

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE NEXT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
CHESTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
NOVEMBER 23, 2015**

The regular meeting of the Chester Board of Education was held on Monday, November 23, 2015. In attendance John Stack, Robert Bibbiani, Arthur Henick, Charlene Fearon, John Ropiak and David Fitzgibbons. Also in attendance were Dr. Ruth Levy, Superintendent, Mrs. Kristina Martineau, Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Joanne Beekley, Principal, Mr. Garth Sawyer, Business Manager and Kelley Frazier, Clerk. Absent: Maria Scherber

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Levy called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

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

A motion was made by Arthur Henick to nominate David Fitzgibbons as the Chairman of the Chester Elementary Board of Education. Robert Bibbiani seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Fitzgibbons opened the floor for the following nominations:

Charlene Fearon moved to nominate Arthur Henick as the Vice Chair of the Chester Elementary Board of Education. David Fitzgibbons seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded the Chester Elementary Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to nominate Charlene Fearon and Rob Bibbiani as Co-Secretaries of the Chester Elementary Board of Education. The motion passed.

Special Committees:

Supervision District: David Fitzgibbons, Arthur Henick, Charlene Fearon

Negotiations: David Fitzgibbons

Curriculum: David Fitzgibbons, Rob Bibbiani, Charlene Fearon (Alternate)

Policy: Arthur Henick, John Stack

LEARN:

Sixth Grade Study Committee: David Fitzgibbons

Finance: John Stack, Maria Scherber

Personnel and Negotiations: David Fitzgibbons

School Calendar:

Facilities:

PTO:

Mr. Fitzgibbons noted that Mr. Alston has resigned. He asked members to find two members who will be committed to being on the Board.

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon a motion made by Arthur Henick and seconded by Charlene Fearon the Chester Board of Education **VOTED** unanimously to approve the minutes from the September 24, 2015 regular meeting as written and the Accounts Payable report.

STUDENT REPORT

Dr. Beekley introduced Erin Ward, Reece Whitney, Sam Fetter, Ryleigh Czenthe-Wickland and Brooke DellaRocco who discussed the activities they participated in at the Anti Bullying Rally. They also discussed being a Spot Light School and presented the plaque which they received.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kathy Raymond, a Chester teacher noted that she was able to attend a Math curriculum meeting and it was well worth taking the time to attend.

OTHER ITEMS:

Community and Board Input on 2016-17 Budget

The Board briefly discussed the budget.

Principal's Update

Dr. Beekley said that the students presented a moving tribute to the veterans on Veterans Day. She noted that some of the Veterans will be continuing to work with our students because they are so interested. CES recently finished its first round of Academies. Students shared their work at the Town Meeting. The Town Meeting was great and shows the heart of the community.

Elementary Capital Improvement Plan

Dr. Beekley discussed the one item the Capital Improvement Plan which is to replace the oil tank. This will be submitted to the town and a sinking fund will be set up. The monitoring systems indicate that there are no contamination issues. We are not sure if this tank will again go underground. This needs to be done by 2021.

Upon a motion made by Arthur Henick and seconded by John Stack the Chester Elementary Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to approve the Chester Elementary Capital Improvement Plan for submission to the Town of Chester.

Financial Status Report – Mr. Garth Sawyer

Mr. Sawyer gave a brief update of the financial status for Chester Elementary School for the 2015-2016 school year. Currently the school budget is projecting a surplus. He will keep the Board informed of any developments that may arise. \

Cafeteria Report – Mr. Sawyer

Mr. Sawyer gave an update on the status of the cafeteria budget.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance

Discussed the self-insurance fund. The insurance consultant discussed claims and the changes to the affordable care act. The committee reviewed the written procedures manual.

Policy

The Committee reviewed two policies which will be reviewed at the Joint Board meeting.

Curriculum

The Committee discussed next generation science and the SAT updates. Social Studies was discussed. They will be working with the Historical Societies from all three towns to add local history to the curriculum. The two course proposals for Valley Regional High School are Intro to Computer Programming and Intro to Mobile App development.

Supervision District

Update on transportation.

LEARN Committee Update

Ms. Fearon discussed attending a focus group which dealt with many different topics. The November 12th meeting presentation of the draft audit of the agency.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – K. Martineau

General Update

Ms. Martineau discussed Jonathon Costa and the help he can provide for our district. Ms. Martineau discussed the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program. This program will make Valley Regional High school a very desirable school in our area. Ms. Martineau also discussed the various programs which this includes. She noted the differences between AP and IB. Mr. Johnathon Costa may help facilitate bringing this program to our district. There will be a community dinner on February 8, 2016. Discussions will continue on this subject.

Ms. Martineau discussed a professional development model in which our district was selected to be trained. This will prepare administrators to give specific feedback and will move instruction and student learning forward.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

District Update

Dr. Levy discussed where we need to go in our district. We need to make sure that our children are career and college ready. We need to focus on coherence so everyone knows what we are focused on. Our district is working with Jonathon Costa to set the goals for the boards of education as well as strategic planning for the next year. We also hope to build a plan for the next 5 to 10 years. The first year our Junior students could participate in a new IB program would be in 2020-2021. There are only a few schools in Connecticut that participate in this program. Dr. Levy discussed the diploma program and the certificate program. We will review the tuition policy to receive students into our district. Dr. Levy discussed having an International Baccalaureate Program which would provide an international perspective to solve world problems. Students are accepted in top tier colleges more readily when they have participated in this program. We are in the early exploration stage of the process. Teachers who would be involved in teaching the

IB program would need a large amount of training. Dr. Levy discussed the facilitation of this program.

All Board members are asked to attend a meeting on December 1st 6:00pm – 8:00pm to meet Mr. Costa and begin talking about our goals.

On December 14th a meeting for new Board members will be at Central Office to discuss Central Office staff and their functions.

Information and Communication

Discussion Regarding Policies

No discussion needed at this time.

Review School Security and Safety Plans for CES per P.A. 13-3, Section 86, 87

The latest legislation states that the Board needs to be notified and to review the comprehensive safety plan.

Presentation of Major Budget Drivers for CES for 2016-17

Dr. Levy gave a high level view of the Supervision District budget drivers. She noted that the enrollment trend is going down significantly. The shared services for our schools would include a Math Curriculum Coach in the Supervision District Budget. The Strategic Planning Process will also be discussed so that we are discussing our goals for the next several years. Dr. Levy reviewed the CES Budget considerations.

Mr. Fitzgibbons noted that CAGE is having a conference which all Board members are encouraged to attend.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comment.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- 9.1 Joint BOE next regular meeting on December 3, 2016 @ 7:00pm (JWMS)
- 9.2 Chester BOE next regular meeting on January 28, 2016 @ 7:00pm
- 9.3 BOE and Community input for 2016-17 budget (on-going)
- 9.4 BOE Self-evaluation (TBD)

ADJOURNMENT

The Executive Session has been cancelled.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Chester Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 8:35pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley Frazier, Board Clerk