

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE
December 04, 2014 MEETING
Joint Board of Education Committee**

October 02, 2014

A regular meeting of the Joint Board of Education Committee was held on Thursday, October 02, 2014 in the John Winthrop Middle School Library, with the following Board Members present:

CHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Arthur Henick, Robert Bibbiani, Crystal Sonn, Charlene Fearon, Rodney Alston (arrived 7:20)
DEEP RIVER BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Christine Daniels, Jim Olson, Dave Berardis, Miriam Morrissey, Michelle Grow, Peter Corcoran, Nelle Andrews (arrived 7:25)
ESSEX BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Lon Seidman, Adam Conrad, DG Fitton, Mark Watson, Carolyn Rotella, Loretta McCluskey (arrived 7:25)
REGION 4 BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Chris Riley, Lauri Wichtowski, Jennifer Clark, Mario Gioco, Ann Monaghan, Jane Cavanaugh, Leigh Rankin, Jim Olson

Also in attendance: Dr. Ruth Levy, Superintendent; Dr. Joanne Beekley, Assistant Superintendent; Garth Sawyer, Business Manager & Jennifer Bryan, Board Clerk.

Audience of Citizens: none present

CALL TO ORDER

Supervision District Committee Chair Christine Daniels called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

The Chairs of the Deep River, Essex Boards and Region 4 Board of Education called their respective Boards to order at 7:10 p.m. (The Chester Board of Education reached a quorum at 7:20 p.m.)

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion duly made and seconded, the Deep River, Essex and Region 4 Boards of Education unanimously VOTED to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the August 21, 2014 regular meeting of the Joint Board. (Upon reaching a quorum and on motion duly made and seconded, the Chester Board of Education unanimously VOTED to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the August 21, 2014 regular meeting of the Joint Board.)

PUBLIC COMMENT – no comments were made

OTHER ITEMS –

Attorney Kevin Roy presented the Board with a review of the key provisions in the Paraeducator contract recently negotiated for 2014-17.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Chester, Deep River, and Essex Boards unanimously VOTED and the Region 4 Board VOTED (6 Yes, 2 abstained – Mario Gioco and Leigh Rankin = motion passed) to ratify the agreement between the Boards of Education for Regional 4 School District, Supervision District, Essex, Chester, Deep River, and Municipal Employees Union Independent, SEIU Local 506 (for the Para-Educator Bargaining Units) for July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2017.

Attorney Kevin Roy reviewed a second reading of Policy #5114 Expulsion/Due Process as recommended by the Joint BOE Policy Committee for approval.

There was a discussion regarding the proposed policy. A couple of members stated their continued dissatisfaction with the policy. In answer to questions asked, Attorney Roy replied that a number of boards across the state use hearing officers and a number use a subcommittee for hearings. There was discussion regarding the recently added qualifications required of a hearing officer, chiefly, that he/she be an attorney. Attorney Roy noted that the addition of these qualifications goes above and beyond most district's policies. In response to a question, Attorney Roy noted that the use of someone who is an attorney, by law, bounds them to ethical standards of impartiality. Also, as with anyone acting as a hearing officer/subcommittee, it is incumbent upon that person to recuse themselves if there is an ethical violation or conflict of interest.

On motion duly made and seconded the Chester Board (3 Yes / 0 No / 2 Abstained – Rodney Alston and Robert Bibbiani = motion passed), Deep River Board (6 Yes / 0 No / 1 Abstained - Miriam Morrissey = motion passed), Essex Board (6 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstained = motion passed), and Region 4 Board of Education (5 Yes / 3 No – Leigh Rankin, Ann Monaghan, Mario Gioco / 0 Abstained = motion passed) VOTED to approve Policy 5114 Expulsion/Due Process as presented.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Personnel – this item was moved up to this point in the agenda

At 7:45 p.m. the Boards moved into executive session regarding a personnel matter, and asked Dr. Levy and Attorney Roy to join them.

The Boards came back into public session at 8:34 p.m.

There was a brief discussion led by Board member Ann Monaghan regarding Best Practices for Boards of Education. She stated that she would like a smaller group to cull through the information she had gathered in order to best determine ways to move closer to best practices. Dr. Levy stated that it would make an excellent topic for workshop format and that it is also associated with the self evaluation that is supposed to be done yearly by each Board, as it would help to define how each board would like to move forward. Christine Daniels suggested that the Boards find a better tool for self evaluation than the current CAFE document they have been using. Dr. Levy offered to serve as a facilitator for the Boards if they wished her to do so.

