

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE  
April 07, 2016 MEETING  
Joint Board of Education Committee**

**February 25, 2016**

A regular meeting of the Joint Board of Education Committee was held on Thursday, February 25, 2016 in the John Winthrop Middle School Library, with the following Board Members present:

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| CHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION:    | Arthur Henick, Robert Bibbiani, John Stack,<br>John Ropiak, Becky Iselin   |
| DEEP RIVER BOARD OF EDUCATION: | Michelle Grow, Miriam Morrissey, Nelle<br>Andrews, Hadley Kornacki, Paula Weglarz,<br>James Talbott, Imran Munawar |
| ESSEX BOARD OF EDUCATION:      | Lon Seidman, Loretta McCluskey <b>No Quorum</b>  |
| REGION 4 BOARD OF EDUCATION:   | Chris Riley, Mario Gioco, Susan Hollister,<br>Lori Ann Clymas, Leigh Rankin  |

Also in attendance: Dr. Ruth Levy, Superintendent; Kristina Martineau, Assistant Superintendent; Garth Sawyer, Business Manager & Jennifer Bryan, Board Clerk.

Audience of Citizens: 2

**CALL TO ORDER**

Supervision District Committee Chair Chris Riley called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

The Chairs of the Chester, Deep River, and Region 4 Board of Education called their respective Boards to order at 7:05 p.m. The Essex Board did not have a quorum.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

On motion duly made and seconded, the Chester (unanimous), Deep River (unanimously), and Region 4 (unanimously) Boards of Education VOTED to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the December 03, 2015 regular meeting of the Joint Board.

The Essex Board did not have a quorum and was unable to vote. They will VOTE on this item at their scheduled March 1<sup>st</sup> Budget Workshop.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – no comments were made

## OTHER ITEMS –

### REPORTS

#### Financial Status Update

Mr. Sawyer's financial update was held until the boards' monthly individual meetings, which begin next week.

#### Superintendent's Report

Dr. Levy presented the 2016-17 Supervision District budget approved by the Committee earlier in the evening. The total appropriation approved by the Committee was for Six Million, eight hundred ninety two thousand, eight hundred forty dollars (**\$6,892,840**)

Dr. Levy discussed a newly proposed revision to the previously developed workshop budget based on the overall budget requirements for Chester, Deep River, Essex & Region 4. She noted that initially three items were added into the 2016-17 Supervision District budget beyond standard operational costs. They were as follows: a 1.0 Math Coach at a cost of \$38,941 to be matched by grant funding; \$10,000 for strategic planning; and \$3,000 for a Nurse Coordinator stipend. Based on the need for balancing academic and budgetary needs, she recommends that the districts maintain their current math teaching model for another year, thereby eliminating the request for the 1.0 Math Coach from the 2016-17 Supervision District budget and reducing the proposed total appropriation by \$38,941.

There was a brief discussion.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Chester (Yes 4, No 0, Abstention 1 – John Stack = motion passed), Deep River (unanimously), and Region 4 (Yes 3, No 2- Leigh Rankin & Mario Gioco = motion passed) VOTED to approve the 2016-17 Supervision District budget in the total appropriation amount of Six Million, eight hundred ninety two thousand, eight hundred forty dollars (**\$6,892,840**).

The Essex Board did not have a quorum and was unable to vote. They will VOTE on this item at their scheduled March 1<sup>st</sup> Budget Workshop.

#### Committee Reports

Dr. Levy reported that the Policy Committee met on January 25<sup>th</sup>, and currently has no new policies to present. She did present Policy #5141.4 for a second reading and vote this evening. She noted that the policy has been through a first reading as well as on for discussion at all of the individual board meetings last month. The policy revisions are all based on mandated language changes.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Chester, Deep River, and Region 4 Boards unanimously VOTED to approve revised policy #5141.4 as presented.

The Essex Board did not have a quorum and was unable to vote. They will VOTE on this item at their scheduled March 1<sup>st</sup> Budget Workshop.

Joint BOE Curriculum Committee – Assistant Superintendent Martineau reported that the Committee met on January 25, 2016 and approved two new courses.

Joint BOE Finance Committee - Business Manager Garth Sawyer reported that their January 19<sup>th</sup> meeting had been cancelled and not been rescheduled yet as of this date.

#### Assistant Superintendent's Report

Assistant Superintendent Martineau gave an update on Professional Development and Curriculum. She reported that the Tech Summit PD day for teachers was held recently and was a great success. Our teachers who are comfortable and familiar with a variety of technologies led many of the classes. Teachers have already requested another Tech Summit for next year, and have asked that it be held even earlier in the year for maximum benefit. Chair Riley requested that teachers share some of the technology that they're using in their classrooms at a future meeting.

Mrs. Martineau updated the boards on very recent changes in student assessments. A change to SBAC testing was just announced by the Governor earlier today, and she noted that it is in our children's favor as it reduces testing times by almost two full hours. The State made the decision to remove testing of something that was already covered by other portions of the test, and is something already done, day to day, in our classrooms. This reduces total assessment time for student from 6 hours to approx. 4 hours.

Joint BOE Policy Committee Chair Leigh Rankin shared that she had been elected Chair of the Policy Committee at their last meeting on January 25<sup>th</sup>. She noted that the Committee will continue looking at a tuition policy to be vetted by board attorneys at Shipman and Goodwin, and the Committee will continue looking at policies last updated prior to 2002.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** No comments were made

#### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Next Regular Joint BOE Meeting April 07<sup>th</sup>, 2016

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

On Motion duly made and seconded, the Deep River and Region 4 Boards of Education unanimously VOTED to adjourn 7:24 p.m.

- \* **The Chester Board of Education stayed in Session for the following business:**
  - **Executive Session – Interview potential candidate to fill the Board vacancy**

The Chester Board moved into Executive Session at: 7:26 p.m. to interview Tom Englert to fill the current vacancy on the Board.

The Chester Board moved out of Executive Session at 7:32 p.m.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Chester Board unanimously VOTED to appoint Tom Englert to fill the Board vacancy through Nov. 2017.

On motion duly made and seconded the Chester Board unanimously VOTED to adjourn at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jennifer Bryan, Clerk