

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE NEXT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
ESSEX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION
November 13, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Essex Board of Education was held on Thursday, November 13, 2014. In attendance were Lon Seidman, Adam Conrad, Carolyn Rotella, DG Fitton, Mark Watson 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:

STUDENT REPORT

Mr. Seidman asked to move the student presentation up in the agenda to accommodate the attendees. Ms. O'Donnell introduced sixth grade student leaders Olivia Porcaro, Reagan Brenneman, Lauren Weigman, Kaeleigh O'Donnell and Meghan Bucchi who discussed the anti bullying conference which they attended. The Board asked various questions. Mr. Seidman thanked the children for coming to the Board of Education.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Lon Seidman at 7:14p.m.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Dr. Levy opened the floor for the nominations for the office of chairman.

A motion was made by DG Fitton to nominate Lon Seidman Chairman of the Essex Elementary Board of Education. Loretta McCluskey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Seidman opened the floor for the following nominations:

Mr. Seidman moved to nominate DG Fitton as the Vice Chair of the Essex Elementary Board of Education. Carolyn Rotella seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Seidman moved to nominate Loretta McCluskey as the Secretary of the Essex Elementary Board of Education. DG Fitton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Special Committees:

Mr. Seidman verified that members would stay on the committees which they currently serve.

CONSENT AGENDA

Loretta McCluskey made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of September 11, 2014 and the Accounts Payable report. Carolyn Rotella seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comment.

OTHER ITEMS:

Community and Board Input on 2015-16 Budget

This will be presented later in the meeting.

Principal's Update

Mr. Jeffrey gave a brief update of the activities at Essex Elementary. Parent Teacher Conferences were well attended. The Harvest Festival was very successful. We have hired a sixth grade teacher who is teaching Math and Writing. We also hired a replacement para educator and have a part time Math para educator. The Halloween Parade was a great success. We had a Veterans Day program with an Honor Walk and presentations in the classrooms. Report cards will be sent home on December 11th. Community Day for Sixth Grade was fun for all.

NWEA Update

Mr. Jeffrey presented information to help the Board understand the NWEA MAP testing.

Discussion and Possible VOTE re: New Sign for Front of School

Upon a motion made by Loretta McCluskey and seconded by DG Fitton, the Essex Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to endorse the formation of a committee to design a sign for the front of Essex Elementary School.

REPORTS:

Financial Status Report – Mr. Garth Sawyer

Mr. Sawyer gave a brief update of the financial status for Essex Elementary School. Currently Essex Elementary is projecting a surplus. 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. Sales are steady. We will look into problems with payment by credit card.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance – L. Seidman

The Finance Committee is scheduled to meet November 18, 2014.

Policy

The next meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2014.

Curriculum

The next meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2014.

Supervision District

The budget season has begun.

LEARN Committee Update

No Update.

Declining Enrollment Task Force

The next meeting is before Thanksgiving.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – J. Beekley

General Update

Dr. Beekley noted that last Friday was a half day of Professional Development. Para educators also participate in professional development on these days.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - R. Levy

District Update

Dr. Levy read a letter from Deb O'Donnell notifying her of her retirement at the end of the school year in June 2015. Dr. Levy wished her a wonderful next chapter of her journey. She thanked her for her many dedicated years to the students that she has worked with.

Information and Communication

Building Committee Update

Mr. Jeffrey gave a brief update on the building committee. We have both boilers up and running and they are working efficiently. The roof is also being looked at. The storage container has been moved. He noted that there is a public hearing on November 19th at 7:00pm to discuss bondable projects for the town. The school items in this presentation are the roof, air conditioning and refurbishing of the media center. Tomorrow and Saturday is the CABA/CAPS conference. On December 11th there will be a LEARN Board of Directors meeting. Dr. Levy will be discussing our Manufacturing Program and our Cap Stone project at this meeting. She noted that all schools had ceremonies honoring our Veterans.

Possible VOTE to Approve the Appointment of Bruce Glowac, Kelly Sterner and Leigh Rankin to the Building Committee

Upon a motion made by Loretta McCluskey and seconded by Mark Watson the Essex Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to approve the appointment of Bruce Glowac, Kelly Sterner and Leigh Rankin to the Building Committee.

Anti-bullying Rally

Dr. Levy noted that this was a phenomenal day. It was for Grades 5-12.

Turf Field Update

Dr. Levy stated that at this time, this project is cost prohibitive.

Discussion Regarding Pending Policies

Policy #4112.4/41212.4 Health Examination

Policy #5145 Notice of Rights Under Section 504 Rehabilitation Act

Policy 1112.6 Videotaping of Staff and Students

These policies were briefly discussed and will be voted on in the future.

Article “Best School Districts for Your Buck”

Dr. Levy noted that Region 4 was mentioned in this article. We should be proud of being part of the top ten best school districts for your buck.

Presentation of Major Budget Drivers for EES 2015-16

Dr. Levy gave a brief update of the budget drivers for Essex Elementary. She noted that we have significant declining enrollment. This needs to be addressed. Dr. Levy discussed the Minimum Budget Requirement and how this may affect the Essex Elementary School in the next budget season.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. Palagonia is concerned about declining enrollment. She is worried about making class sizes bigger and reducing teachers. Dr. Levy noted that she would be happy to meet with Mrs. Palagonia to discuss this further. Dr. Levy said that we are in the infancy stages of looking at this issue. The community will be involved at every turn. The public will also vote on decisions that will be made. Ms. Palagonia also said that Veteran’s Day was great at Essex Elementary.

Ms. Strecker read an email that was sent to Dr. Levy regarding her positive interaction with Mr. Jeffrey over the past three years.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 9:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley Frazier, Board Clerk