

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

## **JOINT BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**

**Date:** June 02, 2022

### **Regular Meeting – REMOTE MEETING held**

*(To view a recording of this meeting, please visit our website [www.reg4.k12.ct.us](http://www.reg4.k12.ct.us) and select “Remote Meeting Recordings” under the BOARD OF EDUCATION Heading)*

CHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION:	David Fitzgibbons, Jan Taigen, Ken Rice, Dale Bernardoni, Faith Sprigg, Rebecca Greenberg-Ellis, Charlene Fearon
DEEP RIVER BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Miriam Morrissey, Bob Ferretti, Lenore Grunko, Betsy Scholfield, Pat Maikowski, Nick Rioux, Alyson Whelan
ESSEX BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Lon Seidman, Mark Watson, Justin Pillion, Cassandra Sweet <i>(joined at 7:02 p.m.)</i>
REGION 4 BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Kate Sandmann, Jane Cavanaugh, Lon Seidman, Jennifer Clark, Lol Fearon, Alex Silva, Lori Ann Clymas <i>(joined at 7:06 p.m.)</i> , Rick Daniels <i>(joined at 7:38 p.m.)</i>

Also in attendance: Brian White, Superintendent; Sarah Brzozowy, Assistant Superintendent; Robert Grissom, Finance Director; Mike Barile, VRHS Principal

### **CALL TO ORDER and Verbal Roll Call**

Supervision District Committee Chair Miriam Morrissey called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Chairs of the Chester, Deep River, Essex and Region 4 Boards called their respective Boards to order at 7:01 p.m.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

On motion duly made and seconded the Chester (unanimous), Deep River (6 yes / 0 no / 1 abstention – N. Rioux = passed), Essex (unanimous) and Region 4 (unanimous) Boards **VOTED** *(all members present at 7:03 p.m., as listed above)* to accept the consent agenda consisting of the minutes from the regular meeting of April 27, 2022.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – Lenore Grunko spoke as a member of the Deep River Sustainable Committee. She is asking Region 4 to undertake a survey that examines the current process of recycling in the schools. The Deep River Sustainable Committee would like to create this survey to distribute with the cooperation of the schools.

Bob Ferretti asked that a communication about the newly appointed JWMS Principal be shared with 6<sup>th</sup> grade families.

### **REPORTS AND OTHER ITEMS**

Superintendent White shared an update on the following items, some to bring closure and some to forecast work in the coming year.

He referenced the recent Town of Deep River communication to the community regarding hate speech on town property. We have offered to support the town in any way we can to support the community, staff, families, and students, as appropriate. We have plans in place at our schools to provide appropriate resources and support for anyone who may require it.

Equity work was initiated in the fall, after a delayed start due to COVID restrictions. These efforts are intended to be long term in nature with conversations to be ongoing. Administration will be working over the summer to review feedback and comments in order to determine next steps.

Strategic Planning – Administration has collected significant data from all of our stakeholders through a variety of means, and will start to identify major areas of focus moving forward. Next year they will bring to the Board a draft set of 5 year goals and a related strategic plan.

Mr. White reminded everyone that through their budgets, each board has committed to studies of a few different areas beginning this summer, including the Asset Inventory Management audit; School Safety and Security audit; and the Technology Audit. The Finance Office will be reaching out to the Joint RFP committee in the next week or so, to communicate a date to convene that committee for the purpose of reviewing draft RFPs, so that Administration can move forward with those initiatives this summer.

He reminded everyone that the Building Study is currently underway and there will be an update shared with the boards this fall including recommendations regarding the outcomes of this work. These outcomes will inform our long range capital planning for all buildings in our region.

Mr. White thanked everyone for their support throughout another school year, and he is proud of everyone working together to meet those challenges and move our schools forward.

There was a time for the Board to ask questions.

Assistant Superintendent Brzozowy shared a general update on a variety of topics including her many meetings with staff to gather feedback which will help to inform strategic planning work; the hiring during the month of May for three administrative positions including Region 4 Athletic Director Lew Pappariella; JWMS Principal Melissa Morgan-Hostetler; and DRES Principal Joshua Torchia; and all of the special events she has been witnessing at our schools.

There was no Finance Director report this evening.

#### Other

Superintendent White introduced Attorney Matt Ritter of Shipman and Goodwin who was invited here this evening to share a general, informational review for all BOE members regarding the bonding process, requirements and timelines for regional school districts. He was invited here to speak to all of our boards because the conversation really does pertain to all of the boards both as they consider capital planning and because it will be a larger conversation with all three of our communities.

Attorney Ritter spoke to bonding requirements for regional school districts per CT General Statute 10-56, which ties into 10-47c. These statutes dictate that bond requests must move to referendum (unless under \$500,000 per statute) and they dictate procedure and timelines, such as the requirement of holding at least one district meeting/public hearing before the drafted bond question. The bond question must be approved by the Region 4 Board and it will state the amount of funds the Board is authorized to appropriate and also the amount the Board would be authorized to borrow. The question would then go to referendum, which would be held about 30 days from the time of the district meeting/public hearing. Statute also dictates newspaper notification timelines associated with the process. He noted that the only path for a regional district bond project to pass is by majority vote of those present and voting, as carved out by 10-56.

