

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE NEXT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
DEEP RIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
JANUARY 16, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Deep River Board of Education was held on Thursday, January 16, 2014. In attendance were Christine Daniels, Jim Olson, Miriam Morrissey, Nelle Andrews, Dave Berardis, Augusta Ferretti, Hadley Kornacki, and Michelle Grow. Also in attendance were Dr. Ruth Levy, Superintendent, Joanne Beekley, Assistant Superintendent, Nancy Haslam, Interim Principal, and Garth Sawyer, Business Manager. Absent: Julia Grabowski

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Daniels called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

ADD ITEM TO AGENDA

Jim Olson moved to add a student matter to the executive session portion of the meeting. Dave Berardis seconded the motion which carried by a unanimous vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

Michelle Grow moved to approve the minutes from the November 21, 2013 meeting and the Accounts Payable report. Jim Olson seconded the motion which carried by a unanimous vote.

STUDENT REPORT

Kaela Muck and Drew Kelly gave a brief update of the activities in the school for the past month. Ms. Daniels and the Board thanked the students for coming.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

OTHER ITEMS:

Principal's Update

Ms. Haslam reported that the transition has gone smoothly. She is impressed with our school, our students and staff. She is especially impressed with the support that she has received from the administration. She has changed the monthly principal's newsletter to a weekly principal's newsletter, she is having a plexiglass box built to protect the sever in the closet where the roof has been known to leak and she is having the day (A, B, C, or D) posted on the entrance so that everyone knows what day it is when they arrive at school. She is continuing to visit all the classrooms.

REPORTS:

Financial Status Report – Mr. Garth Sawyer

Mr. Sawyer gave a brief financial status for Deep River Elementary School. Currently the Deep River Elementary School is projecting a deficit, due to unanticipated special education needs for the 13-14 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 Updates. Sales have increased from last year; however, due to declining enrollment our revenue will be similar to last years.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance –

No Update.

Policy and Curriculum

No Update.

Supervision District –

The budget has been approved to go to public hearing on Feb. 3rd at 7:00pm. The budget includes a full-time technology trainer. As this budget stands now, Deep River's increase will be .89%.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – J. Beekley

General Update

Review district/school Performance Report

Dr. Beekley discussed the classification systems for the district/school performance reports. She is pleased in the direction the school is heading especially in reading.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - R. Levy

District Update

Dr. Levy discussed budget drives for future budgets such as a K-12 math consultant and the Minimum Budget Requirement (MBR) which is a state requirement that a school budget cannot be less than the previous years' budget. The MBR might become an issue because of declining enrollment.

She also announced some upcoming events.

On January 21, the security advisory committee will meet.

On January 22, a community dinner will be held from 6pm-8pm at John Winthrop Middle School.

On January 29, there will be a “Welcome to Central Office” presentation for new board members from 6pm-8pm. All board members are welcome. Please RSVP.

On January 30th, CAFE is sponsoring a joint breakfast with representatives from the legislator. This will take place at 7:30am. All Board members are asked to attend.

Ms. Daniels mentioned that she had received a letter from The Shoreline Basic Needs Task Force. On February 9th they are sponsoring a showing of "A Place at the Table", an award winning documentary exploring issues of hunger in America. The film will be shown at 1 p.m., at The Katharine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center in Old Saybrook, CT. Following the film will be a brief discussion about the issue of hunger on the CT Shoreline and ideas of how it can be addressed. The event is free and open to the public.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

Presentation of Major Budget Drivers 2014-15

Dr. Levy presented the helicopter view of the budget. The major budget drivers are supervision district increases, contractual increases, health insurance, continuation of technology lease, fuel, and special education unanticipated out of district placements. The other major considerations are implementation of a transitional kindergarten program, possible teacher reduction due to declining enrollment, NWEA- assessment and progress monitoring system and 2013-2014 unanticipated special education costs carried forward to 2014-2015 budget.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Amy Petrone asked if there had ever been a free enrichment program at Deep River Elementary like there is at John Winthrop Middle School. Both Dr. Levy and Ms. Daniels said there have not been any in their memory, but they would look into it.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion duly made by Michelle Grow and seconded by Dave Berardis, the Board unanimously **VOTED** to move into Executive Session at 8:20 pm to discuss a personnel and student matter. Dr. Ruth Levy and Ms. Nancy Haslam were asked to attend the Executive Session.

The Board Moved out of Executive Session at 8:37pm.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly made by Jim Olson and seconded by Michelle Grow the Board unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 8:37p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Miriam Morrissey, Board Secretary

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- 9.1 BOE and Community Input for 2014-15 budget (on-going)
- 9.2 Joint BOE next Regular Meeting Feb 27, 2014 @7:00pm (JWMS)
- 9.3 DRES BOE 2014-15 Budget Workshops-Feb 6, Feb 25, Mar 11 @6:00pm
- 9.4 DRES BOE next Regular Meeting Mar 20, 2014 @7:00pm
- 9.5 BOE Self-Evaluation (TBD)