

F.O.I. Compliance – Subject to BOE approval at a future meeting

JOINT BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Date: December 1, 2022

Regular Meeting – John Winthrop Middle School Library

CHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION:

David Fitzgibbons, Stuart Johnson, Jan Taigen, Dale Bernardoni, Rebecca Greenberg-Ellis, Lorraine Connelly, Faith Sprigg, Ken Rice

DEEP RIVER BOARD OF EDUCATION:

Miriam Morrissey, Betsy Scholfield, Pat Maikowski, Nick Rioux, Alyson Whelan, Melissa McIntyre, Lenore Grunko, Bob Ferretti

ESSEX BOARD OF EDUCATION:

Lon Seidman, Mark Watson, Nancy Johnston, Cassandra Sweet, Justin Pillion

REGION 4 BOARD OF EDUCATION:

Kate Sandmann, Richard Strauss, Alex Silva, Jane Cavanaugh, Lon Seidman, John Stack, Jennifer Clark, Lol Fearon, Rick Daniels (8:14pm Arrival)

Also in attendance: Brian White, Superintendent; Sarah Brzozowy, Assistant Superintendent; Robert Grissom, Finance Director, Kelley Frazier, Clerk

CALL TO ORDER and Verbal Roll Call

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

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

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion duly made and seconded the Deep River, Essex, Chester and Region 4 Boards unanimously **VOTED** to accept the consent agenda consisting of the minutes from the regular meeting of October 6, 2022. Mr. Ferretti abstained.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comment

REPORTS AND OTHER ITEMS

District Update

Superintendent White gave a security update. Most districts would utilize police departments to do a security audit. Meetings are ongoing as to how to proceed. The Resident Trooper and the personnel from the State Department of Emergency Services will work on the process to do an audit for each of the five schools. Mr. Stack would like to be able to track that the procedures put in place are working. Staff and students should also be polled.

Information and Communication

No additional comment.

Assistant Superintendent Report

General Update

Assistant Superintendent Brzozowy shared a general update. Professional Development was held on November 8th. Staff was able to choose topics of interest that they were specifically interested in. Veteran's Day celebrations were held. Winter concerts are being held. The football team is in the state semi finals. Kids are able to work together in school and it is very positive. JW and Valley are releasing their honor rolls. Elementary report cards will be available in the coming weeks. Literacy is continued to be monitored. No changes to the curriculum are happening at this time.

Finance Director's Report

There was no Finance Director report this evening.

Other Items

Key Summary of Administrators Contract Negotiated for July 01, 2023 – June 30, 2026

Mr. White discussed the key summary of the Administrators Contract. In the future it was suggested that other Board members (those who are not already designated as their Board's representative on the negotiations team), be able to view the contract prior to voting on the contract.

Possible VOTE to the Approve Agreement Between the Chester, Deep River, Essex, Region 4 Boards of Education; the Supervision District Committee and the Regional School District No. 4 Administrators Association for July 01, 2022 – June 30, 2026 as presented.

Upon a motion made by Miriam Morrissey and seconded by Jennifer Clark the Chester, Essex, Deep River and Region 4 Boards of Education unanimously **VOTED** to Approve the Agreement Between the Chester, Deep River, Essex and Region 4 Boards of Education; the Supervision District Committee and the Regional School District No. 4 Administrators Association for July 01, 2022 – June 30, 2026 as presented.

Review of Strategic Priorities as Presented at Individual BOE Meetings Throughout November.

Mr. White answered Board questions.

Mr. White discussed the Strategic Priorities and answered questions and discussed suggestions from the Board members. It was suggested that Goals be reviewed at the Joint Board meeting. The metrics will be discussed at the Board retreat in January.

Discussion and Possible VOTE to Adopt 5 Year Strategic Priorities (SY2023-24 through 2027 – 28) as presented

Upon a motion made by Kate Sandmann and seconded by Jennifer Clark the Chester, Deep River, and Essex Boards unanimously **VOTED** to adopt the 5 Year Strategic Priorities (SY2023-24 through 2027 – 28) as presented. The Region 4 BOE Voted: Ayes: Kate Sandmann, Richard Strauss, Alex Silva, Jane Cavanaugh, Lon Seidman, John Stack, Jennifer Clark Nays: Lol Fearon

Committee Reports

Policy

A plan to review policies is being discussed.

Finance

Discussion held regarding the appropriation process. This will be reported back to the Board with a recommendation.

Curriculum

The Teacher Evaluation process was granted a waiver for one year. This will be reviewed and revised. Mr. Stack asked what the Arts programs looks like K-12 regarding critical mass to evaluate if participation rates are declining.

Ad Hoc

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kalyn D'Occhio, a parent from Essex Elementary, asked the Board to support sustainability efforts in the schools.

Rob Bibbiani spoke in support of the food scrap recycling program. It has environmental and educational benefits. He commended the Boards for working together in a civilized manner.

Lol Fearon noted that Dr. Tom English passed away. He was director of pupil services. Rex Walton also passed away. He was head of the art program.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

6.1 Joint BOE Retreat – Saturday, January 21, 2023 from 9:00am – Noon @ JWMS Library

6.2 Next Regular Joint BOE Meeting, February 23, 2023 @ 7:00pm @ JWMS Library

***ADJOURNMENT:**

On motion duly made and seconded, the Essex, Chester, Deep River Boards of Education unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 8:39p.m. Region 4 remained in session.

