

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE NEXT BOARD
OF EDUCATION MEETING
CHESTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
January 25, 2018**

The regular meeting of the Chester Board of Education was held on Thursday, January 25, 2018. In attendance were David Fitzgibbons, Tom Englert, Becky Iselin, John Stack, Robert Bibbiani, Charlene Fearon and Maria Scherber. Also in attendance were Dr. Ruth Levy, Superintendent, Kristina Martineau, Assistant Superintendent, Tyson Stoddard, Principal, Kim Allen, Business Manager and Kelley Frazier, Clerk.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Fitzgibbons called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon a motion made by Rob Bibbiani and seconded by Tom Englert the Chester Board of Education **VOTED** unanimously to approve the minutes from the November 20, 2018 regular meeting as amended and the Accounts Payable report.

Amendments:

Tom Englert should be removed from the Supervision District Committee.

STUDENT REPORT

Mr. Stoddard introduced the CES student leaders who discussed the activities the leadership team has recently participated in.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comment

OTHER ITEMS:

Community and Board Input on 2018-19 Budget

The first budget meeting is February 1st. The Supervision District has a 0.51% increase. This will be a difficult budget year. Chester will be having the largest share of the ADM costs. Mr. Stack asked for an apples to apples comparison to see a year over year of the ADM billing. He would like to see expenses in our control also compared year over year. This will be provided at the first budget workshop. Tom Englert requested a percentage increase or decrease of the yearly comparison. It will be an important comparison moving forward.

Principal's Update

Mr. Stoddard gave a brief update. The STEAM fair workshops have begun. There will be an open house in February for viewing and then the judging will take place on March 1st. Mr. Stoddard thanked Ms. Lenz for her hard work on this program. Ms. Lenz is also doing a mural in the school. Chester Veterinary Clinic requested using the gym and stage for a Zumba fundraiser for a local nonprofit rescue group. A certificate of insurance is needed as well as proof of a certified instructor. They are also responsible for custodial costs. The oil tank needs to be replaced by 2020. It will cost \$60,000 for removal and replacement. Sidewalk and minor landscape will also need to be done. It is not feasible to have an above ground tank. Plans will be developed.

Brian Kalkreuth, the Chester Elementary Math Coach, presented the primary math curriculum programs. The programs align very well with the district initiative of critical thinking and problem solving. They also align to Common Core State Standards. Mr. Stack feels that this has been a great program and he thanked Mr. Kalkreuth for his enthusiasm. The goals for the year are getting teachers more acclimated, using the workshop model and to continue engaging the kids to learn.

REPORTS:

Financial Status Report – Ms. Allen

Ms. Allen gave a brief update. At this time, it is expected that there will be a small surplus of approximately \$19,800. She will keep the board informed of changes.

Cafeteria

There is a deficit of \$8,700. The state is behind in payment of reimbursements.

Committee Reports

Finance - Next meeting is January 30, 2018

Curriculum – Presentation of the Foods and Textiles curriculum at Valley Regional High School. The curriculum has been revamped so that students are career ready. She teaches the kids about problem solving real world problems.

Policy – Next meeting is March 19, 2018

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

Supervision District Committee Update

This goes to public hearing on February 5, 2018 at 7:00pm at John Winthrop. The budgeting process began with a 2.7% increase. Various positions were eliminated such as the dyslexia specialist, a technology coordinator, and reduction of work time for the PowerSchool administrator and an Administrative Assistant position. There was also a reduction of \$3,600 for a special education teacher. The Committee voted to put forth to public hearing a .51% increase.

LEARN

Ms. Fearon is no longer available to continue attending the LEARN meetings. Mr. Fitzgibbons asked for volunteers. This will be revisited.

Ad hoc Joint BOE Cafeteria Committee

A meeting was held this week. More requirements were discussed as well as the possibility of having vending machines and catering. Reporting is very time consuming and needs to be addressed. Recommendations will be presented at the next Joint Board meeting.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Ms. Martineau gave a brief update. The Action Plan for the Strategic Plan are being finalized. A brochure was distributed highlighting the Mission Statement and the Strategic Plan Strategies and Action Steps for 2017-2020. All Board members and teachers were part of this plan. This includes the goals and rubrics for the district. This will continue to be built on each year. This has been sent to all three Town Halls and Real Estate agents for distribution.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

District Update – Critical Thinking and Creative Problem Solving

The Strategic Plan is a blueprint for our 5 year and 10 year plan. It is unique to our district. The Manufacturing Program continues to thrive. Dr. Levy will speak at 2 meetings discussing this program. The Administrators are engaged in monthly PD. The Region 4 Board unanimously voted to move forward with the I/B program. This will be offered to Juniors and Seniors in 2019/2020. Mr. Stack would like Dr. Levy to present this to the town Economic Development Committees. The Niche report said that we are number 93 of all public and private schools.

Information and Communication

The Social and Emotional Wellness Committee sponsored a presentation with Dr. Alicia Farrell on Anxiety. It is a pertinent topic. The presentation was videotaped and will be available on the website. On April 4th there will be a presentation on Resilience.

Discussion Regarding and Pending Policies – standing item

#5132 Dress Code

This was previously discussed. Head coverings of any kind are not permitted however approved coverings for a student's religious belief are allowed. This will be voted on at Joint Board of Education meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jane Riggio discussed how they are using the rubric. It has been very good.

EXECUTIVE SESSION –INTERVIEW POTENTIAL CANDIDATE TO FILL BOE VACANCY UNTIL NOVEMBER 2019 (2 years of 2017-2021 term)

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, Chester Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to go into Executive Session at 8:45pm.

Upon a motion made by Rob Bibbiani and seconded by John Stack the Chester Elementary Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to appoint Rebecca Greenberg-Ellis to fill the Board vacancy for a two year period until November 2019.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- 10.1 Next Joint BOE Meeting is February 22, 2018 @7:00pm @ JWMS
- 10.2 Next Chester BOE Regular Meeting March 22, 2018 @7:00pm.
- 10.3 BOE and Community Input for 2018-19 Budget (on-going)
- 10.4 Vote on Non-Renewals (Mar)
- 10.5 End of Year Data and Strategic Focus Presentation
- 10.6. BOE Self-evaluation (TBD)

ADJOURNMENT

On motion duly made and seconded the Board unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 9:10pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley Frazier, Secretary