

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE NEXT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
ESSEX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION
January 11, 2018**

The regular meeting of the Essex Board of Education was held on Thursday, January 11, 2018. Lon Seidman, DG Fitton, Loretta McCluskey, Judie McCann, Carolyn Rotella and Adam Conrad. Also in attendance were Dr. Ruth Levy, Superintendent of Schools, Kristina Martineau, Assistant Superintendent, Kim Allen, Business Manager, Jennifer Tousignant, Principal and Kelley Frazier, Clerk. Absent:

CALL TO ORDER

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

STUDENT REPORT

Ms. Ruel, a sixth grade teacher, introduced Ella Brenneman, Lauren Wallace, Clark Burleson and Tyler Ruel who presented the next generation science activity their class has been working on. Mr. Seidman thanked the students for presenting their project to the Board.

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon a motion duly made by DG Fitton and seconded by Carolyn Rotella the Essex Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of November 9, 2017 and the Accounts Payable report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comment.

OTHER ITEMS:

Community and Board Input on 2018-19

No additional input given.

Principal's Update

Ms. Vandermale, the Essex Elementary math consultant, discussed the primary math curriculum programs. The programs align very well with the district initiative of critical thinking and problem solving.

Ms. Tousignant gave a brief update. The winter concert was held and well attended. The Essex Foundation has sponsored several programs in the school such as the World Culture program featuring Haiti along with Engineering with Legos and Maker's Space program. An Audubon Society grant was received. PTO cultural arts programs will feature Push. The Square Art fundraiser and Family night take place this winter. An author will be doing individual workshops in classrooms and an all school assembly. The Invention Convention is March 6th.

REPORTS:

Financial Status Report – Ms. Allen

Ms. Allen gave a brief update on the financial status for Essex Elementary School. A surplus of \$42,000 is anticipated. The cafeteria dishwasher is now installed. Ms. Allen will remain vigilant of any unforeseen circumstances and we will keep the Board informed of any developments as they arise.

Cafeteria Report – Ms. Allen

Ms. Allen gave an update on the status of the cafeteria budget. State funding and revenue are always a month behind.

Committee Reports

Finance - Next meeting is January 30, 2018

Curriculum – Next meeting is January 22, 2018

Policy – Next meeting is March 19, 2018

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

Supervision District Committee Update

The Committee voted to put forth a .91% increase to public hearing. Discussions held regarding the staffing for the budget. Meetings are being held with the First Selectmen from all three towns to discuss how to work together in dealing with the state funding reductions. Reductions are still being discussed for funding to the schools.

A tentative contract agreement has been reached with the cafeteria workers.

LEARN

No update.

Ad hoc Joint BOE Cafeteria Committee

No update.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Ms. Martineau gave a brief update. A discussion was held regarding the Strategic Plan Strategies and Action Steps for 2017-2020. All Board members and teachers were part of this plan. This will continue to be built on each year.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

District Update – Critical Thinking and Creative Problem Solving

The Strategic Plan is a blueprint for our 5 year and 10 year plan. It is unique to our district.

Information and Communication

There will be a comprehensive presentation of the I/B program on Tuesday at the Region 4 meeting. February 5th Dr. Levy will do a presentation at the Chamber of Commerce in Cromwell discussing the manufacturing program. The Social and Emotional Wellness Committee sponsored a presentation with Dr. Alicia Farrell on Anxiety. It is a pertinent topic. The presentation was videotaped and will be available on the website. In April there will be a presentation on Resilience.

**Discussion Regarding and Pending Policies – standing item
#5132 Dress Code**

This will be voted on at Joint Board of Education meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comment.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- 8.1 Essex Budget Workshop: Jan 23rd, Feb 13th, Feb 28th, 2018 @6:00pm @ Central Office
- 8.2 BOE and Community Input for 2018-19 Budget(on-going)
- 8.3 Presentation of Major Budget Drivers for 2018-19(TBD)
- 8.4 Vote on non-renewals(Mar)
- 8.5 End of Year Data and Strategic Focus Presentation
- 8.6 BOE Self-evaluation (TBD)

ADJOURNMENT

On motion duly made and seconded the Board unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 8:45p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley Frazier, Secretary