

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO COMMITTEE APPROVAL AT THE
October 06, 2011 MEETING
REGIONAL SUPERVISION DISTRICT COMMITTEE**

August 25, 2011

A regular meeting of the Regional Supervision District Committee was held on Thursday, August 25th, 2011 in the John Winthrop Middle School Library, with the following Committee members present:

CHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Peg Reyer, Wendy King
DEEP RIVER BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Gale Dilger, Christine Daniels, Lauri Wichtowski
ESSEX BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Lon Seidman, Jeffrey Burzin, Suzanne Helchowski
REGION 4 BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Linda Hall , Richard Strauss, Pamela Christman – arrived 6:52

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

Audience of Citizens:

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Lon Seidman called the meeting to order at 6:30 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 02, 2011, the special meeting of July 06, 2011 and the Accounts Payable report.

PUBLIC COMMENT -

None present

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION

Financial Status – Business Manager Garth Sawyer reviewed the highlights of the Supervision District financial status updates for both the end-of-the-year for 2010-11 and the current fiscal year.

With regards to end of year 2010-11, less was used in legal than anticipated due to smooth negotiations this past year. He is currently looking at end of year with approximately \$1900 operating surplus and \$2200 surplus due to state reimbursement for mentors in TEAM program (for new teachers). This equals approximately \$4100 surplus to be returned to towns per last year's ADM ratios but that will need to be confirmed by the annual audit before any funds can be returned.

He reported that they are starting off the upcoming year in good shape, but will need to keep an eye on any anticipated revenue that may have been budgeted for, but that may not be coming in from the cooperative preschool tuition – which is new this year.

Mr. Seidman updated the Governance Committee on Cooperative Agreement work. He's been meeting with various community groups. Most of their comments centered around the wish that the district could just pursue true regionalization, but there has been no major opposition to a cooperative agreement due to the circumstances. It's now time for Supervision District Committee to start drafting the agreement, with the help of legal counsel on the mechanics of the finances and the operating Board Bylaws. He said the Committee will probably need a CABE facilitator to assist at some point because they are basically building a new board.

Dr. Levy state that they must first start with a solid financial basis before moving forward. She also spoke to the need to keep an eye on the purpose of this agreement which will be about streamlining and creating a more efficient governance structure. It will progress step by step.

Mr. Seidman asked if the Supervision District Committee is ready to allow Shipman and Goodwin to draft an agreement with the input of recommendations from the Joint BOE Finance Subcommittee and Joint BOE Governance Subcommittee being taken into consideration, and also to allow payment of a fee of up to \$2000 for that service.

Several BOE members stated the need for a starting point to work from and their belief that a draft agreement would be well worth the fee.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Committed unanimously VOTED to hire legal counsel to spend up to \$2000 on drafting an initial financial agreement for the cooperative agreement work.

Individual BOE reports

Chester – Board Chair Wendy King reported that Chester has a dwindling kindergarten population, but things are good and they are not anticipating huge costs for full day kindergarten coming on board next year as proposed.

Deep River – Board Chair Christine Daniels reported that they ended up closing out the year in a good situation due to parents supporting the Board and Administration. Dr. Levy reported that the new flooring in the cafeteria is spectacular. The old flooring was removed and a new 30 year flooring was put in.

Essex – Board Chair Lon Seidman reported battling bureaucrats in Hartford to plead the case for a higher reimbursement on the Essex building renovations. He also noted that the EES population is declining, which may be favorable to full day kindergarten next year.

Region 4 – Board Chair Linda Hall reported several new hires for the upcoming school year. She also reported that the solar project is up and running on the JWMS roof. The Board completed their self-evaluation in June. The Board has decided to honor those who have served Region 4 schools at each of their board meetings. The first group at their September regular meeting will be the Solar building project committee.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Information and Communication

ON HOLD – until Joint BOE meeting

PUBLIC COMMENT – none made

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Next regular Supervision District Committee Meeting is October 06, 2011
Beginning of Year Transportation Report – *F. Kulick* (Oct.)
Superintendent Presents Major Budget Drivers for 2012-13 (Oct.)
BOE & Community Input on 2012-13 Budget (Oct.)

ADJOURNMENT:

On motion duly made and seconded, the Committee unanimously VOTED to adjourn at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary-Beth Harrigan, Secretary,
Jennifer Bryan, Clerk