

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE NEXT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
ESSEX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION
March 12, 2015**

The regular meeting of the Essex Board of Education was held on Thursday, March 12, 2015. In attendance were Lon Seidman, Loretta McCluskey, Carolyn Rotella, DG Fitton and Mark Watson. Also in attendance were Dr. Ruth Levy, Superintendent, Dr. Joanne Beekley, Assistant Superintendent, Scott Jeffrey, Principal, Deborah O'Donnell, Assistant Principal, and Kelley Frazier, Clerk Absent: Adam Conrad

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Lon Seidman at 7:03p.m.

STUDENT REPORT

Mr. Seidman asked to move the student presentation up in the agenda to accommodate the attendees. Mr. Jeffrey introduced the sign committee for the new sign in front of Essex Elementary School. Hanley Ferrucci and Simon Collins were students who were part of the committee and presented two options of the sign. This will be a gift from the Student Activity Fund. Design #1 was the preference of Board members. Mr. Seidman asked that the Board of Selectmen see the design chosen.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Essex Board of Education **VOTED** to endorse the sign committee's work and to bring Design #1 to the community for their review.

CONSENT AGENDA

DG Fitton made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of January 15, 2015 and the minutes from the Budget Workshop of February 18, 2015 and the Accounts Payable report. Carolyn Rotella seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comment.

OTHER ITEMS:

Principal's Update

Mr. Jeffrey gave a brief update of the activities at Essex Elementary. There will be parent – teacher conferences next week. Report cards are distributed on the 18th. We have started the invention convention workshops. This is scheduled for April 1st at 6:00pm. The Fifth grade will take the Science CMT this month.

REPORTS:

Financial Status Report – Mr. Garth Sawyer

Dr. Levy gave a brief update of the financial status for Essex Elementary School. Currently Essex Elementary is projecting a significant surplus. The Administration will keep the Board informed if the situation changes as we proceed through the year.

Cafeteria Report – Mr. Sawyer

Dr. Levy gave an update on the status of the Cafeteria Budget. We have changed the process of collections. There are many attempts to offer assistance if needed.

Discussion and Possible Vote on Recommended Essex Budget Transfers for 2014-15.

Dr. Levy reviewed the requested budget transfers.

Upon a motion made by Loretta McCluskey and seconded by DG Fitton the Board unanimously **VOTED** to approve the 2014-2015 budget transfers as recommended by Dr. Levy.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance

The Finance Committee is scheduled to meet March 31st.

Policy

The next meeting is scheduled for March 24th.

Curriculum

The next meeting is scheduled for March 24th.

Supervision District

We approved our budget. It is a 2.49% increase. We renewed the bus contract.

LEARN Committee Update

No Update.

Regionalization

The Committee has been working and began answering the nine questions we need to answer for regionalization. The referendum voting process must have the affirmative vote of all three towns. We are not required to submit our plan to the State Department or State Boards of Education. Dr. Levy address that there is a rumor that Chester Elementary will be closing. There is no intention to do this. We need to put a plan in place to deal with declining enrollments. We are also discussing the ADM process. She would like an affirmative vote to move to referendum in June and allow the public to vote. If approved it would be in place in July 2016.

We have used all of our snow days. Graduation is on the 17th and our last day is the 18th.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – J. Beekley

General Update

Dr. Beekley gave her report at the Joint Board of Education and has no additional report.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - R. Levy

District Update

Dr. Levy gave her report under Regionalization.

Information and Communication

Building Committee Update

No update.

Discussion Regarding Pending Policies

Policy #4132 Publication or Creation of Materials

There was a first read at the Joint Board of Education. This policy was briefly discussed. This will be voted in April.

Possible VOTE to accept Essex Building Project 050-0006EA as complete.

Upon a motion made by Loretta McCluskey and seconded by DG Fitton the Essex Elementary Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to accept Essex Building Project 050-0006EA as complete.

Discussion and Possible Vote to Adopt proposed 2015-16 Essex Elementary Budget to be Presented to the Town

On a motion duly made by DG Fitton and seconded by Loretta McCluskey, the Board unanimously **VOTED** to recommend bringing the Essex Elementary School Budget for school year 2015-16 to the Essex Board of Finance in the amount of \$7,560,101(seven million, five hundred and sixty thousand, one hundred and one dollars) for a decrease of 2.35% to be presented to the Town. The motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sue Strecker asked if an email had gone out stating that Chester was not closing? Dr. Levy stated that this is a good idea.

EXECUTIVE SESSION-Personnel Matter

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously **VOTED** to move into Executive Session at 7:57pm to discuss a Personnel Matter and to vote on staff non-renewals. The motion passed. Dr. Levy, Dr. Beekley and Mr. Jeffrey were asked to attend the Executive Session.

The Board Moved out of Executive Session at 8:02pm.

On a motion made by DG Fitton and seconded by Carolyn Rotella, the Essex Elementary Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to approve the Non Renewal Notice as presented by Mr. Jeffrey.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 8:03pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley Frazier, Board Clerk