

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE NEXT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
CHESTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
May 28, 2015**

The regular meeting of the Chester Board of Education was held on Thursday, May 28, 2015. In attendance Rodney Alston, Crystal Sonn, Charlene Fearon, Arthur Henick, David Fitzgibbons and Wendy King. Also in attendance were Dr. Ruth Levy, Superintendent, Dr. Joanne Beekley, Assistant Superintendent, Michael Barile, Principal, Mr. Garth Sawyer, Business Manager and Kelley Frazier, Clerk. Absent: Robert Bibbiani

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. King called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

CONSENT AGENDA

David Fitzgibbons moved to approve the minutes from the March 26, 2015 Regular Meeting and the Accounts Payable report. Arthur Henick seconded the motion which carried by a unanimous vote.

Ms. King asked that Committee Reports include the name of person reporting.

STUDENT REPORT

Held until the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comment

OTHER ITEMS

Principal's Report

Mr. Barile said that MAP and SBAC testing is now complete. Results for SBAC testing will be received sometime this summer. There have been many celebrations at Chester Elementary. This spring we have had the Arts Festival and the Memorial Day celebration and parade.

REPORTS:

Financial Status Report – Mr. Garth Sawyer

Mr. Sawyer gave a brief update of the financial status for Chester Elementary School. Currently Chester is projecting a small surplus. The Administration will keep the Board informed if the situation should change as we proceed through the year.

Cafeteria Report – Mr. Garth Sawyer

Mr. Sawyer gave an update on the status of the Cafeteria Budget. Sales have increased.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance

The Finance Committee is scheduled to meet in September.

Policy

The next meeting is scheduled for September.

Curriculum

The next meeting is scheduled for September.

Supervision District

No Update.

LEARN Committee Update – Charlene Fearon

The meeting was held at the Marine Science Magnet school. This school has Chester students who attend. She is happy to know that these students succeed in this school.

Regionalization

A number of public forums have been held. The document's language has changed and people are much more comfortable with these changes. The next meeting is June 1st. All three town's Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen have been asked to attend as well as the Board of Education chairs. An attorney representing the town and a legislative representative will also be present. The financial piece is now being reviewed.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – J. Beekley

General Update

Dr. Beekley said that MAP testing is being completed. She is focusing on the social studies curriculum. A group of science teachers are reviewing the new science standards. Language Arts and Math is also being reviewed. She stated that she will be working on adding inquiry into our curriculum. Block scheduling will be part of the discussion.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - R. Levy

District Update

The schools are all doing well. Dr. Levy noted that she will be conducting senior exit interviews with members of the senior class. Valley Regional High School had underclassmen awards and will have senior awards next week. There are 180 kids graduating in the senior class on June 17th.

Discussion Regarding Pending Policies

Nepotism, Homebound Instruction and Publication or Creation of Materials are the policies being reviewed. This will be voted on at the next 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.

Upon a motion made by Arthur Henick and seconded by David Fitzgibbons the Chester Elementary Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to renew the Agreement Concerning the Establishment and Operation of an Interim Collaborative Preschool Program dated February 13, 2008 for renewal for a one year increment upon agreement (vote) of all signing parties (Boards of Education for Chester, Deep River, Essex and the Regional Supervision District Committee) no later than June 30, 2015.

Approval of Food Certification

Upon a motion made by David Fitzgibbons and seconded by Arthur Henick the Chester Elementary Board of Education **VOTED** to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to renew certification that all food items sold to students during school 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.

Donation Acceptance

Upon a motion made by Arthur Henick and seconded by David Fitzgibbons the Deep River Board of Education **VOTED** to accept a donation of \$4,000 from Dinners at the Farm to be equally shared between the Chester, Deep River, Essex and Region 4 cafeterias as presented.

Policy Removal

Upon a motion made by Rodney Alston and seconded by Arthur Henick the Chester Board of Education **VOTED** to removed Policy #4112.4/4212.4 Health Examination from the policy manual.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comment.

Crystal Sonn noted that the Teacher Appreciation breakfast went very well. Teachers were very pleased with the event. Ms. Sonn thanked Board members who helped and contributed to the breakfast.

EXECUTIVE SESSION –INTERVIEW POTENTIAL CANDIDATE TO FILL BOE VACANCY

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board moved into Executive Session at 7:00p.m. to interview potential candidate to fill Board of Education vacancy.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 7:18 p.m.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded the Chester Board of Education **VOTED** to appoint Maria Scherber to the Chester Board of Education.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 7:25pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley Frazier, Board Clerk