

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE NEXT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
CHESTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
NOVEMBER 24, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Chester Board of Education was held on Monday, November 24, 2014. In attendance Rodney Alston, Robert Bibbiani, Arthur Henick, Charlene Fearon, Crystal Sonn, 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:

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Levy called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Dr. Levy opened the floor for the nominations for the office of chairman.

A motion was made by David Fitzgibbons to nominate Wendy King Chairman of the Chester Elementary Board of Education. Robert Bibbiani seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman King opened the floor for the following nominations:

Robert Bibbiani moved to nominate David Fitzgibbons as the Vice Chair of the Chester Elementary Board of Education. Arthur Henick seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded the Chester Elementary Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to nominate Crystal Sonn and Charlene Fearon as the Secretary of the Chester Elementary Board of Education. The motion passed.

Ms. King requested to have the Student Report moved up to accommodate the meeting attendees.

Special Committees:

Supervision District: David Fitzgibbons, Arthur Henick, Wendy King
Negotiations: Wendy King, Rodney Alston, David Fitzgibbons
Curriculum: David Fitzgibbons, Rob Bibbiani, Charlene Fearon (Alternate)
Policy: Arthur Henick, Charlene Fearon
LEARN:
Sixth Grade Study Committee: David Fitzgibbons
Finance: David Fitzgibbons, Crystal Sonn
Personnel and Negotiations: Rodney Alston, David Fitzgibbons
School Calendar:
Facilities: Rodney Alston
PTO: Crystal Sonn

CONSENT AGENDA

Arthur Henick moved to approve the minutes from the September 23, 2014 meeting and the Accounts Payable report. David Fitzgibbons seconded the motion which carried by a unanimous vote.

STUDENT REPORT

Mr. Barile introduced Jessica Martin and Janeth Echeverria who gave the student report of the activities in each grade this past month. Ms. King and the Board thanked the students for coming.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comment

OTHER ITEMS

Community and Board Input on 2015-16 Budget

No input at this time.

Principal's Update

School Update given by students.

NWEA Update

Mr. Barile presented information to help the Board understand the NWEA MAP testing. The Board had various questions which Mr. Barile answered.

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 surplus. The Administration will keep the Board informed if the situation changes as we proceed through the year.

Cafeteria Report – Mr. Garth Sawyer

Mr. Sawyer gave an update on the status of the Cafeteria Budget. Dr. Levy noted that Chester Elementary has many students who have breakfast and lunch at school.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance

Health care issues were focused on. Review of the impact the Affordable Care Act and strategies going forward when considering contract negotiations.

Policy

A number of policies were reviewed and revisions made. These revisions will be available for the second reading at the Joint Board of Education meeting. The next area of review by this Committee will be the Student section.

Curriculum

Curriculum discussed the K-12 art programs with the teachers from all school. There was a review of art standards and how it is integrated into the classroom.

Supervision District

The budget season has begun and things have gone smoothly for the beginning of the school year.

LEARN Committee Update

No Update.

Declining Enrollment Task Force

We are currently working with the three Selectmen to discuss this matter.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT – J. Beekley

General Update

Dr. Beekley noted that we had a half day of Professional Development at the beginning of the month. Para educators also participate in professional development on these days. Para educators are working with math and other special education areas during their professional development days.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT - R. Levy

District Update

Dr. Levy noted that there was a bomb threat called into Valley Regional High School last week. First Student arrived quickly and transported students and staff to John Winthrop in a very organized fashion. First Student provided buses free of charge. Dr. Levy discussed the wonderful Veteran’s Day celebration at Chester Elementary and through out the district and how touching these programs were.

Information and Communication

Anti-Bullying Rally

Dr. Levy noted that this was a phenomenal day for children and staff. It was for Grades 5-12. Chester was not able to attend due to a visiting author coming to the school.

Discussion Regarding Pending Policies

Policy #4112.4/41212.4 Health Examination

Policy #5145 Notice of Rights Under Section 504 Rehabilitation Act

Policy 1112.6 Videotaping of Staff and Students

These policies were briefly discussed and will be voted on at the Joint Board meeting on December 4, 2014.

Article “Best School Districts for Your Buck”

Dr. Levy noted that Region 4 was mentioned in this article. We should be proud of being part of the top ten best school districts for your buck.

Discussion and Possible VOTE regarding Security Grant Letter dated 10/28/14

Dr. Levy read a letter written to the Chester Board of Finance asking permission to reallocate \$6,934 for additional security enhancements.

Upon a motion made by David Fitzgibbons and seconded by Robert Bibbiani the Chester Elementary Board of Education **VOTED** to approve the reallocation of \$6,934 from the Board of Education Capital Fund to the Chester Board of Finance to provide additional security enhancements.

Presentation of Major Budget Drivers for DRES 2015-16

Dr. Levy gave a brief update of the budget drivers for Chester Elementary. She noted that we have significant declining enrollment. This needs to be addressed. There will be a meeting scheduled in January with the First Selectmen from Essex, Chester and Deep River. We need to come together as a region.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 8:34pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley Frazier, Board Clerk