

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE

June 01, 2017 MEETING

Joint Board of Education Committee

REVISED as approved
at October 5, 2017 Joint
BOE meeting

April 06, 2017

A regular meeting of the Joint Board of Education Committee was held on Thursday, April 06, 2017 in the John Winthrop Middle School Library, with the following Board Members present:

CHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION: David Fitzgibbons, Arthur Henick John Stack, Becky Iselin, Tom Englert, John Ropiak (arrived 7:14)

DEEP RIVER BOARD OF EDUCATION: Michelle Grow, Miriam Morrissey, Hadley Kornacki, Jim Olson, Imran Munawar, Tatria Ciaglo. Paula Weglarz

ESSEX BOARD OF EDUCATION: Lon Seidman, DG Fitton, Loretta McCluskey, Mark Watson, Carolyn Rotella. Adam Conrad

REGION 4 BOARD OF EDUCATION: Jennifer Clark, Susan Hollister, Elaine Fitzgibbons, Jane Cavanaugh, Leigh Rankin, Jim Olson

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

Audience of Citizens: Thomas Peterlik

CALL TO ORDER

Supervision District Committee Chair David Fitzgibbons called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.

The Chairs of the Chester, Deep River, Essex Boards and Region 4 Board of Education called their respective Boards to order at 7:11 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion duly made and seconded, the Chester, Deep River, Essex, and Region 4 Boards of Education unanimously VOTED to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the February 23, 2017 regular meeting of the Joint Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT – no comments were made

OTHER ITEMS – Dr. Levy started the discussion regarding board renewal of the Healthy Food Certification for the cafeterias by asking Mr. Sawyer to report to the Boards the amounts that each school received from last year’s Healthy Food Certification. Dr. Levy then recommended that they approve the certification, which provides an extra 10 cents back to the districts, again this year.

Region 4 BOE member Leigh Rankin asked for an explanation of what the grant excludes us from selling, as she feels it may be causing the need for subsidies from the Board to cover the cafeteria costs. Mr. Peterlik explained the guidelines that must be followed. There was a discussion about Madison’s high school lunch program and how it differs in its overall model, due to their school not participating in the National School Lunch program in any manner. There was a general discussion regarding various aspects of the lunch program.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Chester Board unanimously VOTED to approve the Superintendent’s recommendation to renew certification that all food items sold to students at any time other than those covered by exemption, will meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards to qualify for CSDE’s Healthy Food Certification and monetary compensation from the State.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Essex Board unanimously VOTED to approve the Superintendent’s recommendation to renew certification that all food items sold to students at any time other than those covered by exemption, will meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards to qualify for CSDE’s Healthy Food Certification and monetary compensation from the State

On motion duly made and seconded, the Deep River Board unanimously VOTED to approve the Superintendent’s recommendation to renew certification that all food items sold to students at any time other than those covered by exemption, will meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards to qualify for CSDE’s Healthy Food Certification and monetary compensation from the State

On motion duly made and seconded, the Region 4 Board unanimously VOTED to approve the Superintendent’s recommendation to renew certification that all food items sold to students at any time other than those covered by exemption, will meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards to qualify for CSDE’s Healthy Food Certification and monetary compensation from the State

Region 4 member Elaine Fitzgibbons mentioned that she would like a committee to be formed in the near future to research possible changes to the general cafeteria model.

The discussion and possible VOTE to approve an increase in lunch prices was moved up to this point in the agenda .

Dr. Levy recommended the following increases in school lunch prices effective 2017-18: Elementary lunches increase from \$2.75 to \$3.00; Middle school lunches increase from \$2.75 to \$3.25; High school lunches increase from \$2.75 to \$3.50; and Adults lunches at all schools increase from \$3.50 to \$4.50.

Chester BOE member John Stack stated that he felt the adult prices should be increase by much more than what is being recommended. Essex BOE member DG Fitton responded that the subsidy needed by cafeterias is to cover costs for labor, not the food, and the cafeterias would still need the same labor force whether a few adults buy lunches, or not. He also noted that the number of adults purchasing lunch at the cafeteria on any given day is very small. Deep River

BOE Chair Michelle Grow said that she supports keeping the increase on adult lunches as proposed because she feels there is a value to providing this small service, and many of the teachers who purchase a school lunch do so in order to be able to spend their own lunch time with students. Mr. Stack stated that lots of little moves will make a big impact over time. Region 4 BOE member Susan Hollister commented that more frequently it's paraeducators who buy lunches to eat with special needs students and it would be an insult to significantly hike up the prices. Essex BOE member Loretta McCluskey noted that she supports providing the reasonably priced service to the staff. There was more general discussion, during which it was noted that the lunch prices have not been increased for at least 7-8 yrs.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Chester Board VOTED (5 Yes, 1 No = John Stack, motion passed) to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to increase school lunch prices effective 2017-18 as follows: Elementary lunches increase from \$2.75 to \$3.00; Middle school lunches increase from \$2.75 to \$3.25; High school lunches increase from \$2.75 to \$3.50; and Adults lunches at all schools increase from \$3.50 to \$4.50.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Deep River Board unanimously VOTED to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to increase school lunch prices effective 2017-18 as follows: Elementary lunches increase from \$2.75 to \$3.00; Middle school lunches increase from \$2.75 to \$3.25; High school lunches increase from \$2.75 to \$3.50; and Adults lunches at all schools increase from \$3.50 to \$4.50.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Essex Board unanimously VOTED to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to increase school lunch prices effective 2017-18 as follows: Elementary lunches increase from \$2.75 to \$3.00; Middle school lunches increase from \$2.75 to \$3.25; High school lunches increase from \$2.75 to \$3.50; and Adults lunches at all schools increase from \$3.50 to \$4.50.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Region 4 Board unanimously VOTED to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to increase school lunch prices effective 2017-18 as follows: Elementary lunches increase from \$2.75 to \$3.00; Middle school lunches increase from \$2.75 to \$3.25; High school lunches increase from \$2.75 to \$3.50; and Adults lunches at all schools increase from \$3.50 to \$4.50.

