

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE NEXT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
ESSEX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION
March 10, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Essex Board of Education was held on Thursday, March 10, 2016. DG Fitton, Carolyn Rotella, Loretta McCluskey 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: Adam Conrad

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 Nia Marchese, Justin Lenda and Emily Bachand who gave a presentation on the Foundations reading program. The Board thanked the students for presenting.

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 January 14, 2016 and the Accounts Payable report.

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. We have CMT's, teacher conferences and the PTO Book Fair in March. We have started with the Invention Convention preparation. This will be held on April 6th. The Lego Engineering class has been successful. They have 3 honor Valley Regional students helping with this program.

The Board wanted to recognize the books which were received by all students during the celebration for Dr. Suess' birthday.

Upon a motion made by DG Fitton and seconded by Carolyn Rotella **VOTED** to accept the generous donation from Bob's Discount Furniture of books which were given to each student.

Media Center Presentation – Discussion and possible VOTE

Mr. Jeffrey presented the recommendations and focus of work for the Media Center renovation. The building committee has worked with Creative Library Concepts to develop a plan. We are currently \$40,000 over budget. Ms. Rankin, who is part of the building committee, discussed what was covered in the initial referendum approval. Dr. Levy asked for Board opinions of how to proceed. Mr. Fitton asked if we could use funds from the sinking fund and wait for less priority items. If we use the sinking fund we need to itemize what items will be purchased. Mr. Fitton suggested Lighting/Electrical and Sound panels as the items to come out of the sinking fund. Numbers need to be solidified. This will be done and voted on at a future meeting.

REPORTS:

Financial Status Report – Mr. Garth Sawyer

Mr. Sawyer gave a brief update of the financial status for Essex Elementary School. We currently are looking at a deficit. Mr. Sawyer discussed areas of savings to help mitigate the unanticipated costs. 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.

Upon a motion made by Carolyn Rotella and seconded by Loretta McCluskey the Essex Elementary Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to approve the budget transfers as recommended by Mr. Sawyer.

Committee Reports

Finance will be held on March 29, 2016.

Curriculum will be held on March 21, 2016.

Policy will be held on March 21, 2016.

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

Supervision District Committee Update

We have been focused on the budget. Dr. Levy discussed the savings which occurred in this budget.

LEARN

Mr. Seidman attended the LEARN meeting.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Ms. Martineau stated that we are in assessment season. We will be tested using the 2004 CMT science standards for the next three years. We will also be investigating the math and science resources and how we may move forward.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

District Update – Information and Communication

Superintendent Levy said that she is proud and thankful our district is exploring the I/B program. Niche.com has rated Region 4 number 18 out of the top 100 schools in Connecticut. We have a 97.8percent graduation rate. Kids that go through our district K-12 have a 100 percent graduation rate. In 2008 it was 82%. This is a result of the collaboration of the PreK-12 program. Dr. Levy congratulated Chester Elementary for being selected by the State Department of Education as a school of distinction. The tree that went down caused EES to close school. This day will be made up on April 26th for Essex Elementary only.

Discussion Regarding Any Pending Policies – Standing Item

None to discuss.

Discussion and VOTE to Adopt proposed 2016-17 Essex Elementary School Budget to be presented to the Town.

Mr. Sawyer discussed the budget.

On a motion made by Lon Seidman and seconded by DG Fitton, the Essex Elementary School Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to approve the 2016-2017 budget of \$7,625,408(seven million, six hundred twenty five thousand, four hundred and eight dollars) which is a 0.29% increase and to recommend this be brought to the Town of Essex.

On a motion duly made and seconded, the Essex Elementary Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to add Discussion and Possible Vote regarding a capital request to the agenda.

Upon a motion made by Loretta McCluskey and seconded by Carolyn Rotella, the Essex Elementary Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to approve the capital request of \$63,000.

Mr. Seidman asked members to attend the Board of Finance meeting at 7:00pm on March 31st.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS - none present

EXECUTIVE SESSION –PERSONNEL

Upon a motion duly made and seconded the Essex Elementary Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to go into Executive Session at 8:23pm. Dr. Levy and Ms. Martineau were invited to attend the Executive Session.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:26pm.

Upon a motion made by DG Fitton and seconded Carolyn Rotella the Essex Elementary Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to approve the Non-Renewal Notice as presented by Dr. Levy.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Next Joint BOE meeting April 7, 2016
- Essex BOE next regular meeting (May 12th, 2016 @ 700pm)
- BOE Self-evaluation (TBD)

ADJOURNMENT

On motion duly made and seconded the Board unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley Frazier, Secretary