

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE NEXT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
DEEP RIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
January 22, 2015, 7:00PM

The regular meeting of the Deep River Board of Education was held on Thursday, January 22, 2015. In attendance were Miriam Morrissey, Nelle Andrews, Jim Olson, Hadley Kornacki and Michelle Grow. Also in attendance were Dr. Ruth Levy, Superintendent, Dr. Joanne Beekley, Assistant Superintendent, Christian Strickland, Principal and Kelley Frazier, Board Clerk. Absent: Peter Corcoran, Christine Daniels, Julia Grabowski and Dave Berardis

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Grow called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

CONSENT AGENDA

Miriam Morrissey made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 20, 2014 regular meeting and the Accounts Payable report. Jim Olson seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

STUDENT REPORT

Mr. Strickland introduced Sixth Grade students Lukas Kauffman and Katie Morrissey who gave the monthly update for the Deep River Elementary School. The Board thanked the children for coming and presenting to the Board of Education.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jennifer Donahue is a parent who is concerned that recently parents have been asked not to volunteer in the library. She is disappointed that this has occurred. She would like this issue to be revisited and she would like a suitable solution for everyone. She noted that the library deserves parental support. We are missing an opportunity to include important resources in our school community. She went on to describe the duties that the volunteers have. She feels that they can assist the librarian to do her job better. She urges the Administration allow parent volunteers back into the library.

OTHER ITEMS:

Community and Board Input on 2015-16 Budget

The budget workshops are complete for the Supervision District budget. The increase is 2.49%. Ms. Grow noted that we have two reading specialists and wondered if we may consider reducing this number and consider hiring a math/science specialist. Dr. Beekley stated that we moved to two reading specialists to target all children who need this extra support. Dr. Levy is reluctant to reduce a reading consultant at this time. She is a proponent of a district wide math consultant. She noted that if we were regionalized this type of position may be easier to fill.

Principal's Update

Mr. Strickland gave a brief update of the activities at Deep River Elementary School. Our safety procedures continue to run smoothly. MAP testing is being done and we are seeing positive results. There is a Professional Development Day on February 17th. The teachers will be reviewing the results at this time. After teachers review the results, parents will then be notified. We have two students who will be attending the Evening of the Arts. Ten students attended a student leadership conference.

Mr. Strickland gave a brief presentation on the upcoming Science Fair. We have more than 80 students who have elected to participate. This will be held March 26th from 5:30pm – 7:00pm.

REPORTS:

Financial Status Report – Mr. Garth Sawyer

Mr. Sawyer was not present so Dr. Levy gave a brief update of the financial status for Deep River Elementary School. Currently Deep River is projecting a small surplus. The Administration will keep the Board informed if the situation changes as we proceed through the year.

Cafeteria Report – Mr. Garth Sawyer

Dr. Levy gave an update on the status of the Cafeteria Budget. We are showing a deficit in the cafeteria report. She noted that the school will be enforcing the policies stated in dealing with overdue lunch accounts. Parents are being notified if their child's account is overdue.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance

The Finance Committee is scheduled to meet January 26, 2015.

Policy

There was a review the policies currently being reviewed. Legal Council will be updating the policy on Nepotism.

Curriculum

There was a presentation on the music curriculum. The reading survey was discussed. There was an update on MAP and SBAC testing.

Supervision District

We had two budget workshops. The increase is 2.49% which is all benefits and contractual items.

LEARN Committee Update

Ms. Morrissey attended the meeting. There was a discussion on STEM professional development which is being beta tested.

DRES Facilities(Building and Grounds)

No Update. A meeting will be scheduled in the near future.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – J. Beekley

General Update

Dr. Beekley discussed what the new school profiles will look like. This has been recently revamped. Items included in this reporting were briefly discussed. This reporting shows a bigger picture of the district. We do not know when this data will be available.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - R. Levy

District Update

Dr. Levy reported that we are into the budget season. Regionalization has been a focus in the past few weeks. Dr. Levy has also been involved in legislative priorities for special education. She attended the CABA legislative breakfast and it was well attended. She noted that the public and staff have had great acceptance to the administrative changes in our district.

Information and Communication

There have been two meetings regarding the declining enrollment and moving towards regionalization. The Selectmen want regionalization but each town has ideas of what they need for this to happen. The Towns want to maintain control of their own buildings. Dr. Levy has been researching legislative requirements for our district to regionalize. We do not need to bring the plan before the State Board of Education. We only need to petition Region 4. We then go to referendum and it must be approved in all three towns. We will have five schools in the plan. Ms. Grow asked the Board to inform the community of how this will work.

Upon a motion made by Jim Olson and seconded by Nelle Andrews the Deep River Elementary School Board of Education VOTED to ask the Region 4 Board of Education to begin the statutory process to add PreK thru 6 to the Region 4 schools.

Discussion Regarding Pending Policies

Upon a motion made by Miriam Morrissey and seconded by Jim Olson the Deep River Board of Education unanimously VOTED to approve Policy #5145 Notice of Rights under Section 504 Rehabilitation Act Policy and Policy 1112.6 Videotaping of Staff and Students.

The policy on Nepotism is being reviewed.

The Board reviewed the pending policies. Ms. Grow had questions regarding the Substitute Teachers Policy #4121 conduct policy. The expectation of the Administration is that they are professional. There is a handbook given to substitute teachers.

Dr. Levy discussed the history of having parent volunteers in the library. Mr. Strickland will update parents about the policy in the weekly email. He will communicate with parents other volunteer opportunity in the schools.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comment

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion made by Miriam Morrissey and seconded by Nelle Andrews, the Deep River Board of Education unanimously VOTED to go in to Executive Session at 8:40pm to discuss a Student Matter. Dr. Levy and Mr. Strickland were asked to stay for Executive Session.

The Board moved out of Executive Session at 8:50pm.

On motion duly made by Jim Olson and seconded by Nelle Andrews, the Deep River Board of Education unanimously VOTED to adjourn at 8:51pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley Frazier, Board Clerk