

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE NEXT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
CHESTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
March 24, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Chester Board of Education was held on Thursday, March 24, 2016. In attendance Tom Englert, Becky Iselin, John Stack, Robert Bibbiani, Arthur Henick, Charlene Fearon, John Ropiak and Maria Scherber. Also in attendance were Dr. Ruth Levy, Superintendent, Kristina Martineau, Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Joanne Beekley, Principal and Kelley Frazier, Clerk. Absent:

CALL TO ORDER

Chair David Fitzgibbons called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon a motion made by Arthur Henick and seconded by John Ropiak the Chester Board of Education **VOTED** unanimously to approve the minutes from the January 28, 2016, February 3, 2016, March 16, 2016 and the Accounts Payable report. Abstentions: Tom Englert

STUDENT REPORT

Dr. Beekley introduced Campbell Toth, Brooke Lavigne, Maragaret Gessner and Sam Iselin who discussed their accomplishments working on Mission Smiley. Dr. Levy congratulated the children on this program which gives everyone hope to share kindness and make people happy.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None at this time.

OTHER ITEMS:

Principal's Update

Dr. Beekley is planning for the Warriors in the Community Day. This year they will help students make puzzle pieces to create a new mural. Dr. Beekley discussed the Project Adventure lightning strike. The claim to CRMA will be followed up on. At this time, the projection for Kindergarten for next year is 36 students. The Kindergarten orientation will be at the end of the month. Chester was named a School of Distinction by the State Department of Education. Dr. Beekley said that this is a great accomplishment for the staff and Mr. Barile.

Possible VOTE to Accept Donation of \$300 to the Student Activity Fund from Melvin & Kristina Seifert.

Dr. Beekley wrote a letter thanking Mr. and Ms. Seifert for their generous donation. Upon a motion made by Mr. Bibbiani and seconded by Mr. Henick the Chester Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to accept the \$300 donation from Melvin and Kristina Seifert which will be placed in the Student Activity Fund.

Financial Status Report – Mr. Garth Sawyer

Mr. Sawyer was not available. Dr. Levy gave the financial status for Chester Elementary School. Currently the school is projecting a surplus. We will keep the Board informed of any developments that may arise.

Cafeteria Report – Mr. Sawyer

Dr. Levy gave an update on the status of the cafeteria budget. We are running where anticipated. We are staying within our original budgeted subsidy.

Discussion and VOTE to Adopt proposed 2016-17 Chester Elementary School Budget to be presented to the Town.

Dr. Levy discussed the increases and decreases to the budget. Mr. Fitzgibbons discussed our needs in the area of Math. We will have new materials for our teachers and will be working with the Math Consultants. The materials will allow us to meet the needs of students for those struggling in this area and those who need to be challenged. Mr. Stack is disappointed that the Math Coach was taken out. He is happy that materials have been funded. Supervision District budgetary constraints did not allow us to keep the Math coach position.

On a motion made by John Ropiak and seconded by Rob Bibbiani, the Chester Elementary School Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to approve the 2016-2017 budget of \$4,379,332(Four million, three hundred seventy nine thousand, three hundred and thirty two dollars) which is an increase of 3.65% increase and to recommend this be brought to the Chester Board of Finance.

Committee Reports

Finance will be held on March 29, 2016.

Curriculum discussed the next generation science standards. We are setting up a new science curriculum. The new initiative in Math is a new K-5 math program. A committee is being formed to review this.

Policy – The Tuition Policy had the second reading. Other small policies were updated.

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

Supervision District Committee Update

We have been focused on the budget. Currently the two math consultants are funded by grants. If additional grant money is received, hours for the math consultants will increase.

LEARN

Ms. Fearon attended a meeting on March 10th. The discussion centered on the next generation science standards.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Ms. Martineau stated that we are in assessment season. We will be testing using the 2004 CMT and CAPT science standards for the next two years. There will be a pilot in three

years. We will also be investigating the math and science resources and how we may move forward. We are starting a committee to look at Math programs and resources.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

District Update – Information and Communication

Dr. Levy discussed the International Baccalaureate Program. We are also looking at having a relationship with a company that will bring Chinese students for a two week camp this summer to Valley Regional High School. Niche.com has rated Region 4 number 18 out of the top 100 schools in Connecticut. We have a 97.8 percent graduation rate. Kids that go through our district K-12 have a 100 percent graduation rate. This is a result of the collaboration of the PreK-12 program. Dr. Levy congratulated Chester Elementary for being a School of Distinction which is one of the highest awards given by the State Department of Education. We have someone at Valley Regional who is a finalist for the National Merit Scholar program as well as another student who has received the Governor's Scholarship.

Ms. Fearon discussed the teacher appreciation breakfast. She would like to have everyone bring a dish to school on May 2nd. The teachers appreciate healthy food. She asked for a \$5 donation from each board member for supplies. She invited all board members to attend.

Discussion Regarding Any Pending Policies – Standing Item

None to discuss.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION –PERSONNEL

The Board moved into Executive Session at 8:00p.m. to review the Superintendent's recommendations regarding staff non-renewals and to interview a possible candidate for the position of principal beginning the 2017-18 school year. Dr. Levy was asked to attend the Executive Session.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:55 pm.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously **VOTED** to approve the Superintendent's recommendations regarding staff non-renewals as presented.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously **VOTED** to approve the appointment of Tyson Stoddard to the position of principal with a start date of July 1, 2017.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Next Joint BOE meeting April 7, 2016
- Chester BOE next regular meeting (May 26th, 2016 @ 700pm)
- BOE Self-Evaluation (TBD)

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley Frazier, Secretary