

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE NEXT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
ESSEX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION
January 14, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Essex Board of Education was held on Thursday, January 14, 2016. In attendance were Lon Seidman, Loretta McCluskey, Adam Conrad, Carolyn Rotella and Mark Watson. Also in attendance were Dr. Ruth Levy, Superintendent of Region 4 Schools, Kristina Martineau, Assistant Superintendent, Scott Jeffrey, Principal, Jennifer Tousignant, Assistant Principal, Garth Sawyer, Financial Director and Kelley Frazier, Clerk. Absent: DG Fitton

CALL TO ORDER

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

Mr. Seidman asked that the Student Presentation be moved to the beginning of the agenda.

STUDENT REPORT

Ms. Tousignant introduced Chase Conrad, Grace Jacaruso and Ben Proctor who gave a presentation on the Student Leader's program at Essex Elementary.

CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion made by Ms. McCluskey and seconded by Mr. Watson the Essex Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of November 12, 2015 and the Accounts Payable report.

To accommodate the attendees, Mr. Seidman suggested moving the solar power discussion up in the agenda.

Discussion and Possible VOTE regarding the Essex Capital Projects Building Committee's Recommendation to Install a 199 K W Photovoltaic Solar System on the Roof Areas of the School

Mr. Glowac, Chairman of the Building Committee, was present to discuss the solar system proposal. Two representatives from American Solar and Alternative Power were also present to answer Board questions. The town Building Committee has already voted and approved this. Dr. Levy would like to make sure that preschooler program is not displaced when this installation takes place this summer. Installation takes approximately 3 months. This should not be a problem. This is a green project and can be used as a teaching tool for students in the school.

Upon a motion made by Loretta McCluskey and seconded by Carolyn Rotella the Essex Elementary Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to approve the installation of a 199 K W Photovoltaic Solar System on the Roof Areas of the School as recommended by the Essex Capital Projects Building Committee.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comment.

OTHER ITEMS:

Community and Board Input on 2016-17 Budget

There was a brief discussion regarding the 2016-17 budget.

Principal's Update

Mr. Jeffrey gave a brief update. Our winter concert was enjoyed by everyone. MAP test assessments are being completed. The Media Center Building Committee has met three times. This committee is pulling together information from research and site visits as to what is important in our Media center. This will be presented in March at the Board of Education meeting. Our foundations programs for World Cultures had our first program. Students learned about Haiti. Our next country to learn about is China. Our Resident in Science program is in Grades 3-5. This will begin in the coming weeks. We have many fun and interesting after school programs which many children are participating in.

REPORTS:

Financial Status Report – Mr. Garth Sawyer

Mr. Sawyer gave a brief update of the financial status for Essex Elementary School. Currently the school budget is projecting a deficit due to some unanticipated special education needs. Mr. Seidman and Dr. Levy will attend the Board of Finance meeting to discuss these expenditures if the town requests this. 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. Our sales have increased. Food costs are up because of less federal subsidy.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Joint PK-12 Committee

This will be removed from the agenda.

Finance

The Finance Committee meeting will be rescheduled. The insurance representative will be attending.

Policy

The next meeting is scheduled for January 25, 2016.

Curriculum

The next meeting is scheduled for January 25, 2016.

Supervision District Committee Update

There were 2 budget workshops which resulted in a budget that has an increase of 2.78%. Most of this increase is for a Math Coach who will work with the teachers in all four schools. This will go to a public hearing on February 1st.

LEARN

Ms. Rotella was not able to attend the meeting.

We will have the Legislative breakfast at John Winthrop at 8:00am on January 21st.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Ms. Martineau discussed the changes in curriculum for social studies. She met with all three town's historical societies to discuss working together. We will honor the history of all three towns and find what binds us together. Our Tech Summit is coming up in February. Teachers will attend various workshops.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

District Update – Information and Communication

Superintendent Levy noted that we are developing our five budgets. On February 8th there will be a community dinner which will be open to families. Jonathon Costa will be giving a presentation.

Discussion Regarding Any Pending Policies – Standing Item

#5141.4 Reporting Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect

The changes are purely statutory.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS - none present

EXECUTIVE SESSION –PERSONNEL

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Essex Board of Education Voted to go into Executive Session at 8:05pm to discuss a personnel matter. Dr. Levy, Ms. Martineau, Mr. Sawyer and Mr. Jeffrey were asked to attend.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:09pm.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- 9.1 Joint BOE next regular meeting on February 25, 2016 @ 7:00pm (JWMS)
- 9.2 Essex Budget Workshops Jan 26th, Feb 17th, Mar 1st, 2016 (Central Office)
- 9.3 Essex BOE next regular meeting (Mar 10, 2016 at 7:00pm)
- 9.4 Community input for 2016-17 budget (on-going)
- 9.5 BOE Self-evaluation (TBD)

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion made by Mr. Seidman and seconded by Ms. Rotella the Essex Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 8:10pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley Frazier, Board Clerk