

**`ESSEX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING  
EES MEDIA CENTER  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 2023 7:00pm**

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Seidman called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

**VERBAL ROLL CALL FOR BOE MEMBERS**

**Attendance: Essex BOE**

Lon Seidman

Marjorie Russell

Nancy Johnston

Mark Watson

Justin Pillion (7:22 Arrival)

Absent: Cassandra Sweet

Other attendees: Kelley Frazier, Clerk

**Administration:**

Brian White

Jennifer Tousignant

Bob Grissom

Sarah Brzozowy

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Upon a motion duly made by Mark Watson seconded by Marjorie Russell on the Essex Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on November 10, 2022 and the Accounts Payable report as written.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No Comment

**Superintendent's Report**

**District Update – Information and Communication**

Mr. White gave a brief update. Illness in our schools has been better since the first of the year. Work is being done on budgets.

**Assistant Superintendent's Report**

**General Update**

Ms. Brzozowy noted that the energy in the buildings is very positive. The K-3 Write to Read legislation is being reviewed. A waiver will be requested.

On January 18<sup>th</sup> there is a Legislative breakfast at JW.

**Financial Status Updates**

**Current Year to Date Financial Status Update**

Mr. Grissom gave an update on the financial status. All financial obligations are expected to be met. The current committed budget is 96.7%. Mr. Grissom noted that a favorable energy rate has been locked in through November 2024.

### **Cafeteria Fund Update**

This report is through November. There have been 14,469 meals serviced. The free meal program will end January 31, 2023. Breakfast will be \$1.25 and lunch is \$3.00.

Paperwork can be submitted for free meals for illegible families. A procedure is being worked on for outstanding balances.

### **Medical Reserve Tracking**

Net favorable results have been realized this year. The reserve is funded adequately. Mr. Grissom and Mr. White met with the insurance representative. The net profit seen is typical at this point of the year. Budget planning is being done at this time.

### **Grants**

No Update

### **Principal's Update**

Ms. Tousignant discussed the events happening at EES. The Winter Concert and the gingerbread contest were in person this year. There was a Cultural event program this week. The PTO is planning events and fundraisers for Spring.

### **Other Items**

These items will be combined into one vote.

### **Discussion and possible VOTE to accept a donation of \$12,500 from the Essex Elementary School Foundation to be used at the discretion of the Administration for STEM lab lessons and materials.**

Upon a motion made by Mark Watson and seconded by Nancy Johnston the Essex Elementary Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to accept the donations of \$12,500 from the Essex Elementary School Foundation to be used at the discretion of the Administration for STEM lab lessons and materials. They also accepted the donation of \$5,000 worth of gift cards from Ivoryton Illuminations to be used at the discretion of the Administration to assist families in need and the Board also accepted the donation of \$200 gift cards from an anonymous citizen to be used at the discretion of the Administration to assist a family in need.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Curriculum**

Discussion held regarding the elementary report card. This has been rolled out. I/B Computer Science and Unified Buddy PE is being discussed as courses to be offered at the high school.

#### **Finance**

The Insurance Consultant for medical insurance presented at this meeting. Bonding efforts were discussed as well as long term capital spending for the Town of Essex. Budget Workshop planning was also discussed.

**Policy**

No Update. The next meeting is January 19, 2023.

**Supervision District Committee Updates**

The process of how to handle surplus funds was discussed. The funds should be used to defer the costs for the next year. Legal counsel has developed a plan for how to do this next year. The budget is being worked on. Items being discussed for the budget are an expansion of the hours in the preschool program, a proposal for an additional HR position for the district and a position for a facilities director.

Discussions were held with the Parks and Rec director as to the location of a possible pickle ball court. No decisions have been made at this time. This will continue to be discussed with the Parks and Rec Board.

**Other Committee Reports****LEARN Committee Update**

No Update

**Discussion Regarding any Pending Policy for all BOE's**

None to Discuss

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Joint BOE Retreat – Saturday January 21, 2023 from 9:00am-Noon @ JWMS
- Essex BOE Budget Workshop I Wednesday, January 23, 2023 @ 6:00pm
- Essex BOE Budget Workshop II, Wednesday, February 9, 2023 @6:00pm
- Joint BOE Meeting Thursday, February 23 2023 @ 7:00pm
- Essex BOE Budget Workshop III, March 6, 2023 @ 6:00pm (if needed)
- Essex BOE next Regular Meeting Thursday, March 9, 2023 @ 7:00pm

**ADJOURNMENT**

On motion duly made and seconded the Board unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Kelley Frazier Clerk**