

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE NEXT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
CHESTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION  
CHESTER TOWN HALL – 6:00PM  
MAY 25, 2017**

The regular meeting of the Chester Board of Education was held on Thursday, May 25, 2017. In attendance were David Fitzgibbons, Tom Englert, Becky Iselin, Arthur Henick, Charlene Fearon, Maria Scherber and Rob Bibbiani. Also in attendance were Dr. Ruth Levy, Superintendent, Kristina Martineau, Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Joanne Beekley, Principal, Garth Sawyer, Business Manager and Kelley Frazier, Clerk. Absent: John Stack, John Ropiak

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Fitzgibbons at 6:00p.m.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Upon a motion made by Arthur Henick and seconded by Maria Scherber, the Chester Board of Education **VOTED** unanimously to approve the minutes from the March 23, 2017 regular meeting and the Accounts Payable report.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No Comment

**OTHER ITEMS:**

**Principal's Update**

Dr. Beekley gave a brief update. There are 30 confirmed Kindergarten students for next year and one more is a possibility. There are many year-end events coming up in June. Dr. Beekley asked that her name be removed from the Chester Elementary Activity Fund. She thanked the Board for allowing her to be at Chester Elementary working with children at the end of her career.

**Presentation and Possible Vote on Solar Installation at CES**

The Chester Energy team was present to discuss adding additional solar panels at the Chester Elementary School. There could be up to 345 solar panels on the school. There will be a 25% savings and more savings going forward. There have also been additional efficiencies made to the school which has been very beneficial. There is a need to remove some trees which are near the building which will allow for additional solar energy efficiencies. There are renewable energy credits with this project as well as an educational component. The goal is to complete the work this summer. The roof is relatively new. Dr. Levy stated that in the other schools there has been significant savings and it has been a remarkable teaching tool.

Upon a motion made by Arthur Henick and seconded by Rob Bibbiani, the Chester Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to approve solar installation by Greenskies on the Chester Elementary School.

## **REPORTS:**

### **Financial Status Report – Mr. Garth Sawyer**

Mr. Sawyer gave a brief update on the financial report for Chester Elementary. Chester Elementary is currently projecting a small surplus. Mr. Sawyer will remain vigilant of any unforeseen circumstances and will keep the Board informed of any developments as they arise.

### **Cafeteria Report – Mr. Sawyer**

We are expecting to come within our projection.

## **Committee Reports**

Finance - Next meeting in September.

Curriculum – Next meeting in September.

Policy – Next meeting in September.

## **OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Supervision District Committee Update**

Discussions were centered on the budget.

## **LEARN**

The Commissioner discussed education prospective for next year. She shared Connecticut's Next Generation Accountability System which will create a more comprehensive, holistic picture of how students and schools are performing based on 12 key indicators. This system focuses on student growth over time. It also looks at indicators such as chronic absenteeism, physical fitness and arts access. There will be a tiered system of supports and resources based on a school's score. In addition, the LEARN Director of Young Children and Families discussed the importance of providing services to children from birth to age eight. Learn is reviewing the services they provide and are focusing on a more holistic approach.

### **Assistant Superintendent's Report**

Ms. Martineau gave a brief update. Strategic Planning for K-12 Curriculum is being considered and there is consensus that the focus should be on the critical thinking quadrant. There is excitement for the strategic plan and how we can impact student learning long term. Curriculum is changing to provide opportunities that are authentic so students are able to apply their learning. The Math pilot has been successful and we are preparing for the implementation. There will be a two day professional workshop in August. Grade Six is focusing on next generation science and working closely with 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade teachers. A decision was made to focus on the integrated model which will move us forward.

We have 30 Chinese students visiting this summer for two weeks in July. Host families will be needed. Valley Regional students will be international ambassadors. Information is available on the website.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

### **District Update - Information and Communication**

It is budget season. Dr. Levy thanked the Board for the work on the budgets. Essex, Deep River and Region 4 budgets have been approved. This has been a difficult year. The Math Coach position is a wonderful step forward for math in our district.

Dr. Levy discussed the contract with Spiral International to contract for up to four Chinese students to attend school in the fall. We are seeing many students interested in international studies. We currently have trips to France and Spain and this is an opportunity to have a relationship with China. This is budget neutral.

Dr. Levy discussed the manufacturing program. Dr. Levy is working with the Department of Labor and the Commissioner of Education to discuss expansion of this program. The students who are part of this program will receive an advanced certificate of manufacturing along with their diploma.

A Clinical Therapeutic Program will begin next year at the high school to serve the needs of our students who have social and emotional challenges. The capacity is 10 and only open to students in our district.

Mr. Fitzgibbons thanked the Board for working diligently on the budget. He feels that we have done the best for our children.

Dr. Levy thanked Dr. Beekley for her years of service. She has been a remarkable leader, friend and educator in our district. We are grateful and wish her the best in her retirement.

### **Discussion Regarding Any Pending Policies – Standing Item #5123 Promotion/Acceleration/Retention**

This will be voted on at the Joint Board of Education meeting.

**Discussion and possible VOTE to renew the *Agreement Concerning the Establishment and Operation of an Interim Collaborative Preschool Program dated February 13, 2008. The Original contract expires June 30, 2012 per agreement and may be renewed in 1 year increments upon agreement of all signing parties (Boards of Education for Chester, Deep River, Essex and the Regional Supervision District Committee) no later than June 30, 2017.***

Upon a motion made by Rob Bibbiani and seconded by Arthur Henick, the Chester Elementary Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to extend the site of the preschool for one year.

**Save the Date – September 12, 2017 from 5-8pm in Central Office BOE Workshop with Jonathan Costa**

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No Comment.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION –PERSONNEL-EVALUATION OF SUPERINTENDENT**

Upon a motion duly made and seconded the Chester Elementary Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to go into Executive Session at 6:55pm. Dr. Levy was invited to stay.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 7:30 pm.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Next Joint BOE meeting June 1, 2017
- Next Chester BOE Meeting is September 28, 2017 @ 7:00pm
- BOE Self-evaluation (TBD)
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**ADJOURNMENT**

On motion duly made and seconded the Board unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 7:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley Frazier, Secretary