

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE NEXT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
ESSEX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION
May 14, 2015**

The regular meeting of the Essex Board of Education was held on Thursday, May 14, 2015. In attendance were Lon Seidman, Loretta McCluskey(6:40pm Arrival), Adam Conrad, Carolyn Rotella, DG Fitton and Mark Watson. Also in attendance were Dr. Ruth Levy, Superintendent, Dr. Joanne Beekley, Assistant Superintendent, Scott Jeffrey, Principal, Deborah O'Donnell, Assistant Principal, Kristina Martineau, Principal of Valley Regional High School, Christian Strickland, Principal of Deep River Elementary School, Sarah Smalley, Director of Pupil Service, Garth Sawyer, Financial Director and Kelley Frazier, Clerk.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Lon Seidman at 6:30p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION-Interview Potential Candidate(s) for Assistant Principal

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously **VOTED** to move into Executive Session at 6:30pm to interview potential candidate(s) for Assistant Principal position. Dr. Levy and Mr. Jeffrey were asked to attend the Executive Session.

The Board Moved out of Executive Session at 6:43 pm.

On a motion made by DG Fitton and seconded by Loretta McCluskey, the Essex Elementary Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to appoint Jennifer Tousignant as the Assistant Principal for Essex Elementary School beginning on July 1, 2015.

The Board recessed until 7:00pm for refreshments.

STUDENT REPORT

Ms. O'Donnell introduced the Invention Convention winners at Essex Elementary School. Lilly Frese discussed her Dry Eyes invention, Ben Rankin discussed his Shower Cleaner and Elaine Noble discussed her Puppy Trainer invention. Mr. Seidman and the Board thanked the students for coming to the meeting. Dr. Levy thanked Ms. O'Donnell for working so hard for so many years encouraging students and the community members to be involved in the Invention Convention at Essex Elementary.

CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion made by D G Fitton and seconded by Mark Watson the Essex Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of March 12, 2015 and the minutes the Budget Workshop of March 12, 2015, the Special meetings held on March 30, 2015 and May 4, 2015 as well as the and the Accounts Payable report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comment.

OTHER ITEMS:

Principal's Update

Mr. Jeffrey gave a brief update of the activities at Essex Elementary. SBAC and MAP testing are almost complete. Mr. Jeffery thanked Ms. O'Donnell for coordinating all student testing. The Art Show and Spring Concert were great events. We have many PTO sponsored field trips this spring. Our Fifth and Sixth grade students attended the Bully Play which was a live production at the Ivoryton Playhouse. We have a Memorial Day Observance on May 22nd at 9:00am. The Memorial Day parade is on Monday. Our marching band will perform.

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. We will come within our projected budget.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance

The Finance Committee is scheduled to meet in September.

Policy

The next meeting is scheduled for September.

Curriculum

The next meeting is scheduled for September.

Supervision District

No Update

LEARN Committee Update

No Update.

Regionalization

We have made progress on developing the educational side of the document. There are two components. The finance component is still being finalized. Revisions to the ADM formula are being discussed. There is a meeting on June 1st to continue working on the document.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – J. Beekley

General Update

Dr. Beekley said that she is impressed with how hard the students have worked to do their very best during SBAC testing. Dr. Beekley noted that she is concerned the formatting of the test may not be developmentally appropriate the elementary children. She feels that the content is appropriate. The CTAA testing is for students who do not take the SBAC testing and is taking a great amount of time. Mr. Jeffrey thanked the teachers for helping the students work through the testing period.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - R. Levy

District Update

The schools are all doing well. Dr. Levy noted that she will be conducting senior exit interviews with members of the senior class. Dr. Levy feels that the social development program has helped students become more tolerant of others. Graduation is the 17th and the last day is the 18th.

Information and Communication

Building Committee Update

Tom Fitzgerald is working with the architect to get the plans approved for the roof. This project is projected to be completed this summer.

Discussion Regarding Pending Policies

Nepotism, Homebound Instruction and Publication or Creation of Materials are the policies being reviewed. This will be voted on at the next Joint Board of Education meeting.

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

Upon a motion made by Lon Seidman and seconded by Loretta McCluskey the Essex Elementary Board of Education 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, 2015.

YMCA After School Care Contract

The YMCA After School program is going well. Overall Mr. Jeffrey's feels it is a steady program. Enrollment is approximately 25 for the afternoon program.

Upon a motion made by Loretta McCluskey and seconded by DG Fitton 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

No Comment.

The Board feels that we do not need an Executive Session at this time. Mr. Seidman thanked Dr. Levy for her hard work on regionalization.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 8:04pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley Frazier, Board Clerk