

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE
AUGUST 21, 2014 MEETING**

**Joint Board of Education Committee
June 5, 2014**

A regular meeting of the Joint Board of Education Committee was held on Thursday, June 5, 2014, in the John Winthrop Middle School Library, with the following Board Members present:

- CHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION: Wendy King, David Fitzgibbons, Rodney Alston, Rob Bibbiani,
- DEEP RIVER BOARD OF EDUCATION: Christine Daniels, Miriam Morrissey, Nelle Andrews, Hadley Kornacki, Augusta Ferretta (7:22pm)
- ESSEX BOARD OF EDUCATION: Lon Seidman, Loretta McCluskey, DG Fitton, Adam Conrad, Carolyn Rotella, Mark Watson
- REGION 4 BOARD OF EDUCATION: Chris Riley, Ann Monaghan, Lauri Wichtowski, Leah Rankin, Elaine Fitzgibbons, Jane Cavanaugh,

Also in attendance: Dr. Ruth Levy, Superintendent, Dr. Joanne Beekley, Assistant Superintendent, Garth Sawyer, Business Manager & Kelley Frazier, Substitute Board Clerk.

CALL TO ORDER

Supervision District Committee Chair Christine Daniels called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m.

The Chairs of the Essex and Region 4 Boards of Education called their respective Boards to order. Chester and Deep River did not have a quorum.

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion duly made and seconded, the Essex and Region 4 Boards of Education unanimously **VOTED** to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the April 3, 2014 regular meeting of the Joint Board of Education Meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comments

OTHER ITEMS

REPORTS

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Levy gave a brief update.

Information and Communication Items

Vote on Superintendent's Recommendation to Appoint Shipman and Goodwin as Legal Counsel for the Board of Education of Chester, Deep River, Essex and Region 4 for 2014-2015.

On a motion duly made and seconded the Essex and Region 4 Boards unanimously **VOTED** to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to appoint Shipman and Goodwin as legal counsel for the Boards of Education of Essex and Region 4 for 2014-15.

Ms. Monaghan asked if this would go out for bid next year. Dr. Levy confirmed that it will be put on a future agenda for discussion.

Deep River gained a quorum at 7:22 p.m.

End of Year Review

Dr. Levy showed a video showing the highlights of the past year. Dr. Levy noted that there have been many changes in our district. She thanked Dr. Beekley for her hard work this year and the Administrators in our schools. She noted that we are not individual towns; we are a diverse K-12 district. She asked that the Boards make us whole next year for our kids and the financial stability of each town. She asked the Deep River members to attend the Town Meeting on Monday evening.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy Committee Report

Third Reading and Vote on the following policies:

#5114 Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process - Students

Dr. Levy noted that this is not a third reading. This is a first reading because the policy has been revamped. We will not be voting on this tonight. Dr. Levy reviewed the steps in approving a policy.

Ms. Rankin had questions regarding the expulsion hearing. It was noted that there is a timeline which has to be followed. Ms. Rankin researched other town's expulsion policy. These towns had similar demographics as our district. She noted that other towns did not take out the Board's responsibility at the start of the timeline. She asked why the Board of Education is not included? Ms. Andrews noted that we are a small towns and it is difficult to be impartial and not know someone involved in an incident. The district is using an impartial Hearing Officer. Ms. Rankin feels that the Board should make the decision of utilizing the Hearing Officer. Ms. Morrissey felt that the Board should appoint the Hearing Officer. Mr. Fitton noted that meeting the timeline could be difficult. Discussion ensued. It was noted that the Hearing Officer is familiar with statutory law. If it the timeline is not met within 10 days, the District loses its ability to discipline the student. Mr. Fitton and Ms. McCluskey noted that they do not want to have to make these decisions. Ms. Monaghan stated that the Hearing Officer is being paid by the district. Dr. Levy noted that both parties have to agree on the proceedings. The Board is giving Dr. Levy the authority to appoint a Hearing Officer. Dr. Levy discussed the types of expulsion and that parents may find it difficult in dealing with a Board of their peers. The Board would like to help define what the qualifications need to be for a Hearing Officer. It was decided that we need to clarify the right of refusal in the policy. This policy will be heard in October for a second reading. There will be a policy meeting prior to finalize this policy.

Finance Committee Report

Mr. Watson gave a brief update. He noted that procedures and policies for the Finance Committee will be worked on. He would like to get a Procedural Manual available to the District.

Curriculum Committee

Mr. Fitzgibbons noted that the format for this committee will be to touch base on the rapid changing items and then add items. Preschool and the virtual high school were the additional items discussed.

Ad Hoc Committees (as needed)

The Declining Enrollment committee met. The next meeting will be scheduled in the near future.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Dr. Beekley noted that the Teacher Evaluation plan will be resubmitted to the State. We have gone through the policy and reviewed the teacher portion. She distributed the changes. She discussed professional non-classroom work that is done by a teacher. A plan will be adopted in August. The Administrator plan is still being reviewed.

Dr. Levy discussed the Administrator Evaluation Plan. Dr. Levy is on a committee for review of this process. Our district is one of seven districts in Connecticut to take a much stronger look at this plan. We have applied for an extension on what we are putting in our Administrator Evaluation Plan.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comment

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Next Regular Meeting of Joint Board of Education August 21, 2014

Update on Celebrate Learning Summer Program (Aug)

First Reading of BOE Meeting Calendar for Upcoming Calendar Year (Aug)

Update on Summer Hiring (all districts) (Aug)

Legislative Updates (discussion at Sept mtgs.) (Aug)

Executive Session – presentation of Superintendent's Goals (Aug)

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly made and seconded, the Chester and Essex boards unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 8:30

The Region 4 and Deep River Boards of Education stayed in session.

* **Region 4 Board of Education** stayed in session to discuss the following business:

A Request for Proposals (RFP) for auditors for the 2013-14, 2014-15, and 2015-16 financial reports was issued and three responses were received. The Region 4 Audit and Finance Committee met to review the RFPs. Two proposal fees were comparable. The Committee felt that using the district's current auditing firm would bring continuity to the district.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Region 4 Board unanimously VOTED to approve the Region 4 Audit and Finance Committee's recommendation to appoint Mahoney Sabol and Company as the Region 4 auditing firm for the 2013-14, 2014-15, and 2015-16 financial reports on a three year contract at a cost of \$9,500 per year.

* **Deep River Board of Education** stayed in session to discuss the following business:

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Deep River Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to approve the minutes of the Regular Joint Board Meeting of April 3, 2014.

On a motion duly made and seconded the Deep River Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to appoint Shipman and Goodwin as legal counsel for the Deep River Board of Education for 2014-15.

The Board discussed possible reductions in the amount of \$12,500 to the proposed Deep River Elementary Budget for 2014-15 as requested by the Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously **VOTED** to approve a proposed Deep River Elementary budget for 2014-15 in the reduced amount of Five Million, Four Hundred Sixty One Thousand, Five Hundred dollars (\$5,461,500).

Respectfully Submitted,
Kelley Frazier, Substitute Clerk