

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO COMMITTEE APPROVAL AT THE  
October 3, 2013 MEETING  
REGIONAL SUPERVISION DISTRICT COMMITTEE**

**August 22, 2013**

A regular meeting of the Regional Supervision District Committee was held on Thursday, August 22, 2013 in the John Winthrop Middle School Library, with the following Committee members present:

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| CHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION:    | Wendy King, Peg Reyer  |
| DEEP RIVER BOARD OF EDUCATION: | Christine Daniels, Art Robbins (6:35 p.m. arrival), KC Nelson-Oliveria (6:28 p.m. arrival) |
| ESSEX BOARD OF EDUCATION:      | Lon Seidman, Loretta McCluskey, DG Fitton  |
| REGION 4 BOARD OF EDUCATION:   | Elaine Fitzgibbons   |

Also in attendance: Dr. Ruth Levy, Superintendent; Joanne Beekley, Assistant Superintendent; Garth Sawyer, Business Manager, and Jennifer Bryan, Committee Clerk.

Audience of Citizens: none present

**CALL TO ORDER**

Committee Chair Wendy King called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

On motion duly made and seconded the Committee unanimously VOTED to approve the consent agenda consisting of the Minutes from the regular meeting of June 6, 2013, and the Accounts Payable Report.

**OTHER ITEMS**

None listed

**PUBLIC COMMENT -**

None present

**REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION**

Financial Status – Business Manager Garth Sawyer reviewed the highlights of the Supervision District financial status updates both for the current status, and the end of the year for 2012-13. The 2012-13 year ended as expected with a surplus of approximately \$25,000, still to be confirmed through the annual audit. The 2013-14 school year is just getting under way.

## Individual BOE reports

Chester – Board Chair Wendy King reported that solar panels were installed over the summer at the Chester Elementary School.

Deep River – Board Chair Christine Daniels reported that Deep River Elementary hosted Celebrate Learning this summer. All classrooms were painted over the summer and updated technology components are in place for the upcoming year. She also reported that PTO purchased two new window unit air conditioners for classrooms in need. Additionally an Eagle Scout is working on a project on the school grounds.

Essex – Board Chair Lon Seidman had nothing new to report.

Region 4 – Board member Elaine Fitzgibbons had nothing new to report.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

### **Information and Communication**

The update on summer hiring for Supervision District was held until the Joint BOE meeting.

Dr. Levy discussed possible action regarding cameras on school buses. She noted that between new bullying legislation and current events, it would help investigations and eliminate “he said, she said” situations if there were working cameras on all district buses. The \$3000 cost for installation of used cameras, with audio, on every bus can be covered within the budget. Each camera maintains a data history of approximately 3 months. Elaine Fitzgibbons voiced her concern over the general climate on buses, and stated that she would like a no-nonsense attitude towards behavior on buses and feels students must have a clear understanding of the type of behavior expected on the bus. Dr. Levy noted that bus rules are listed in the handbooks that every family receives, and every principal talks with students at the beginning of the year regarding expectations for behavior on the buses.

Dr. Levy stated that she feels the issue that most needs to be addressed in a new way, is training drivers in how to deal with disciplinary issues in a consistent, approved manner. She has requested collaboration with First Student in addressing this need. DG Fitton stated that he felt it was very little money to spend given the potential benefits they will provide. He feels the cameras will level the playing field for students, drivers and the districts. Christine Daniels said she feels they are a good idea and incentive for good behavior in general. Loretta McCluskey also agreed.

Dr. Levy introduced Attorney Anne Littlefield of Shipman and Goodwin who talked about work on the Cooperative Agreement and discussed the conflicts waiver that will be needed if work is to be undertaken by Shipman and Goodwin.

Ms. Littlefield explained that the Boards have jointly received a grant from the State to examine and consolidate the multi-board governance structure. She explained that technically because all parties in the agreement are assumed to have potentially different interests, if they would like the firm of Shipman and Goodwin to work with all of the entities (boards), each board will need to sign a waiver of conflicts. Ms. Littlefield explained that she will be transparent and candid about all aspects and the effect on each party. If a party can't agree, or down the road, a dispute arises as to the interpretation of any aspect of the agreement, the firm would have to recuse itself from representing any of the boards on that particular interpretation or

resolution of conflict. Furthermore, each board will need to designate a representative(s) to participate in working on the framework of the agreement.

There was a discussion regarding many aspects of potential conflict outcomes. Ms. Littlefield noted that the goal of the agreement, in terms of legal drafting, is to draft it agreeable to all parties, but with an organic component that includes procedures to deal with unforeseen circumstances that may arise.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Committee unanimously VOTED to permit the Committee Chair to execute a conflicts waiver to permit Shipman & Goodwin LLP to work jointly with the Chester, Deep River, Essex, Regional School District No. 4 Boards of Education and the Supervision District Committee for the formation and execution of a new cooperative agreement regarding a shared governance structure.

The Committee agreed to hold their vote for appointment of a representative to work on the agreement until the Joint Board meeting, at which time the individual Boards will be taking their vote on the same matter.

The Committee moved into recess at 7:00 p.m. to allow them to vote on the above matter during the subsequent Joint BOE meeting.

*NOTE – The Committee moved out of recess to take the following vote during the Joint BOE meeting held later the same evening:*

*On motion duly made and seconded, the Committee unanimously VOTED to appoint the Supervision District Committee to work jointly with representatives of the Chester, Deep River, Essex and Regional School District No. 4 Boards of Education for the formation and execution of a new cooperative agreement regarding a shared governance structure.*

*On motion duly made and seconded, the Committee unanimously VOTED to adjourn at 8:30 p.m.*

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – no one present

#### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Next regular Supervision District Committee meeting – October 3, 2013  
Beginning of Year Transportation Report by First Student – *F. Kulick (Oct.)*  
First Reading of Proposed District School Calendar for 2014-15 (*Oct.*)  
Superintendent Presents Major Budget Drivers for 2014-15 (*Oct.*)  
BOE & Community Input on 2014-15 Budget

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

On motion duly made and seconded, the Committee unanimously VOTED to adjourn at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Lon Seidman, Secretary,  
Jennifer Bryan, Clerk