7.1 Review of Vendor Responses to RFP #R4202305 for the repair of VRHS Tennis Courts

Mr. Grissom discussed the award from the State to fix the tennis courts. Two responses were received for the RFP. The State has reviewed the proposal. Fees from each vendor was discussed. The recommendation is to use East Coast Sport Surfaces from Duxbury, MA. A full court replacement will need to take place in the future. Foundational issues are a concern and will need to be addressed when replacement occurs. Evaluation of courts for the spring season will be done before the season begins. This work will occur in June 2023.

7.2 Action Item – Discussion and Possible VOTE to Contract with the Recommended Vendor to Complete Repairs to the VRHS Tennis Courts in Accordance with RFP #R4202305.

Upon a motion made by Jennifer Clark and seconded by Lon Seidman the Region 4 Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to accept the Contract with East Coast Sports Surfaces from Duxbury, MA in the amount of \$87,608 assuming it meets the requirements for reimbursement to complete repairs to the VRHS Tennis Courts in Accordance with RFP #R4202305.

7.3 ADJOURNMENT OF REGION 4 BOE

Upon a motion duly made and seconded the Region 4 Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 9:09pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley Frazier, Clerk



5 Year Strategic Priorities For Joint BOE Approval

Chester, Deep River, Essex and
Region 4 Schools

December 01, 2022





Identified Strategic Priorities



**Teaching
and
Learning**



**Climate and
Culture**



**Finance
and
Operations**



Strategic Priority #1: Teaching and Learning

To provide each student with high quality classroom instruction to promote successful student outcomes.

High Leverage Strategies

- Provide a standards-aligned curriculum in all grades Pre-K - 12
- Operationalize a unified focus – Pre-K - 12 – on critical and creative thinking for solving all problems
- Focus and align the districts' goal setting processes with these priorities across towns, buildings and grades.
- Utilize school, district, and state data to create meaningful instructional opportunities for each learner.
- Ensure equal access to intervention and enrichment opportunities for all students.



Strategic Priority #1: Teaching and Learning

To provide each student with high quality classroom instruction to promote successful student outcomes.

High Leverage Strategies

- Develop district-wide approach to implementing best instructional practices for all grades Pre-K -12.
- Implement a universal screening assessment for Mathematics, Literacy, and Social Emotional Learning K-12.
- Develop and implement multi-tiered systems of academic support and intervention.
- Conduct and complete an audit of curriculum, instruction, and assessment practices for each grade level and content area, Pre-K -12.
- Develop and implement a 5 year curriculum cycle review.
- Develop a plan of professional development for all teachers Pre-K -12 to support best instructional practices.



Strategic Priority #1: Teaching and Learning

To provide each student with high quality classroom instruction to promote successful student outcomes.

Measures of Success

- SBAC (Grades 3-8)
- SAT (Grades 11)
- AP Exams
- IB Exams
- Internal Academic Assessments
- College/Career Readiness -CSDE Indicators 5, 6
- High School Graduation Rate



To partner with students, staff, and families to maintain a positive learning environment where every child is successful.

Strategic Priority #2: Culture and Climate

High Leverage Strategies

- Develop and implement Communication Plan
- Celebrate all student accomplishments in all areas of education including academic, athletics, and the arts.
- Implement social emotional programming through instruction, curriculum model, instruction, and supports to ensure the safety and engagement of all students
- Engage faculty, staff, students, and families in accessible, frequent, and friendly communication
- Promote the importance of daily and ready-to-learn school attendance
- Develop and implement Professional Development opportunities to promote growth and expertise
- Develop and implement a Pre-K -12 Behavioral Intervention Model



Strategic Priority #2: Culture and Climate

To partner with students, staff, and families to maintain a positive learning environment where every child is successful.

Measures of Success

- Stakeholder surveys
- Discipline data
- Trend
- Attendance data/ Chronic Absenteeism Rate
- Participation Rate for Student Recognition Programs
- Participation rates for extra-curricular sports, clubs and activities.



Develop and implement practices to ensure effective long-range, strategic financial and operational planning.

Strategic Priority #3: Finance and Operations

High Leverage Strategies

- Promote efficiency, eliminate operational silos, and enhance collaborative systems across schools and boards of education.
- Develop electronic, paperless systems for central office administrative processes.
- Develop a Facilities Master Plan for all schools across our districts.
- Develop multi-year capital plans for each district to implement recommendations of 2022 building study.
- Engage in ongoing dialogue with Boards of Selectpersons and Finance throughout the year
- Provide End-Of-Year Budget Estimate quarterly based on expenditures and revenues to date and an estimate for the balance of the year
- Review and re-approve the business manual and the 3000 series of the Board policies



Strategic Priority #3: Finance and Operations

Develop and implement practices to ensure effective long-range, strategic financial and operational planning.

Measures of Success

- Develop budgets for Supervision, Region 4, Chester, Deep River, and Essex Districts that are supported by the public
- Engage Boards of selectpersons and finance in annual audit review
- Report on implementation of auditor recommendations



Next Steps for Our Strategic Planning Process

- ~~✓ Review Draft Strategic Priorities with all BOEs for Feedback (Nov) ✓~~
- Present Finalized Strategic Priorities to Joint BOE for Approval (Dec 1st)
- Joint BOE Retreat to Discuss Performance Measure and Building- Based, Continuous Improvement Planning (January 21st)
- Develop Building- Based Goals and Plans (Spring 2023)