

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE NEXT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
ESSEX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION
September 10, 2015**

The regular meeting of the Essex Board of Education was held on Thursday, September 10, 2015. In attendance were Lon Seidman, Loretta McCluskey, Adam Conrad, Carolyn Rotella and Mark Watson. Also in attendance were Dr. Ruth Levy, Superintendent of Region 4 Schools, Kristina Martineau, Assistant Superintendent, Scott Jeffrey, Principal, Jennifer Tousignant, Assistant Principal, Garth Sawyer, Financial Director and Kelley Frazier, Clerk. Absent: D G Fitton

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Lon Seidman at 7:04p.m.

Mr. Seidman distributed a copy of the Town of Essex Code of Ethics policy and Board members were asked to sign for receipt of the policy.

Board members introduced themselves to Ms. Matineau and Ms. Tousignant.

CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion made by Ms. McCluskey and seconded by Mr. Watson the Essex Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of May 14, 2015 and the Accounts Payable report.

STUDENT REPORT

No Report this month.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comment.

OTHER ITEMS:

Introduction of New Hires for EES

Mr. Jeffrey discussed the new hires at Essex Elementary.

Principal's Update

Mr. Jeffrey gave a brief update on the opening of the new school year. The opening went very smoothly. Students and staff are dealing with the heat and humidity. We have approximately 375 students in our school. Mr. Jeffrey discussed the renovations and building projects completed over the summer months. The roof replacement went very well and stayed on schedule. We have new air conditioning installed in A wing of the school. Eight classrooms have central air conditioning. Installation of air conditioning in the Media Center also occurred during the summer months. Our plan is to install air conditioning in the remainder of the building in preparation for spring. Outside there was installation of new fencing and a sign at the front of the building. Curriculum night is next Tuesday.

Building Committee Update

Discussed previously.

CMT – Science – Grade 5 Only

Ms. Martineau and Mr. Jeffrey briefly discussed the results of the Grade 5 Science and the CMT results by grade. Mr. Jeffrey discussed the action plan for improvement. Dr. Levy noted that our district should focus on hiring a full time Math consultant. This person could provide dedicated time to look at curriculum, professional development and instruction. This would provide consistency. Mr. Watson said that this has been an ongoing problem and needs to be addressed.

REPORTS:

Financial Status Report – Mr. Garth Sawyer

Mr. Sawyer gave a brief update of the financial status for Essex Elementary School for the 2014-2015 school year. Currently Essex Elementary is projecting to end with a surplus. Mr. Sawyer discussed the Budget Status report for 2015-2016. Currently the school budget is projecting a deficit due to some unanticipated special education needs for the 15-16 school year. We will remain vigilant of any unforeseen circumstances and we will keep the Board informed of any developments as they arise.

Cafeteria Report – Mr. Sawyer

Mr. Sawyer gave an update on the status of the cafeteria budget. We increased our board subsidy due to changes in funding from the state.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance

The Finance Committee is scheduled to meet on September 29, 2015.

Policy

The next meeting is scheduled for September 28, 2015.

Curriculum

The next meeting is scheduled for September 28, 2015.

Supervision District

No Update

LEARN Committee Update

No Update

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – K. Martineau

General Update

Ms. Martineau said that MAP testing has begun for the entire district. October Professional Development will look at the results and how to use the data to transform instructional practices to the student level. Staff is training on Goggle Classroom and all Goggle applications.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - R. Levy

District Update

It has been a great opening to the school year. The transition of new employees and administrators has gone very well and very smoothly. The temperature has been very hot but we have been able to keep our students comfortable. Dr. Levy noted that declining enrollment is a concern. Our state has seen significant decline in 150 towns. Discussion will continue in how to address this issue.

Information and Communication

Discussion Regarding Policies

No discussion needed at this time.

Evaluate Participation as Preschool Host Community per Collaborative Agreement

Mr. Jeffrey verified that space is adequate for this program. The Board and Administration agreed there are many benefits to housing the preschool for another year.

Upon a motion made by Ms. McCluskey and seconded by Ms. Rotella, the Essex Elementary Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to extend the site of the preschool for one year.

Discussion Regarding Fall Reception

The Board would prefer to have the fall reception at the Corinthian Yacht Club. If this is unavailable, the Griswold Inn is another possible location. October 7, 2015 is the suggested date.

Discussion Regarding Pertinent Legislative Update for 2015-16

Dr. Levy gave an overview of the Legislative updates.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comment.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- 8.1 Joint BOE next regular meeting on October 1, 2015 @ 7:00pm (JWMS)
- 8.2 Essex BOE next regular meeting on Nov 12, 2015 @ 7:00pm
- 8.3 Presentation of Major Budget Drivers for 2016-17(Nov)
- 8.4 Election of Board officers (Nov or after seating of new members)
- 8.5 BOE and Community input for 2016-17 budget (on-going)
- 8.6 BOE Self-evaluation (TBD)

ADJOURNMENT

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 8:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley Frazier, Board Clerk

