

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE NEXT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
ESSEX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION
January 12, 2017**

The regular meeting of the Essex Board of Education was held on Thursday, November 10, 2016. Lon Seidman, DG Fitton, Loretta McCluskey, Mark Watson and Adam Conrad (7:09pm arrival). Also in attendance were Kristina Martineau, Assistant Superintendent, Jennifer Tousignant, Principal, Jennifer Nucci, Assistant Principal and Kelley Frazier, Clerk. Absent: Carolyn Rotella

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Lon Seidman at 7:00p.m.

STUDENT REPORT

Lilly Farrell and Kendra Citka discussed the school's time capsule which was opened after 25 years.

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon a motion duly made by DG Fitton and seconded by Loretta McCluskey the Essex Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of November 10, 2016 and the Accounts Payable report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comment.

OTHER ITEMS:

Community and Board Input on 2017-18 Budget

Reductions for special education reimbursements from the State are expected to be offset by staffing decreases. The next budget workshop is on January 24th at 6:00pm.

Principal's Update

Ms. Tousignant gave a brief update. The school continues to focus on events centering around the school theme of "Look for the Good". The school winter concert was held at Essex Elementary school this year and was well received. There are two cultural arts events coming up. The after school Entrepreneur program was very well received and has twice the number of children as anticipated. Many staff members have stepped up to make this event possible. MAP testing has taken place.

REPORTS:

Financial Status Report – Mr. Garth Sawyer

Mr. Sawyer gave a brief update on the financial status for Essex Elementary School. It is expected that the reduction in special education reimbursement from the State will be offset by other reductions in expense in our budget. Currently the budget is projecting a surplus based on staffing changes and lower unemployment costs. 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. There is a decline in lunch purchases due to the declining enrollment.

Committee Reports

Finance will be held on January 31, 2017.

Curriculum will be held on January 23, 2017.

Policy will be held on January 23, 2017.

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

Supervision District Committee Update

The budget has been worked on. Currently the increase is .46%. This increase has been approved by the committee and is now moving to public hearing.

LEARN

No Update.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Ms. Martineau noted that the new science standards have been released. The CMT will be used this year and then our schools will begin using the new testing.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

District Update – Information and Communication

Budgets are currently being worked on. Niche released a report of the top schools in Connecticut. Valley Regional High School has been rated number 23. The high school continues to pursue the International Baccalaureate program. This is anticipated to be implemented in 2-3 years. Scheduling is also being reviewed. A modified block may be implemented for the next school year. Lunch pricing is also being reviewed. A small increase in price may be considered. Our collaboration effort with a sister school in China is moving forward. We are hopeful to have 3-4 Chinese students attend Valley Regionals next year for one year. This will benefit those students as well as our own. A Safe Grad fundraiser will be held with the Harlem Wizards on January 18th. There will be many administrators, staff, board members and local people who will participate. Our district is hosting a Legislative breakfast on January 25th at John Winthrop Middle School at 7:30am. This will give school board members and administrators from our school and surrounding schools an opportunity to discuss our educational needs. All board members are encouraged to attend.

Discussion Regarding Any Pending Policies – Standing Item

No policies to discuss.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comment.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- 8.1 Next Joint BOE meeting is February 23, 2017
- 8.2 Essex Budget Workshops, Jan 24th, Feb 13th, Mar 1st, 2017 (Central Office)
- 8.3 Next Essex BOE next regular meeting March 9, 2017 at 7:00pm.
- 8.4 Vote on non-renewals (Mar)
- 8.5 BOE and Community Input for 2018-19 budget (on-going)
- 8.6 Presentation of Major budget drivers for 2018-19(TBD)
- 8.7 BOE Self-evaluation (TBD)

ADJOURNMENT

On motion duly made and seconded the Board unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley Frazier, Secretary