

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE NEXT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
DEEP RIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
NOVEMBER 21, 2013**

The regular meeting of the Deep River Board of Education was held on Thursday, November 21, 2013. In attendance were Christine Daniels, Dave Berardis, Miriam Morrissey, Nelle Andrews, Jim Olson, Augusta Ferretti, Hadley Kornacki, Michelle Grow and Julia Grabowski. Also in attendance were Dr. Ruth Levy, Superintendent, Dr. Joanne Beekley, Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Jennifer Byars, Principal, Mr. Garth Sawyer, Business Manager and Kelley Frazier, Clerk. Absent:

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Levy called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Dr. Levy opened the floor for the nominations for chairman of the Board of Education.

A motion was made by Dave Berardis to nominate Christine Daniels as Chairman of the Deep River Elementary Board of Education. Jim Olson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Daniels opened the floor for the following nominations:

Dave Berardis moved to nominate Jim Olson as the Vice Chairman of the Deep River Elementary Board of Education. Miriam Morrissey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dave Berardis moved to nominate Miriam Morrissey as the Secretary of the Deep River Elementary Board of Education. Jim Olson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Special Committees:

Supervision District: Jim Olson, Miriam Morrissey, Christine Daniels

Negotiations Miriam: Morrissey, Christine Daniels

Curriculum: Dave Berardis, Julia Grabowski, Michelle Grow

Finance: Jim Olson, Christine Daniels

Policy: Hadley Kornacki, Nelle Andrews

Calendar: Miriam Morrissey

Facilities: Christine Daniels, Miriam Morrissey and Mark Malcarne

PTO: Michelle Grow

CONSENT AGENDA

Dave Berardis moved to approve the minutes from the September 19, 2013 meeting as amended and the Accounts Payable report. Jim Olson seconded the motion which carried by a unanimous vote.

STUDENT REPORT

Paige Stegina and Gavin Grabowski presented the monthly update for Deep River Elementary School. Ms. Daniels and the Board thanked the students for giving the school update.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comment

OTHER ITEMS

Presentation of Wizard of Oz/Florence Griswold Museum School Field Trip

Dr. Byars introduced Ms. DeWolf-Carfi and Ms. Kaspro who presented the field trip and development of the fairy houses for the Florence Griswold Museum made by Deep River Elementary students. Dr. Levy and the Board thanked Ms. DeWolf-Carfi and Ms. Kaspro for their hard work in coordinating this effort.

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. Mr. Olson suggested having a line item in the budget to cover these unanticipated special education expenses. This will be discussed during the budget development.

Cafeteria Report – Mr. Sawyer

Mr. Sawyer gave an update on the status of the Cafeteria Budget Updates. We will be hitting our targets. Parents will be able to put money into their children's account. This will happen soon. Instructions will be sent out to families.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance

The Finance Committee met. The Procedures Manual is complete and has been distributed. The next meeting will be in December.

Policy and Curriculum

The Policy and Curriculum meetings were cancelled and will be rescheduled.

Supervision District

No Update

DRES Facilities

A meeting will be scheduled soon.

Calendar Committee

This will be brought to Supervision District at the next meeting.

Principal's Report

General Update

Dr. Byers distributed a letter from the Florence Griswold Museum to thank the DRES faculty and students for their participation in the Fairy house exhibit.

Dr. Byers discussed a donation from Whelen for six LED flood lights to be installed on the church side of the building and near the playground and playing fields. These address areas that needed additional lighting.

The heat exchange unit needed to be replaced from the funds in the town's Capital Expenditure Fund. The roof will be repaired soon. All blinds have been replaced on the ground floor. After a playground inspection, it was recommended that safety signs and additional mulch be added. This has been completed. The staff is continuing to implement the new curriculum for Math and Language Arts. Teachers are collaborating in grade level teams to find ways to implement the curriculum. Winter Wonderland will be December 6th. We will try to incorporate the Chorus Cares concert as part of the December 6th town holiday stroll. Toys will still be collected. Mr. Olson said that he received many great comments on the Veteran's Day ceremony at Deep River Elementary School. He noted that the kids seem to have learned more about Veteran's Day while remaining in school.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – J. Beekley

General Update

Dr. Beekley noted that October 14th was a full Professional Development day. Teachers worked on Bloom Board which is a data management tool for the new Teacher Evaluation. Teachers also worked on their goals. Observations are being conducted. We have agreed to do the SBAC field test in the spring. The testing will be taken on the computer. There will be some embedded supports for special needs students. Dr. Beekley noted that the skills checklist is still evolving. She said that we are moving forward to align our curriculum. It appears that the state is gearing up to support districts. She stated that 2018 will be the first year we will have comparative data.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - R. Levy

District Update

BOE Member Workshop December 7, 9:00am – 11:30am JWMS Library

Dr. Levy invited all Board members to the workshop. This is for all Board members.

We have 18 new Board members in our district. Dr. Levy invited and encouraged everyone to the Board workshop for training. There will also be a new Board member workshop at Central Office that is not yet scheduled. Dr. Levy asked all board members to call Jennifer Bryant for a short meeting with Dr. Levy.

We are looking at offering a brown bag breakfast in our district. This will begin at the end of January.

Dr. Levy met with local clergy. This was very well received. Dr. Levy noted that we have received a grant for the safety and security of our schools. We received a total of \$37,000 for our five schools. We are prioritizing in each of our schools what is needed.

Upon a motion duly made by seconded the Deep River Board of Education **VOTED** to approve the 6 LED flood lights donated by Andy and John Olson from Whelen Engineering.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

Discussion/Review Class

Dr. Levy discussed the class size guidelines for our district. The last time this policy was reviewed was before full day Kindergarten. This will be discussed this at our next Policy Committee meeting. Dr. Beekley said that there is research that supports small classes in early education is beneficial. Full Day Kindergarten is allowing us to get off to a better start.

Dr. Levy is sad to report that she has accepted Dr. Byars resignation. Dr. Levy wishes Dr. Byars success and thanked her for her work at Deep River Elementary School. Ms. Daniels wished Dr. Byars the best.

Ms. Daniels asked Board members to introduce themselves.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Doug Whittaker asked about the SBAC test and data collection. Dr. Levy asked Mr. Whittaker to schedule a meeting with Dr. Beekley to discuss this further.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously **VOTED** to move into Executive Session at 8:27pm to discuss a personnel matter. The motion passed unanimously. All Administrators present were asked to attend the Executive Session.

The Board Moved out of Executive Session at 8:55pm.

On a motion duly made and seconded the Board unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 8:57pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley Frazier, Board Clerk

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- 10.1 Joint BOE next Regular Meeting Dec 5, 2013 at 7:00pm JWMS
- 10.2 Next Regular DRES BOE Meeting (January 16, 2014 at 7:00pm)
- 10.3 BOE Community Input on 2014-15 Budget (Ongoing)
- 10.4 Presentation of Major Budget Drivers for 2014-15 (Jan)
- 10.5 Executive Session-mid year evaluation of Superintendent (Jan)