There was a time for BOE members to ask questions.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS –**

Joint BOE Policy Committee Chair, L. Seidman presented the three policy enclosures that are up for a Second Reading tonight. Each Board had a chance to review and discuss these policies at their individual meetings throughout the month of May and should have directed any questions or shared any feedback to their individual Board's Policy Committee representative(s).

On motion duly made and seconded, the Chester, Deep River, Essex and Region 4 Boards unanimously VOTED (*all members present at 7:39 p.m., as listed above*) to approve the revised policies #6111 School Calendar; #4118.11/4118.112 Personnel – Discrimination/Harassment; and #5145.4/5145.51 Student – Discrimination/Harassment as recommended by the Joint BOE Policy Committee per the enclosures this evening.

The Joint BOE Finance Committee met on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Committee Chair R. Daniels had no new updates since the individual meeting reports in May.

Joint BOE Curriculum Committee member J. Cavanaugh had no new updates since the individual reports, other than sharing that the Region 4 Board did approved the 6 recommended new VRHS courses at their May meeting.

## OTHER ITEMS

### Contracts

Superintendent White thanked everyone who was a part of the six bargaining unit negotiations completed this year.

Superintendent White presented a summary of key provisions of the Net Techs et al. (elementary non-certified) Contract negotiated for July 01, 2021 – June 30, 2024.

On motion duly made and seconded the Chester, Deep River, Essex and Region 4 Boards unanimously **VOTED** to approve the *Agreement Between the Chester Board of Education, Deep River Board of Education, Essex Board of Education and Region 4 Board of Education and Local 1303-421AFSCME, Council 4, AFL-CIO, (Net Techs et al. – Elem. Non-certified)* as presented.

Superintendent White presented a summary of key provisions of the Paraeducators Contract negotiated for July 01, 2021 – June 30, 2023.

On motion duly made and seconded the Chester, Deep River, Essex and Region 4 Boards unanimously **VOTED** to approve the *Agreement Between Chester, Deep River, Essex, And Regional School District No. 4 Boards Of Education and Municipal Employees Union Independent, Seiu Local 506 (Paraeducators)* as presented.

Finance Director Grissom presented the recommendations of the Joint BOE Tuition Committee regarding tuition rates for 2022-23. They recommend keeping the rate for 2022-23 the same as 2021-22. They also recommend that the Policy Committee consider revising the tuition policy to provide for an employee discount for an employee's student who attends one of our schools, as is provided for by some other schools systems in the state.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Chester, Deep River, Essex and Region 4 Boards unanimously **VOTED** to approve tuition rates for the 2022-23 school year as recommended by the Joint BOE Tuition Committee (see attached).

### Public Comment

Board Member L. Seidman said he wanted to acknowledge the contribution of our local non-profit cable access group who will be assisting with graduation at Valley Regional High School this year.

BOE Member Rebecca Greenberg Ellis commented on the Right to Read curriculum change and asked how it may impact elementary schools. Dr. Brzozowy noted that the district is aware and monitoring any potential needs, but we are still awaiting further guidance from the State, as the new law doesn't take effect for over a year, in Fall 2023.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Chester, Deep River, Essex and Region 4 Boards unanimously **VOTED** to move into Executive Session for a Personnel matter - Superintendent's Contract Renewal at 8:08 p.m.

The Boards moved out of Executive Session at 8:45 p.m.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Chester (unanimous), Deep River (unanimous), Essex (unanimous) and Region 4 Boards (7 yes / 0 no / 1 abstention – A. Silva = motion passed) **VOTED** to approve the Superintendent's Contract which runs July 1 2022 – June 30 2025.

Board member L. Seidman said that he wanted to acknowledge the work that Brian White has accomplished during some very trying times over the past three years. He noted that Brian has made tremendous progress on financial matters, and in just keeping our doors open during the pandemic. He said everyone appreciates Brian's steady hand throughout some very trying times.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – No comments were made

## FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

➤ Next regular Joint BOE meeting – October 06, 2022 @ 7:00 p.m.

**\*ADJOURNMENT:**

On motion duly made and seconded, the Chester, Deep River, and Essex Boards unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 8:49 p.m

\*The Region 4 Board stayed in session for the following Region 4 Only business:

Superintendent White shared an update regarding the JWMS Security Project. The State of CT has experienced a lot of unexpected transition in the office of School Construction in the last several months and some of the guidance we were reliant upon has changed with regards to how the state is approaching and evaluating these projects. He did want to recognize efforts by our local legislative representatives, Senator Needleman and Representative Palm, to assist in the process. There will be a meeting of the JWMS Security Project Building Committee held in the next week to provide the Committee with an update.

Superintendent White said he will need to unexpectedly table tonight's report from Mr. Mike VanDeventer of Mahoney Sabol, the District's auditor, who is unable to attend due to a family emergency. Mr. VanDeventer had planned to be here this evening to share the auditor's opinion on the Tech Lease being administered through Region 4 per the Board's request that administration reach out for an opinion on that topic. This report will be rescheduled at a fall meeting.