There was a discussion regarding the level of detail desired in the BOE minutes. Opinions were varied, and included those who would like less detail and those who like to keep the same level

of detail. Some stated that with complicated discussions, they would rather see a summary without specific people's names, unless that person specifically requested their statement be attributed to them and placed in the minutes. Others felt that as elected officials, the Board members have to be available and accountable to the public that elected them, allowing the community to provide feedback and thus allowing members to best represent those who elected them. Others commented that anyone can request that minutes be amended if they feel something in them was inaccurate. It was suggested that minutes remain the same for now, but that the Policy Committee may want to take a look at the issue in order to make recommendations on any changes desired.

REPORTS

Financial Status Update

Mr. Sawyer gave a brief, high level financial update for each district. He discussed the 2013-14 wrap up of last year's financials, noting that more detail will be given at the individual board meetings in September. He also discussed the 2014-15 current status and noted that projections for the year are currently as anticipated.

Superintendent's Report

There was a second reading of the proposed calendar of BOE meetings for Jan. – Dec. 2015. Dr. Levy proposed two revisions in order to move Region 4 Budget Workshops off of Tuesday evenings to allow Region 4 administration to attend those workshops.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Chester, Deep River, Essex and Region 4 Boards of Education unanimously VOTED to approve the Calendar of BOE Meetings for Jan-Dec 2015 as presented with the revisions.

Committee Reports

The Joint BOE Policy Committee held a First Reading on the following policies:

- #4112.4/4212.4 Health Examination
- #5145 Notice of Rights Under Section 504 Rehabilitation Act
- #1112.6 Videotaping of Staff and Students

Dr. Levy summarized why each policy is being proposed and briefly discussed each one. Jennifer Clark said she has been asked how BOE members can give input on proposed policies. She reiterated that they are welcome to contact their BOE rep(s) on the Policy Committee, or her, as the Committee Chair, or Dr. Levy with any comments or questions. The next Joint BOE Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Nov. 18th. She also noted that everyone is welcome to come to Policy Committee meetings as a member of the public, and speak during an audience of citizens, held twice during the meeting. She said that she would like to hear from people prior to meetings so can represent any concerns to the Committee.

Dr. Levy reported that the new Technology Integration Specialist, Kirsten Reynolds, has been busily investigating all kinds of applications and visiting schools and has developed newsletter that will be sent out to teachers.

Joint BOE Finance Committee – the Committee held a meeting on September 30th. They discussed the audit status, uniform chart of accounts, and continued their review and refinement

of the business office procedures manual. Mr. Sawyer reported that the auditors did a preliminary audit over the summer and have already started rolling out the full audit for Chester. He stated that a uniform chart of accounts is something the State is looking at putting into place to help make comparisons across schools more compatible. The roll out date for this has not been determined by the State yet. He did note that he is hopeful that because the districts already follow the federal accounts format, any uniform chart of accounts, once it's released, will just require minor tweaking of the districts' existing accounts.

The Joint BOE Curriculum Committee met on September 16th. Dr. Beekley reported that they reviewed summer curriculum writing, of which the main focus was K-12 Math, along with some Science and World Language writing. The Committee held a lengthy discussion regarding mathematics in general and the philosophy of mathematics instruction in the schools.

Dr. Levy reported that the next meeting of the Declining Enrollment Task Force is currently on hold until she can hold more discussions with the First Selectmen in order to focus on a plan that's workable for all parties, and create a shared common vision for moving forward.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Dr. Beekley gave an update on Professional Development and Curriculum. Support for K-8 math teachers has been put into place by utilizing the math consultants and the incorporation of instructional strategies, lesson modeling, post lesson debriefings, and observation based planning with teachers to determine their next steps. This should provide teachers with greater confidence and a higher comfort level.

October 13th is a full day of professional development for teachers. A description of what teachers in each grade level/area will be doing that day is already up on the website for interested parties to read.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None made

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Next Regular Joint BOE Meeting, December 04, 2014 @ 7:00 p.m.
- Superintendent presents draft Supervision District 2015-16 budget (Dec.)
- Appoint members to Joint BOE Committees for 1 year terms if positions not already filled (Dec.)
- Executive Session – mid-year evaluation of Superintendent (Dec.)

ADJOURNMENT:

On Motion duly made and seconded, the Chester, Deep River, Essex and Region 4 Boards of Education unanimously VOTED to adjourn 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Bryan, Clerk