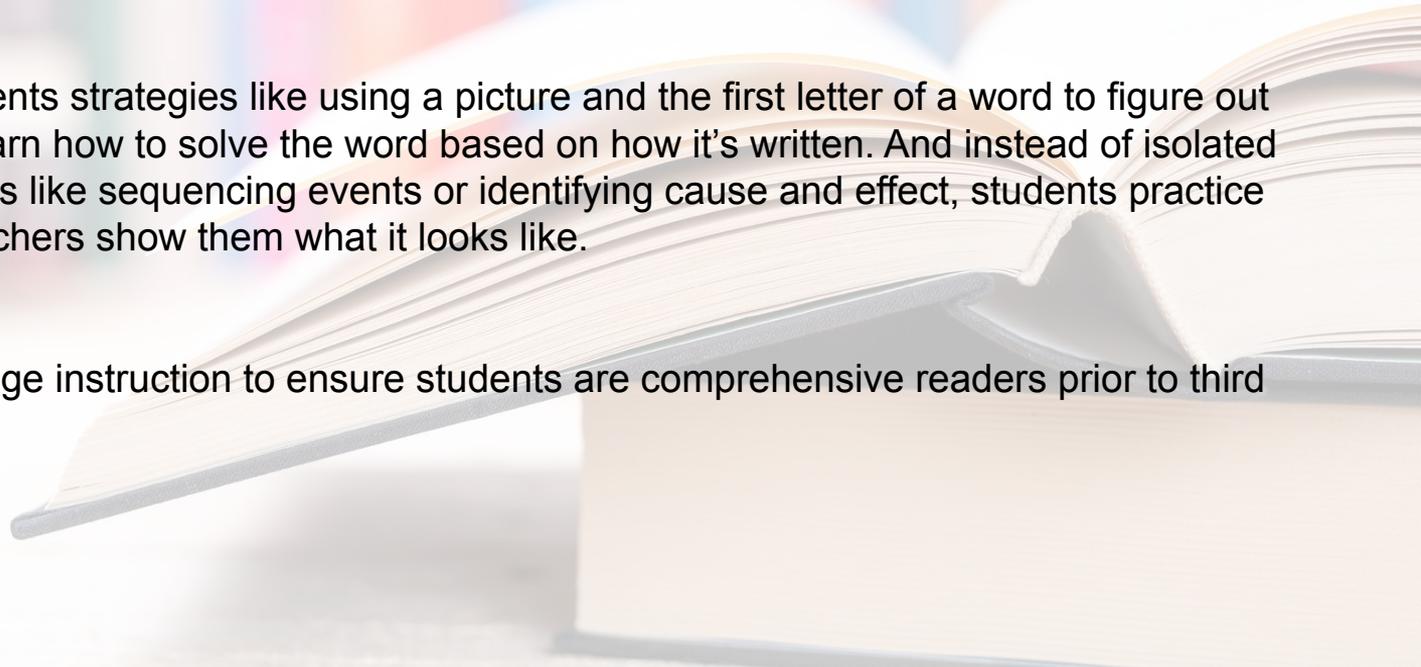
Updating texts, approving new materials, and supporting shifts in reading practices in alignment with new research and information to promote success for all learners.

## Teachers:

Instead of teaching students strategies like using a picture and the first letter of a word to figure out what it says, students learn how to solve the word based on how it's written. And instead of isolated comprehension strategies like sequencing events or identifying cause and effect, students practice mindful reading, and teachers show them what it looks like.

## Students:

Receiving explicit language instruction to ensure students are comprehensive readers prior to third grade.



# To Implement a new program would require

- An Assessment Audit and Potential Shift
- All new curriculum, materials, and programs  
(Bridges implementation took time, Professional Development, coach support, and materials)
- Professional development prior to implementation
- Ability to pilot programs ahead of time
- Multi-year implementation with significant training implications
- Upfront costs, hidden costs, ongoing costs
- Coordination across three towns, three schools, three boards

# Challenges

- Canned “one size fits all” approach
  - American Reading Company – ARC Core (K-3), (2020);
  - Amplify Education Inc. – Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA, 2022);
  - Houghton Mifflin Harcourt – Into Reading;
  - Imagine Learning – EL Education Grades K-3, (2017);
  - McGraw Hill Education – Wonders, (2020);
  - Open Up Resources – EL Education, (2017); and
  - Savvas Learning Company – myView Literacy, (2020).

# Waiver Application

Sent on February 24, 2023 from the Assistant Superintendent's Office to CSDE.

Opted for the waiver because:

- Implementation of a new program would require: financial commitment, training, professional development, curricular materials
- The extension requires districts to choose a program by July 1, 2024 to implement
- Allows the district to review practices and make incremental changes

## Next Steps:

If we get the waiver?

We will continue to analyze our practices to ensure we are providing the best opportunities for all learners to be readers prior to grade 3

If we don't?

We will continue to review our practices

- Time for exploration of potential new programs
- Additional Training (**ALL** elementary staff received SoR training on 3/8/23)
- Financial Implications

# 2023-2024 Plan:

- Still awaiting response from the State of Connecticut
- Proceeding for this year (business as usual)
  - Engaging with EastConn Staff Developer to determine the best practices regarding literacy instruction aligned with the Science of Reading
  - Added the Universal Screener iReady to all grades K (beginning in January) through grade 9
  - Conducting an Assessment Audit
  - Developing a curriculum to incorporate strong practices and revise instructional approaches
- If we don't get the waiver:
  - Budgetary implications for training and materials
  - 1-3 Year broad implementation

## 2023-2024 Continued Plan:

- All students K-3 receive Foundations as a priority program. District pacing and Unit assessments for K-3 are outlined in the Foundations Pacing Calendar and are followed with fidelity.
- All students in K-3 receive benchmark DIBELS 8 assessment screener as needed to best target instruction.
- All students in Kindergarten and Grade 1 receive the Heggerty assessment screener. This screener is conducted at the beginning of the year, middle of the year, and end of the year.
- Intentional planning for intervention and targeted

Thank  
you