

**F.O.I. Compliance** – Subject to Committee approval

**SUPERVISION DISTRICT COMMITTEE**

September 30, 2020

**Special Meeting – REMOTE MEETING held**

(To view a recording of this meeting, please visit our website [www.reg4.k12.ct.us](http://www.reg4.k12.ct.us) and select “Remote Meeting Recordings” under the BOARD OF EDUCATION Heading)

<b>Attendance:</b>	<u>Supervision District Comm.</u>		<u>Administration:</u>	<u>Other</u>
(√ = attended)	Kate Sandmann	√	Brian White	√
	David Fitzgibbons	√	Kristina Martineau	√
	Loretta McCluskey	√	Kelly Sterner	√
	Lon Seidman	√	Sarah Smalley	√
	Charlene Fearon	√		
	Miriam Morrissey	√		
	Jane Cavanaugh	√		
	Robert Ferretti			
	John Stack	√		
	Tom Englert	√		
	Paula Weglarz	√		
	DG Fitton	√		

Call To Order: 7:00 p.m.

**Items / Discussion**

**Consent Agenda**

On motion duly made and seconded, the Committee unanimously VOTED to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the special meetings of June 16 and August 4, 2020 and the accounts payable report.

**Superintendent’s Report**

Superintendent Brian White shared a few remarks in advance of the Finance Office report. He included an update on the communication sent to communities earlier today regarding a COVID-19 case at the high school and the action taken at the direction of our local health districts. He thanked our local public health officials from the Town of Essex and CRAHD for their invaluable assistance throughout this process, and for all the assistance they have been providing throughout the pandemic. He noted that the metrics currently still guide us toward a full reopening on October 13<sup>th</sup>, but he will be monitoring those and adjustments will be made if it becomes necessary.

Superintendent White shared that administration was able to successfully work through the transition of the withdrawal of the Towns of Essex and Deep River from the Region 4

medical insurance fund. He will share more information at the Region 4 meeting tomorrow evening.

Superintendent White shared an update on three contract negotiations that had been placed on hold during the initial school closure last March. Those have all re-started and he expects to be able to share a resolution with the boards in the near future.

Superintendent White concluded by sharing that administration has been working on the creation of a District Equity Committee, as mentioned in previous meetings. Once our schools fully reopen their doors he will be moving forward with that work. Later this fall he expects to share with the boards what he expects that work to entail and how it will proceed this year.

### **Finance Office Report**

Finance Director Kelly Sterner reviewed board enclosures #4 - #7 in detail. She answered questions from Committee members.

M. Morrissey raised concerns from parents who cannot watch their students play sports. Superintendent White said he will share an update during the Region 4 Board meeting tomorrow night regarding on-going conversations with other districts, their athletic directors, and health departments around our region.

### **Possible Action Items:**

Based on the Finance Director's earlier review of enclosure #7 there was a discussion regarding the request to transfer unexpended 2019-20 funds from "professional services" to "unemployment compensation" to cover incurred unemployment costs.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Committee unanimously VOTED to approve the transfer of funds related to unemployment costs as presented in enclosure #7.

There was a discussion regarding accepting a donation to the Collaborative Preschool

On motion duly made and seconded the Committee unanimously VOTED to accept, with thanks, anonymous donations totaling \$6000 to be applied toward tuition payments at the collaborative preschool for identified families in need of assistance.

Chair Sandmann shared her thanks to Superintendent White, the administrative team, the staff, and teachers for their heroism and can-do attitude and for keeping things going forward and as well as they can be.

**Public Comment:** No comments were made

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

On motion duly made and seconded, the Committee unanimously VOTED to adjourn at approx. 7:41 p.m.

Encl #7

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 4  
CHESTER • DEEP RIVER • ESSEX



Brian J. White  
Superintendent of Schools  
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Sarah Smalley  
Director of Pupil Services  
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Kristina Martineau, Ed.D.  
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Kelly Sterner  
Finance Director  
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July 17, 2020

To: Brian White, Superintendent of Schools

From: Kelly Sterner, Finance Director

RE: Supervision District Unemployment Claims

As a little background, Municipalities and Boards of Education can elect one of two methods for paying their unemployment to the State. One method is to pay quarterly a set percent of payroll. The percent is established by the State based in part by experience. The second method is to elect not to pay the quarterly fee, but to reimburse the State dollar-for-dollar for all claims incurred. Supervision District operates under the latter method.

With COVID causing so many shutdowns and layoffs, the State of Connecticut has received a tremendous number of unemployment claims. This has caused a significant delay in producing the charge back invoices to the schools. Supervision District has just recently received their unemployment claims invoice for March/April/May. Included with this memo is a breakdown of the billing statement.

The 2019-2020 Supervision District budget currently shows a deficit of \$2,065 on the Unemployment Compensation budget line. We must cover the March/April/May invoice for \$1,466 as well as anticipate June charges.

In order to allow the payment of the invoice and avoid late charges (which would not be reimbursable) I recommend the following transfer:

Account #	Acct Name	Increase	Decrease
523212-5250	Unemployment Comp	\$4,500	
527005-5510	Other Professional Services		\$4,500

Note that should the State not agree with our protest of the charges, we still may be eligible for a 50% reimbursement via the CARES Act. I have included information received on that program. How long before we see any of the reimbursement remains to be seen.

**Supervision District**  
**Unemployment Compensation**  
Billing Statement as of 06/19/2020

Invoice Total:	1,466.00	
		# of EE
Paras who filed for unemployment for overtime hours	14.00	3
Former Employees for whom we figure on their wage history	1,298.00	1
Substitute Teachers	<u>154.00</u>	<u>4</u>
	<b>1,466.00</b>	<b>8</b>

## **Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Support (CARES) Act**

### **✓ 50% Reimbursements for those employers who make payments in lieu of contributions (reimbursing employers)**

#### ***Who is a reimbursing employer?***

Reimbursing employers include state, municipalities, federally recognized Indian Tribes and 501 (c) (3) non-profit organizations. In order to be eligible to receive this payment, the organization must have elected to reimburse the state for UI benefits paid to former employees, rather than electing to pay UI taxes on a quarterly basis.

#### ***What is the 50% reimbursement provision for reimbursing employers?***

Section 2103 of the CARES Act provides for a federal reimbursement of up to a 50% of certain unemployment insurance (UI) benefits paid to former employees of the state, municipalities, federally recognized Indian Tribes and 501 (c) (3) non-profit organizations. The UI benefits paid must be for weeks of unemployment beginning March 17, 2020, through December 26, 2020.

#### ***Is every reimbursing employer eligible for the 50% reimbursement?***

Every reimbursing employer who is current in its UI tax obligations, will be eligible. All charges must be paid in full, including any applicable interest and penalties.

#### ***Can a reimbursing employer simply pay half of its monthly bill?***

No. The federal law requires the employer to pay 100% of its bill and then it will be reimbursed 50%.

#### ***How will the reimbursing employer receive the 50% reimbursement?***

The Connecticut Department of Labor (CTDOL), using funds provided by the federal government, will issue a check monthly for 50% of the applicable weekly UI benefits paid. For example, CTDOL bills reimbursing employers monthly for their share of UI benefits paid to their former employees. If a reimbursing employer pays their monthly bill in full and has no outstanding UI tax delinquency, CTDOL will issue a check the following month for 50% of the applicable weeks of unemployment listed on that prior month's bill.

***Please note that despite the availability of possible reimbursements, the continued focus on integrity remains as a critical component of the UI program. As such, CTDOL urges employers to review all correspondence as it relates to the payment of UI benefits to ensure that only those individuals who are eligible to receive benefits actually collect those benefits.***