

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE NEXT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
ESSEX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION  
JANUARY 9, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Essex Board of Education was held on Thursday, January 9, 2014. In attendance were Lon Seidman, Adam Conrad, Loretta McCluskey and Carolyn Rotella. Also in attendance were Dr. Ruth Levy, Superintendent, Dr. Joanne Beekley, Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Garth Sawyer, Business Manager, Mr. Scott Jeffrey, Principal, Deborah O'Donnell, Assistant Principal and Kelley Frazier, Clerk. Absent: Mark Watson and DG Fitton

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**STUDENT REPORT**

Mr. Seidman asked to move the student presentation up in the agenda to accommodate the attendees. Mr. Jeffrey introduced Ava Boyles and Sam Helsel from Ms. Armstrong's class. They demonstrated their mathematical thinking in solving math problems. Mr. Seidman thanked the children for coming.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Loretta McCluskey made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of November 14, 2013 and the Accounts Payable report. Carolyn Rotella seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**OTHER ITEMS:**

**Principal's Update - S. Jeffrey**

Mr. Jeffrey's said that a tutor for Kindergarten has been hired to help with the increased enrollment. This has been very helpful and positive feedback has been received from parents. In Professional Development, the teachers are working on similar problems that the field test will have. They are learning how to navigate through the test and what student needs will be. This test will be taken in April. Mid-year goal conferences are being held with teachers to discuss progress. We have a Mathematician in Residence who is providing enrichment in grades 2,3 and 4. She will come in four times through out the year. She will also work on a Family Math Night which will take place in late March or April. Social Development is collecting coats and clothing to support the shelters in New London. There will also be a food drive. It is felt that communication is much improved with the new Teacher Evaluation.

## **REPORTS:**

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

There were some unanticipated repairs and maintenance. There is a need for additional land lines for the alarm system. There is an Engineering Study being conducted for the conversion to gas. Essex Elementary is currently projecting a small surplus but we are always cognizant of the possibility of unanticipated special education needs that may arise during the year. The Administration will keep the Board informed if the situation changes as we proceed through the year.

### **Cafeteria Report – Mr. Sawyer**

We are anticipating a similar subsidy as last year. Sales have increased.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Finance – L. Seidman**

No Update.

### **Policy and Curriculum**

No Update.

### **Supervision District – L. Seidman**

The first budget workshop has taken place. The next meeting is on the January 14<sup>th</sup>.

## **LEARN**

Dr. Levy will get information to Ms. Rosella.

On January 30<sup>th</sup>, 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.

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

### **General Update**

Professional Development is focusing on Math as well as English/Language Arts and Social Studies standards. The Representative from the State will visit in February and discuss what the timeline will be.

### **Review district/school Performance Report**

Dr. Beekley discussed the School Performance Results. Essex did very well. We are an excellent school. Our gaps are small. We now will maintain where we are and we will focus on continuing to close the gaps in our subgroups. We will review what types of intervention will be needed to help support students to close the gap.

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

### **District Update**

Dr. Levy noted that we have used our two snowflake days. Dr. Levy said that we are into our mid-year evaluations for educators and administrators. We have had our first budget meeting. The Security Advisory Committee is reviewing our priority list. The State has a committee that came out with a preliminary report. The Security Advisory Committee will look at the plan and see if there are any revisions we need to make. We will have a Board of Education workshop on January 29<sup>th</sup> from 6:00pm until 8:00pm at Central Office. This is for new Board members. This will cover the functions of Central Office. Please let Dr. Levy's office know if you are able to attend.

## **INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION**

### **Presentation of Major Budget Drivers 2014-15**

Dr. Levy presented a high level view of the budget drives for Essex Elementary School. Dr. Levy discussed our enrollment projections, the major considerations and the capital items. This will be developed more as the process goes forward.

### **Building Committee Update**

No Update

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously **VOTED** to move into Executive Session at 8:07pm to discuss a personnel matter. The motion passed unanimously. Dr. Levy was asked to attend the Executive Session.

The Board Moved out of Executive Session at 8:31pm.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion duly made and seconded the Board unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 8:31p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley Frazier, Board Clerk

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- 9.1BOE and Community Input for 2014-15 budget (on-going)
- 9.2Joint BOE next Regular Meeting Feb 27, 2014 @7)00pm(JWMS)
- 9.3Essex BOE 2014-15 Budget Workshops-Jan 30, Feb 23, Mar 4 @6:00pm
- 9.4Essex BOE next Regular Meeting Mar 13, 2014 @7:00pm
- 9.5BOE Self-Evaluation(TBD)