

***THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE  
December 01, 2011 MEETING  
Joint Board of Education Committee***

**October 06 , 2011**

A regular meeting of the Joint Board of Education Committee was held on Thursday, October 06, 2011 in the John Winthrop Middle School Library, with the following Board Members present:

CHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Lianne Rutty arrived at 7:40 p.m., Laurie Rubinow, Amy Safran, Peg Reyer, Ashley Marsh, Wendy King, Jim Gordon,
DEEP RIVER BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Christine Daniels, Gale Dilger, Kc Nelson-Oliveria, Liz Tracy, Lauri Ann Wichtowski, Mark Malcarne, James Olson
ESSEX BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Lon Seidman, Jeffrey Burzin, Suzanne Helchowski, Matt Cooper arrived at 7:25 p.m. (quorum reached at 7:25 p.m.)
REGION 4 BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Linda Hall, Jennifer Clark, Mary Beth Harrigan, Elaine Fitzgibbons (no quorum)

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

Audience of Citizens:

**CALL TO ORDER**

Supervision District Committee Chair Lon Seidman called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m..

The Chairs of the Chester, Deep River and Region 4 Board of Education called their respective Boards to order at 7:03 p.m.

Region 4 and Essex did not have a quorum present at that time. Essex reached a quorum at 7:25 p.m.

Dr. Levy recognized those that provided countless hours over the 8 days that JWMS was used as a Red Cross storm shelter after Hurricane Irene. She also thanked their families for allowing them to provide that assistance. She also noted that she had received a number of thank you letters from citizens, which she read at the recent Region 4 BOE meeting. Some of those letters also included donations to the Region 4 Food Services.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

On motion duly made and seconded, the Chester, Deep River and Essex Boards of Education unanimously VOTED to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the August 25, 2011 regular meeting of the Joint Board with the following correction - Add Peg Reyer to showing as in attendance.

At a Region 4 BOE special meeting on October 18, 2011 - on motion duly made and seconded, the Region 4 Board of Education unanimously VOTED to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the August 25, 2011 regular meeting of the Joint Board with the following correction - Add Peg Reyer to showing as in attendance.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – no comments were made

## **OTHER ITEMS**

There were none on the agenda

## **REPORTS**

Superintendent Levy summarized recent district events.

### 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 November. He said they have started off the year in good shape.

### Discussion and Possible VOTE to ratify proposed Paraeducators Contract

Dr. Levy summarized key provisions of the recent settlement with the Regional School District No. 4 Paraprofessionals. The contract is for a 3 year duration. She covered provisions for insurance and wages, hours of work, overtime and longevity pay, leave provisions and other miscellaneous topics.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Chester, Deep River and Essex Boards unanimously VOTED to ratify the collective bargaining agreement between the Regional School District No. 4, Chester, Deep River, and Essex Boards of Education and the Paraprofessional bargaining unit for the period of July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2014 as presented.

At a Region 4 BOE special meeting on October 18, 2011 - on motion duly made and seconded, the Region 4 Board of Education unanimously VOTED to ratify the collective bargaining agreement between the Regional School District No. 4, Chester, Deep River, and Essex Boards of Education and the Paraprofessional bargaining unit for the period of July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2014 as presented.

### Second Reading and VOTE to approve Calendar of BOE Meetings for Jan. – Dec. 2012

A first reading was held at individual BOE meetings in September. There were no questions or comments.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Chester, Deep River and Essex Boards unanimously VOTED to approve the Calendar of BOE Meetings for Jan. – Dec. 2012 as presented.

At a Region 4 BOE special meeting on October 18, 2011 - on motion duly made and seconded, the Region 4 Board of Education unanimously VOTED to approve the Calendar of BOE Meetings for Jan. – Dec. 2012 as presented.

Legislative Agenda Dr. Levy and Mr. Neviasser reviewed highlights of the upcoming educational legislative agenda that Dr. Levy will be addressing through her work on the CT Association of Public Schools Superintendents (CAPSS) Legislative Committee. Dr. Levy will continue to keep the Boards informed of developments throughout the year.

#### Strategic Planning

The process has started and continues along the timeline previously presented.

#### Committee Reports

The Joint BOE Policy Committee Chair Elaine Fitzgibbons conducted a second reading on policies:

- #5141.4 Reporting Suspected Abuse
- #5141 – Student Health Services

No questions have been received after the first readings. There was a clarification that there has been a change in mandatory reporting of suspected abuse to include all staff, not just teachers.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Chester, Deep River and Essex Boards of Education unanimously VOTED to approve policies #5141.4 Reporting Suspected Abuse and 5141, Student Health Services as presented.

At a Region 4 BOE special meeting on October 18, 2011 - on motion duly made and seconded, the Region 4 Board of Education unanimously VOTED to approve policies #5141.4 Reporting Suspected Abuse and 5141, Student Health Services as presented.

Joint BOE Finance Committee – Mr. Seidman noted that Richard Strauss, the chair of the committee, resigned from the Region 4 Board yesterday.

Joint BOE Curriculum Committee - Chair Mary-Beth Harrigan reported that their next meeting will be held on Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>

Ad Hoc committees –

Mr. Seidman reported on Supervision District's work on a Cooperative Agreement to date. He informed the Boards of a recent legal opinion received from district attorneys at Shipman and Goodwin which notes that state statutes regarding the separation of board finances from other fiduciary bodies would be violated if non-BOE members (i.e. Boards of Finance members) were allowed to vote. Boards of Finance can say how much money they would like cut from a budget, but Boards of Finance cannot determine the items that would be cut to achieve that monetary reduction. Mr. Seidman also noted that they would be looking at the possibility of moving relevant items under Supervision District if that were to make financial sense.

Mr. Seidman shared a recap of a transportation report made by Frank Kulick of First Student. Mr. Kulick's report highlighted fuel efficiencies created by the mapping of more efficient routes using the installed GPS units on all buses.

#### Assistant Superintendent's Report

Mr. Neviasser provided an update on the common core standards; which are now called the New Connecticut Standards as they have been approved for use starting in 2014. He discussed handouts which highlighted the key takeaways from the new K-12 Connecticut State Standards in English Language Arts & Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science & Technical Subjects. Full documents are available at [CoreStandards.org](http://CoreStandards.org)

At tomorrow's Professional Development day, teachers who worked over the summer on these standards, will present that work and activities to help all the teachers familiarize themselves with the New CT Standards.

District math consultants are meeting district wide with grade level teachers before each unit begins.

The teachers continue to work with Performance Plus training videos created by VRHS Associate Principal Matt Talmadge to help teachers with their use of the program.

Meetings continue with curriculum committees to start preparation for the new Connecticut Standards.

The teacher mentoring program, TEAM (which replaced the BEST program) is running smoothly in its second year of use.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

None made

#### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Next regular Joint BOE meeting is December 01, 2011 - those leaving board return for honor recognition  
Second Reading and Possible VOTE on District-wide school calendars for 2012/2013 and 2013/2014  
(Dec) (first readings at Nov individual meetings)

Superintendent presents draft Supervision District budget for 2012-13 (Dec.)

Executive Session – mid-year evaluation of Superintendent (Dec.)

Appoint members to Joint BOE Committees for 1 year terms (Dec.)

Presentation of rough draft of District Technology Plan – *P. Murphy* (Dec.)

Possible First Reading of District Technology Plan – *P. Murphy* (Feb.)

Possible Second Reading and VOTE of District Technology Plan – *P. Murphy* (Apr.)

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

On Motion duly made and seconded, the Chester, Deep River, Essex Boards of Education unanimously VOTED to adjourn 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jennifer Bryan, Clerk