Lon Seidman stated that per Elaine Fitzgibbons' earlier suggestion, he would like to ask that they form a committee to explore possible cafeteria changes. It will be put on the June Joint BOE agenda. Jane Cavanaugh requested that it also be placed on the May 4th Region 4 BOE agenda for discussion.

REPORTS

Financial Status Update

Mr. Sawyer gave a brief, high level financial update for each district. More detail will be given at the individual board meetings in May.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Levy presented a recommended revision to lower the proposed Supervision District budget for 2017-18 due to a recommendation for a reduction in the budgeted amount for

the health insurance reserve fund. The current proposed budget is \$6,835,149. The revised budget is proposed at \$6,791,119, recently approved by the Supervision District Committee.

Mr. Sawyer reported on the health insurance reserve for the current claims year. As the year has progressed, the claims have come in under the projected amount allowing the reserve fund to build back up, higher than anticipated, and allowing for a reduction of the budgeted amount for next year; from a 10% increase to a 5% increase.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Chester Board unanimously VOTED to approve the revised Supervision District for 2017-18 in the amount of \$6,791,119 (six million seven hundred ninety one thousand one hundred nineteen).

On motion duly made and seconded, the Deep River Board VOTED (5 Yes, 2 No - Michelle grow and Paula Weglarz = motion passed) to approve the revised Supervision District for 2017-18 in the amount of \$6,791,119 (six million seven hundred ninety one thousand one hundred nineteen).

On motion duly made and seconded, the Essex Board unanimously VOTED to approve the revised Supervision District for 2017-18 in the amount of \$6,791,119 (six million seven hundred ninety one thousand one hundred nineteen).

On motion duly made and seconded, the Region 4 Board unanimously VOTED to approve the revised Supervision District for 2017-18 in the amount of \$6,791,119 (six million seven hundred ninety one thousand one hundred nineteen).

Committee Reports

Joint BOE Curriculum Committee Chair David Fitzgibbons reported that the Committee met on March 20th and approved *Bridges*, a new K-5 math program which had been piloted this year. The teachers are excited about it. The Committee also heard a presentation by the Art Department.

Joint BOE Finance Committee Chair Mark Watson reported that they met on April 4th and discussed the health insurance reserve as was mentioned earlier in the meeting.

Joint BOE Policy Committee Chair Leigh Rankin reported that the Committee met on March 20th and as a result had a few items to present to the Joint BOE.

The first, *Policy #5123 Promotion/Acceleration/Retention* was presented with significant recommended language changes which were based on a Shipman and Goodwin model policy. These changes are recommended due to the current policy language being outdated for our districts. Ms. Rankin recommended Board members review and vote on the recommended revision at the June Joint BOE meeting.

Ms. Rankin also presented two policies (*#5010 Goals* and *#5121 Examination/Grading/Rating*) which were reviewed by the Committee; determined to be obsolete; and therefore recommended for complete removal from the policy manual. She suggested a vote be taken on removal of these two policies this evening unless anyone objects.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Chester, Deep River, Essex, and Region 4 Boards of Education unanimously VOTED to approve the removal of policies #5010 and #5121 from the policy manual.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Assistant Superintendent Martineau gave a brief update on Professional Development and Curriculum. She reported that the State Department of Education recently sent a memo that all of our schools, except CES were selected for grades 5, 8, 11 to pilot New Science Standards (NSS) testing. Although it's short notice, it will be good to see the design of the test and it will have no financial impact on the districts. Also, because it's a pilot test only, there are no ramifications, and we may not even get to see the results.

Chair Fitzgibbons asked the Chester Board to add an item to the agenda so they may stay in session at the end of the Joint BOE meeting to discuss the recent CES budget presentation to the town.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: No comments were made

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Next Regular Joint BOE Meeting, June 01, 2017 @ 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

On Motion duly made and seconded, the Chester, Deep River, and Essex Boards of Education unanimously VOTED to adjourn at 7:59 p.m.

*** The Chester Board of Education stayed in Session for the following business:**

-Budget Discussion

- The Board discussed their recent budget presentation to the Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen. On motion duly made and seconded, the Chester Board unanimously VOTED to adjourn at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Bryan, Clerk