

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO COMMITTEE APPROVAL AT THE
December 01, 2011 MEETING
REGIONAL SUPERVISION DISTRICT COMMITTEE**

October 06, 2011

A regular meeting of the Regional Supervision District Committee was held on Thursday, October 06th, 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:	Mary Beth Harrigan, Linda Hall

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

Audience of Citizens: 1

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Lon Seidman called the meeting to order at 6:06 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 August 25, 2011.

OTHER ITEMS

Frank Kulick of First Student provided his semi-annual update on transportation. He provided the number of routes and passengers for this year. All buses are within approved ages per contract. He noted that he was able to work on re-routing buses due to GPS units recently installed in all of the buses. This allowed him to eliminate over a ½ million stops and starts over the course of the year which will conserve fuel due to fewer starts and stops. This will be accomplished mostly by utilizing the highway for empty buses returning to the yard which also reduces in-town traffic. Driver staffing levels are normal. Any loss of drivers is usually because they are looking for full time employment or just more hours. Their core group of drivers have been here for over 5 years.

PUBLIC COMMENT -

A citizen voiced a concern that archived meeting minutes are not available on the new website. Mr. Seidman said he had made a note and will ask Pam Murphy, Director of Technology to correct that.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION

Financial Status – Business Manager Garth Sawyer reviewed the highlights of the Supervision District financial status updates. The most notable at this time is that the collaborative pre-school tuition revenues are lower than anticipated, thus they have reduced a paraeducator position to offset that loss in budget revenues. There was a brief discussion regarding the reasons for this shortfall and ways to rectify it in future years.

Individual BOE reports

Chester – Wendy King reported that the Chester BOE toured stage floor replacement and other summer building improvement projects such as bathroom upgrades. She also noted that recently reported CMT scores were pleasing.

Deep River – Board Chair Christine Daniels reported that the DRES BOE also toured their summer projects, including the replacement of the cafeteria floor. The school recently held their Governor's Reading Challenge breakfast. They are working on CMT score improvement.

Essex – Board Chair Lon Seidman reported on a wonderful Fall Harvest fundraiser at EES recently. They are addressing some challenging CMT scores in math.

Region 4 – Board Chair Linda Hall reported the John Winthrop solar project is fully operational and was recently celebrated at back to school night. The Board held their regular individual September meeting last week due to delay caused by Hurricane Irene. A plan has already been developed to improve CMT scores at middle school and all were very pleased by CAPT scores at Valley.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Information and Communication

Work on the Cooperative Agreement was discussed. Mr. Seidman discussed the recent legal opinion provided by district attorneys at Shipman and Goodwin regarding the participation of Boards of Finance or other non-BOE citizens. In summary, the cooperative agreement does not address the issue of non-board members voting in financial matters, but other parts of the law are explicit about a separation of the two. Non-BOE liaisons can participate in committees or discussions, but they cannot vote and if they were allowed to do so, it would open up a legal can of worms. Therefore, the Boards will need to find a way to be inclusive of non-BOE members, but it cannot be through the granting of voting rights. There was a discussion and it was noted that, as always, Boards of Finance members and all citizens are encouraged to attend all public meetings and input is always encouraged, welcomed and incorporated to the extent possible. It was noted that there would be fewer meetings if a cooperative agreement were to occur, which might make it easier for non-Board members to attend and participate more often.

Board Chairs met last week to discuss how to get started on the financial aspects of a cooperative agreement. After consulting with many, Mr. Seidman said it seems that the best way to proceed seems to be by having a CABA attorney draft language that district attorneys can then vet.

Dr. Levy presented major budget drivers for the 2012-13 Supervision District Budget. After meeting with all building principals and Central Office Administrators, the major considerations include associated costs for providing full day kindergarten, which Dr. Levy said is desperately needed for our students. Supervision District budget needs include contractual increases and health insurance costs. Proposed staffing needs were covered.

Detailed backup and more information will be presented as part of a draft Supervision District 2012-13 budget at the December meeting

She asked for Board and Community Input on the 2012-13 budget - Mr. Seidman asked that Committee members solicit BOE members and citizens input on budgetary items.

PUBLIC COMMENT –

No comments made

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Next regular Supervision District Committee Meeting is December 01, 2011

Rotation of Supv. Dist. Chair and election of officers (Dec.)

Review/approval of Supv. Dist. audit report for 2010-11 (Dec.)

Superintendent presents draft Supv. Dist. budget for 2012-13 (Dec.)

BOE/community input on 2012-13 budget (Dec.)

ADJOURNMENT:

On motion duly made and seconded, the Committee unanimously VOTED to adjourn at 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary-Beth Harrigan, Secretary,
Jennifer Bryan, Clerk