Valley Regional High School Principal Mike Barile and Assistant Superintendent Sarah Brzozowy shared information regarding a possible donation of women's basketball shoes, one pair for each member of next year's VRHS Girls Basketball team.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Region 4 Board unanimously **VOTED** to accept a donation of 12 pairs (or as many needed to provide one for each member of next year's team) of basketball shoes, valued at \$90 each from Connecticut Sun Women's Basketball Team in partnership with Moolah Kicks to be given to members of the VRHS Varsity Girls Basketball Team

Dr. Brzozowy discussed a request from Coach Bicklehaupt for the VRHS Girls Basketball Team to travel and compete in a tournament in Florida, just prior to winter recess next year. She noted that this trip would necessitate 5 missed days of school, but the fact that Valley is hosting a holiday tournament the following week meant that they could not travel to Florida tournament over the break. Dr. Brzozowy noted that Administration was supporting this request with the understanding that in 2 years, if this trip is taken again, it would be proposed to be taken during the winter break, as opposed to during school days.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Region 4 Board unanimously **VOTED** to approve the request for the Girls Basketball Team to travel to Florida during the dates of December 19-23, 2022 to participate in a national tournament, as presented.

**\*ADJOURNMENT:**

On motion duly made and seconded, the Region 4 BOE unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 9:07 p.m.

# Regional School District No. 4



Presentation of the Joint Boards of Education Tuition Committee  
Thursday, June 2, 2022

# 2021 - 2022 Approved Tuition Fee Structure

## **High School - \$16,500/yr.** – (2nd and subsequent children at VRHS would equal \$15,500/yr.)

(Plus fees for International Baccalaureate (IB), Advanced Placement (AP), & Virtual High School (VHS) as applicable)

- IB Diploma Programme – Responsible for additional program and testing fees
- AP – Responsible for additional testing fees
- VHS – \$500 per course where available
- Sports - Fees dependent on CIAC regulations
- \$1,000/yr. discount on subsequent students from the same family
- Discount offered for all children of active military parent(s) – 80% of stated rates

## **Middle School - \$15,500/yr.** – (2nd and subsequent children at JWMS would equal \$14,500/yr.)

- \$1,000/yr. discount on subsequent students from the same family
- Discount offered for all children of active military parent(s) – 80% of stated rates

## **Elementary Schools - \$13,500/yr.** – (subsequent students from same family discounts as listed below)

- \$13,500/yr. 1st Child
- \$13,000/yr. 2nd Child
- \$12,500/yr. 3rd Child
- \$12,000/yr. 4th and Subsequent Children
- Discount offered for all children of active military parent(s) – 80% of stated rates

# Number of Tuitioning In Students

	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023 (Potential)	Comments
CES	0	0	0	
DRES	0	0	0	
EES	2	0	1	1 new inquiry within the last week
JWMS	0	0	0	
VRHS	0	2	3	2 continuing, 1 new inquiry

# Comparison of Other Districts' Tuition Fee Structures

School District	2021-22 Rates			2022-23 Rates (if known)			Comments
	Elementary	Junior High	High School	Elementary	Junior High	High School	
Bethel	\$13,900	\$13,900	\$16,038	\$14,499	\$14,499	\$16,729	
Derby	\$15,172	\$15,172	\$15,172	TBD	TBD	TBD	Employees free if approved by Superintendent
East Lyme	\$19,866	\$19,866	\$19,866	TBD	TBD	TBD	
Oxford	\$18,000	\$18,000	\$18,000	TBD	TBD	TBD	50% employee discount
Sherman	\$14,226	\$14,226	NA	\$14,571	\$14,571	NA	
Stonington	\$16,030	\$16,030	\$18,325	TBD	TBD	TBD	
Woodstock	\$9,413	\$9,413	N/A	TBD	TBD	TBD	50% employee discount
<b>Region 4</b>	<b>\$13,500</b>	<b>\$15,500</b>	<b>\$16,500</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>20% Military Discount 2nd Child Discount</b>
Region 5 ("Amity"; Woodbridge, Orange, Bethay)	N/A	\$18,596	\$18,596	NA	TBD	TBD	Employee discount
Region 7 ("Northwestern"; Barkhamsted, Colebrook, New Hartford, Norfolk)	N/A	N/A	\$23,341	N/A	N/A	TBD	
Region 8 ("RHAM"; Hebron, Andover, Marlborough)	N/A	\$19,381	\$19,381	N/A	TBD	TBD	
Region 18 (Lyme-Old Lyme)	\$15,000	\$17,000	\$19,000	\$15,000	\$17,000	\$19,000	25% military discount 50% employee discount Multi child discount



# 2022-2023 Tuition Fee Recommendation from Committee

- Maintain rates at current levels
  - Elementary School           \$13,500
  - Middle School               \$15,500
  - High School                 \$16,500
- Include a 20% Employee Discount