

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

## **JOINT BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**

**Date:** June 3, 2021

### **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, Tom Englert, Dale Bernardoni, Rebecca Greenberg-Ellis, Kris Pollock, Rob Bibbiani

DEEP RIVER BOARD OF EDUCATION: Miriam Morrissey, Bob Ferretti, Lenore Grunko, Missy Campbell, Tracy Dickson, Scott Hallden (joined prior to the first vote) , Betsy Scholfield, Pat Maikowski

ESSEX BOARD OF EDUCATION: Lon Seidman, Mark Watson, Nancy Johnston, Loretta McCluskey, Justin Pillion (he has not been sworn in and will not be voting)

REGION 4 BOARD OF EDUCATION: Kate Sandmann, Jane Cavanaugh, Rob Bibbiani, Lori Ann Clymas, John Stack, Jennifer Clark, Rick Daniels, Lon Seidman

Also in attendance: Mr. Brian White, Superintendent; Sarah Smalley, Director of Pupil Services; Robert Grissom, Finance Director

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

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

The Chairs (or their designee) of the Chester, Deep River, Essex and Region 4 Boards called their respective Boards to order at 7:00 p.m.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

On motion duly made and seconded the Deep River, Essex and Region 4 Boards unanimously **VOTED** to approve the consent agenda consisting of the Minutes from the regular meeting of April 1, 2021. The Chester Board VOTED (5 Yes / 0 No / 1 Abstention - Tom Englert = motion passed) to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes from the regular meeting of April 1, 2021.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT –**

Mr. Ian Neviaser, a 24 year resident of Essex, voiced concerns and displeasure with regards to the conduct of the girls’ volleyball coach and the fall season.

Upon a motion made by Kate Sandman and seconded by John Stack to modify the agenda for R4 to include a statement from R4 regarding this personnel issue. Discussion ensued. Mr. Seidman asked if a motion to amend the agenda was needed. Dr. Clark noted that all public comment should be completed first. Ms. Sandman withdrew her motion. Dr. Clark apologized for her comments during Mr. Neviaser’s public comment.

Mrs. Erin Neviaser, a 24 year resident of Essex, also voiced concerns regarding the volleyball coach and supported the earlier comments made.

Mr. Nile Pullin from Chester discussed his concerns and echoed support of the parents that have spoken.

Ms. Lauren Conrad, a resident of Essex voiced her support of those parents who have commented.

There was consensus by the Boards that Ms. Sandman would be able to share a comment as Chair of the Region 4 Board. She noted that the Board does not deal with personnel matters but would only address a formal appeal. She clarified the process.

## **REPORTS AND OTHER ITEMS**

Superintendent White shared updates on ending the year. In-school attendance has increased to the highest level all year. There are end of year celebrations occurring at all buildings.

### **Discussion and Possible VOTE to Approve Tuition Rates for the 2021-22 School Year as Recommended by the Joint BOE Tuition Committee as Presented.**

The committee reviewed rates for the coming year. There is interest in parents sending their students to our district schools. Jane Cavanaugh discussed the tuition rates. A competitive rate was agreed upon. Rates for the High School will be \$16,500, Middle School tuition will be \$15,500 and Elementary School tuition will be \$13,500. Discounts will be given in the amount of \$1,000 for each additional child and a discount of 20% will also be given for active military families. Transportation costs are not included. Additional variable fees may also occur but is considered small. Discussion held regarding having a larger discount for additional children and how to earmark the money earned. It was decided that the additional fees at Valley need to be outlined clearly. This could be revisited if need be. Mr. Stack asked that some portion of the fee be used for marketing the programs offered at our school.

Upon a motion made by Jennifer Clark and seconded by Lori Clymas the Chester, Deep River, Essex and Region 4 Boards unanimously **VOTED** to approve tuition rates for the 2021-22 school year as recommended and presented by the Joint BOE Tuition Committee. (see attached)

**COMMITTEE REPORTS** – No reports were made

### **PUBLIC COMMENT** –

Kathy King an Essex resident echoed her support of the previous public comments regarding the volleyball team.

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Next regular Joint BOE meeting – October 7, 2021 7:00 p.m.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION-NEGOTIATIONS**

#### **Review recommendations of Joint BOE RFP Legal Review Committee and Discuss Contract for Legal Services**

Upon a motion made by Tom Englert and seconded by Lori Clymas the Chester, Deep River, Essex and Region 4 Boards unanimously **VOTED** to go into executive session at 8:15pm to review recommendations of Joint BOE RFP Legal Review Committee and discuss contract for legal services.

#### **Return to Public Session to VOTE to Appoint Legal Counsel**

Upon a motion made by Kate Sandman and seconded by Lon Seidman the Chester, Deep River, Essex and Region 4 Boards **VOTED** to appoint Shipman and Goodwin as Legal Counsel as recommended by the RFP Legal Review Committee. Chester: Ayes: Rob Bibbiani, Rebecca Greenberg-Ellis, David Fitzgibbons, Nays: Tom Englert, Kris Pollock; Deep River: Ayes: Bob Ferretti, Tracy Dickson, Lenore Grunko, Missy Campbell, Miriam Morrissey. Nays: Pat Maikowski. Essex: Ayes: Lon Seidman, Mark Watson, Loretta McCluskey, Nancy Johnston. Region 4: Ayes: Kate Sandman, Jane Cavanaugh, Lori Clymas, Rob Bibbiani, John Stack, Jennifer Clark, Lon Seidman. Nays: Rick Daniels

### **ADJOURNMENT\*:**

On motion duly made and seconded, the Chester, Deep River, and Essex Boards of Education unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at approx. 8:55 p.m.

**\*The Region 4 Board of Education stayed in session for the following R4 only business:**

**Discussion and Possible VOTE to Approve a transfer of Unexpended 2020-21 funds in the amount presented as an appropriation to the Capital Reserve Fund**

Mr. Grissom discussed the transfer. This will not impact any programs.

Upon a motion made by Rick Daniels and seconded by Lori Clymas the Region 4 Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to approve a transfer of Unexpended 2020-21 funds in the amount presented as an appropriation to the Capital Reserve Fund in the amount of \$111,637. (see attached)

Mr. White discussed the repair to the building management system which is failing. This an obsolete piece of equipment. Funds are currently available within the same object code. This does not require board approval but is informational only. Email Mr. White or Mr. Grissom for additional information.

Update Regarding Status of Listing of Region 4 Owned Property at Falls Landing  
Signage is up on the roadway. No significant updates at this time.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Region 4 Board unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at approximately 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Kelley Frazier  
Substitute Clerk

## **Joint BOE Tuition Committee Recommendation for Proposed Yearly Tuition Fee Structure for 2021-22**

### **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

