

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE NEXT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
ESSEX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION
September 8, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Essex Board of Education was held on Thursday, September 8, 2016. Lon Seidman, DG Fitton, Carolyn Rotella, Adam Conrad, Loretta McCluskey (7:06pm Arrival) and Mark Watson. Also in attendance were Kristina Martineau, Assistant Superintendent, Jennifer Tousignant, Principal, Jennifer Nucci, Assistant Principal and Kelley Frazier, Clerk. Absent:

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Lon Seidman at 7:00p.m.

STUDENT REPORT

No Report.

CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion made by DG Fitton and seconded by Mark Watson the Essex Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of May 12, 2016, the special meeting held June 30, 2016 and the Accounts Payable report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comment.

OTHER ITEMS:

Principal's Update

Ms. Tousignant thanked the Board for supporting her and the school. Gratitude journals were distributed to everyone. The theme at Essex Elementary is "Look for the Good." Ms. Tousignant discussed the staff changes. The renovation projects have gone well. Ms. Tousignant thanked Tom Fitzgerald for leading these projects. She also thanked the PTO for the welcome back luncheon which was enjoyed by staff. Curriculum night is Sept 15th. Chromebooks have arrived and are being distributed.

Thomas Peterlik discussed the healthy food certification from the State of Connecticut. The school menu was based on the items that were most popular with the students.

Upon a motion made by DG Fitton and seconded by Loretta McCluskey the Essex Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to renew certification for 2016-17 that all food items sold to students during schools hours, other than those covered by exemption, will meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards to qualify for CSDE's Healthy Food Certification and monetary compensation from the State.

The staff reception hosted by the Board of Education was discussed. Tentatively this will be held at the Corinthian Yacht Club on October 18th at 4:30pm. Ms. McCluskey will coordinate.

REPORTS:

Financial Status Report – Mr. Garth Sawyer

2015-2016 School Year

An additional appropriation was not needed at the end of school year 2015-16. Savings were incurred due to lower than anticipated expenses for the boiler repair and additional revenue was received for the excess cost grant.

2016-2017 School Year

Mr. Sawyer gave a brief update of the financial status for Essex Elementary School. Currently the budget is projecting a surplus based on staffing changes and lower unemployment costs. We will remain vigilant of any unforeseen circumstances and we will keep the Board informed of any developments as they arise. There has been a change in the provider for the internet costs. These expenses have been moved to Supervision Districts and options will be researched.

Cafeteria Report – Mr. Sawyer

Mr. Sawyer gave an update on the status of the cafeteria budget. The cafeteria board subsidy was more than anticipated for 2015-2016. The number of breakfast meals were lower than anticipated. Dr. Levy will research Board subsidies in other districts across the state as well as pricing. This will be discussed in future meetings.

Committee Reports

Finance will be held on September 27, 2016.

Curriculum will be held on September 19, 2016.

Policy will be held on September 19, 2016.

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

Supervision District Committee Update

No update.

LEARN

Ms. Rotella will send the schedule and agendas to Board members for upcoming meetings.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Ms. Martineau discussed the scores for SBAC Language Arts, Mathematics and Science. The scores were good. Improvements will be discussed. This is only the second administration for SBAC. It is too early to make assumptions. The math pilot is moving forward. The resources are being reviewed. We will pilot two assessments in the fall and one in the spring. EES currently have a one hour uninterrupted Math block. We are working towards math consistency throughout our three elementary schools. Language Arts is integrated in the curriculum throughout the entire day. Next generation science had a group of K-12 educators reviewing the science practices.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

District Update – Information and Communication

Valley Regional ranked 389 in the top 500 high schools in *Newsweek*. This is a culmination of the work done in our preschool, elementary schools and the middle school. We have 610 students in the high school this year. Tomorrow night there will be a community dinner at JWMS from 5-7pm. There will be discussion on the strategic planning process. Dr. Levy noted that Tom Fitzgerald has done a wonderful job in completing the renovations at Essex Elementary. His timelines have consistently been met. She also noted that the Chromebook rollout was done smoothly due to the hard work of Pam Murphy. This has moved our schools forward into being global citizens.

Discussion Regarding Any Pending Policies – Standing Item

No Policies to discuss.

Discussion Regarding Pertinent Legislative Updates for 2016-17

New legislation regarding student privacy was discussed. There are different levels of authorization in our district. Next Tuesday is a legislative meeting for the Superintendents. Dr. Levy discussed items to be reviewed. The district will do a Day of Kindness to commemorate the significance of 9-11. The Middle School and the High School will have a moment of silence and will discuss this event in their social studies classes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comment.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

8.1 Next Joint BOE meeting is October 6, 2016

8.2 Next Essex BOE next regular meeting November 10, 2016 at 7:00pm.

8.3 Election of Board Officers

8.4 BOE and Community Input for 2017-18 budget

8.5 Presentation of Major budget drivers for 2017-18

8.6 NWEA Update

8.7 BOE Self-evaluation

ADJOURNMENT

On motion duly made and seconded the Board unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley Frazier, Secretary