

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE NEXT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
DEEP RIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
November 20, 2014 7:00PM**

The regular meeting of the Deep River Board of Education was held on Thursday, November 20, 2014. In attendance were Christine Daniels, Miriam Morrissey, Dave Berardis, Peter Corcoran, Nelle Andrews, Jim Olson(7:15 Arrival), Hadley Kornacki, Michelle Grow and Julia Grabowski(7:05 Departure). Also in attendance were Dr. Ruth Levy, Superintendent, Dr. Joanne Beekley, Assistant Superintendent, Christian Strickland, Principal, Garth Sawyer, Business Manager and Kelley Frazier, Board Clerk.  
Absent:

**CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. Levy called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Dr. Levy opened the floor for the nominations for the office of chairman.

A motion was made by Dave Berardis to nominate Christine Daniels Chairman of the Deep River Elementary Board of Education. No second motion received.

A motion made by Julia Grabowski to nominate Michelle Grow as the Chairman of the Deep River Board of Education. Miriam Morrissey seconded the motion. The motion passed. Ayes: Julia Grabowski, Dave Berardis, Hadley Kornacki, Miriam Morrissey, Nelle Andrews and Peter Corcoran. Abstentions: Christine Daniels

Chairman Grow opened the floor for the following nominations:

A motion made by Miriam Morrissey to nominate Jim Olson as the Vice Chair of the Deep River Elementary Board of Education. David Berardis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion made by Dave Berardis to nominated Miriam Morrissey as the Secretary of the Deep River Elementary Board of Education. Nelle Andrews seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Special Committees:**

Committee assignments were discussed. Members will stay on their committees with the following changes:

Supervision District: Michelle Grow

Policy: Nelle Andrews, Peter Corcoran

LEARN: Miriam Morrissey

PTO: Michelle Grow

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Hadley Kornacki made a motion to approve the minutes from the special meeting on September 8, 2014 and the regular meeting of September 18, 2014 and the Accounts Payable report. Miriam Morrissey seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Ms. Grow asked the Board for a moment of silence in remembrance of Paul Mozzochi the beloved Deep River Elementary crossing guard and retired custodian who will be missed.

### **STUDENT REPORT**

Mr. Strickland introduced Emma King and Elio Perez-Wilson who gave the student monthly update for the Deep River Elementary School. The Board thanked the children for coming and presenting to the Board of Education.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

### **OTHER ITEMS:**

#### **Community and Board Input on 2015-16 Budget**

Ms. Grow asked that math and science is a focus in the budget development for next year.

#### **Principal's Update**

Mr. Strickland gave a brief update of the activities at Deep River Elementary School. He noted that the changes to the end of day pick up process are working well. Mr. Strickland discussed science activities in fifth grade. He announced that we will have our first Science Fair scheduled for March 2015. Consistency and collaboration is how DRES moving forward. He discussed that the last Professional Development day was focused on MAP testing results and language arts. Report cards come home on December 11<sup>th</sup>.

#### **NWEA Update**

Mr. Strickland presented information to help the Board understand the NWEA MAP testing. The Board had various questions which Mr. Strickland answered.

## **REPORTS:**

### **Financial Status Report – Mr. Garth Sawyer**

Mr. Sawyer gave a brief update of the financial status for Deep River Elementary School. Currently Deep River is projecting a surplus. The Administration will keep the Board informed if the situation changes as we proceed through the year.

### **Cafeteria Report – Mr. Garth Sawyer**

Mr. Sawyer gave an update on the status of the Cafeteria Budget. The breakfast program is running for the full year this year and will give us increased revenues.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Finance**

Health care issues were focused on. Review of the impact the Affordable Care Act and strategies going forward when considering contract negotiations.

### **Policy**

A number of policies were reviewed and revisions made. These revisions will be available for the second reading at the Joint Board of Education meeting. The next area of review by this Committee will be the Students section.

### **Curriculum**

Curriculum discussed the K-12 art teachers and their work. There was a review of art standards and how it is integrated into the classroom.

### **Supervision District**

The budget season has begun and things have gone smoothly for the beginning of the school year.

### **LEARN Committee Update**

No Update.

### **DRES Facilities(Building and Grounds)**

No Update

### **Declining Enrollment Task Force**

We are currently working with the three Selectmen to discuss this matter.

## **ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT – J. Beekley**

### **General Update**

Dr. Beekley noted that last Friday was a half day of Professional Development. Para educators also participate in professional development on these days. Para educators are working with math during their professional development days.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - R. Levy**

### **District Update**

Dr. Levy thanked Mr. Strickland for an excellent presentation on the MAP testing and for his dedication to DRES. Dr. Levy discussed the wonderful Veteran's Day celebration at Deep River Elementary and through out the district and how touching these programs were.

### **Information and Communication**

#### **Anti-Bullying Rally**

Dr. Levy noted that this was a phenomenal day for children and staff. It was for Grades 5-12.

Dr. Levy felt that the evacuation of Valley Regional High School on Monday went smoothly.

### **Discussion Regarding Pending Policies**

#### **Policy #4112.4/41212.4 Health Examination**

Mr. Olson feels that this should be done before employment. Drug testing is not included.

#### **Policy #5145 Notice of Rights Under Section 504 Rehabilitation Act**

#### **Policy 1112.6 Videotaping of Staff and Students**

These policies were briefly discussed and will be voted on in the future.

### **Article "Best School Districts for Your Buck"**

Dr. Levy noted that Region 4 was mentioned in this article. We should be proud of being part of the top ten best school districts for your buck.

### **Presentation of Major Budget Drivers for DRES 2015-16**

Dr. Levy gave a brief update of the budget drivers for Deep River Elementary. She noted that we have significant declining enrollment. This needs to be addressed. There will be a meeting scheduled in January with the First Selectmen from Essex, Chester and Deep River. Dr. Levy noted that the coordination of K-12 Math curriculum is very important. She feels that our district would benefit from hiring a Math Curriculum Specialist. Budget workshops will begin in January.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Miriam Morrissey thanked Mr. Strickland and the school from Parks and Recreation for working to align the enrichment programs offered to community children.

Ms. Grow thanked Ms. Daniels for her years of service working on the Board of Education and being the Chair.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 9:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley Frazier, Board Clerk