

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE NEXT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
ESSEX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION
MAY 8, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Essex Board of Education was held on Thursday, May 8, 2014. In attendance were Lon Seidman, Adam Conrad (8:00pm Arrival) Mark Watson, Carolyn Rotella, DG Fitton and Loretta McCluskey. Also in attendance were Dr. Ruth Levy, Superintendent, Dr. Joanne Beekley, Assistant Superintendent, Scott Jeffrey, Principal, Deborah O'Donnell, Assistant Principal, Garth Sawyer, Business Manager and Kelley Frazier, Clerk. Absent:

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Lon Seidman at 7:00p.m. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

To accommodate the attendees, the Student Presentation was moved up in the agenda.

STUDENT UPDATE

Ms. O'Donnell introduced the students who represented our school at the state Invention Convention at UCONN. Quinn Saltus, Taryn Frazier, Madison Neviasser, James Marsden and Peter Fitton presented their inventions.

Mr. Seidman presented Ms. McCann with a book to honor her service to the school on the Board of Education.

CONSENT AGENDA

Loretta McCluskey made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of March 13, 2014 and the Accounts Payable report. DG Fitton seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

OTHER ITEMS:

Principal's Update – S. Jeffrey

Mr. Jeffrey gave a brief update on the things happening at Essex Elementary School. He noted that it is National Teacher Appreciation week. We celebrated with a luncheon coordinated by the PTO. Mr. Jeffrey said that he is working with school staff for student placement for next year. He also gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the growth at each grade level. Parents are attending the Math curriculum nights for different grade levels. There was a brief discussion on the teaching methods for the Math curriculum.

REPORTS:

Financial Status Report – Mr. Garth Sawyer

Mr. Sawyer gave a brief financial status for Essex Elementary School. Currently Essex Elementary School is projecting to have a surplus, but we are cognizant of the possibility of unanticipated special education needs that may arise during the year. The Administration will keep the Board informed if the situation changes as we proceed through the year.

Cafeteria Report – Mr. Sawyer

Mr. Sawyer gave an update on the status of the Cafeteria Budget Updates. We are where we projected to be at this time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance – L. Seidman

The Finance Committee is scheduled to meet this month.

Policy

May 20th is the next meeting.

Curriculum

May 20th is the next meeting.

Joint PK-12 Policy Committee – L. Seidman

No Updates

Supervision District

We have a new Pupil Services coordinator.

OTHER ITEMS:

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – J. Beekley

General Update

Dr. Beekley has received positive feedback from the SBAC testing. We are currently making revisions to our Educator's Evaluation Plan based on the State Department of Education requirements. She will give the Board the information in June to adopt at their meeting. This information will be submitted to the State.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - R. Levy

District Update

Dr. Levy has been invited to be part of a Committee to attend a meeting on similar components to improve the Administrative Evaluation Plan. Dr. Levy noted that we have significant declining enrollments in our three towns. A committee has been formed to look at governance, facilities, and finances and to bring the 3 towns together and to blend things better than we have in the past. This meeting will take place on Tuesday from 6:00pm until 8:00pm. DG Fitton and Tom Walsh will be working with office staff regarding safety. All buildings have the Room Number and the Wing on each classroom. We have been busy with the budgeting process. The Region 4 budget passed. Sarah Smalley has been hired as the new Director of Pupil Services. We have two excellent candidates for the open Principal position in Deep River.

Mr. Fitton noted that Dr. Levy was recognized by Tri-Town Youth Services with the Generativity Award.

Discussion and possible Vote to Renew the Agreement Concerning the Establishment and Operation of an Interim Collaborative Preschool Program dated February 13, 2008.

On a motion duly made and seconded the Board unanimously **VOTED** to renew the Agreement Concerning the Establishment and Operation of an Interim Collaborative Preschool Program dated February 13, 2008 for renewal for a one year increment upon agreement (vote) of all signing parties (Boards of Education for Chester, Deep River, Essex and the Regional Supervision District Committee) no later than June 30, 2014.

YMCA After School Care Contract

The YMCA After School program is going well. Overall Mr. Jeffrey's feels it is a steady program.

Upon a motion made by DG Fitton and seconded by Carolyn Rotella the Essex Board of Education **VOTED** to renew the YMCA After School Care Contract for one year. The terms are as previously stated. Ayes: DG Fitton, Adam Conrad, Mark Watson, Carolyn Rotella and Loretta McCluskey. Abstentions: Lon Seidman

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously **VOTED** to move into Executive Session at 8:35pm to discuss the Board of Education evaluation of the Superintendent and the Board of Education Self Evaluation. The motion passed. Dr. Levy remained at the meeting.

The Board Moved out of Executive Session at 9:09pm.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley Frazier, Board Clerk

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

9.1 BOE Self-Evaluation (TBD)