

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE NEXT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
ESSEX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION
March 9, 2017**

The regular meeting of the Essex Board of Education was held on Thursday, March 9, 2017. Lon Seidman, DG Fitton, Loretta McCluskey, Carolyn Rotella, Mark Watson and Adam Conrad (7:04pm arrival). Also in attendance were Kristina Martineau, Assistant Superintendent, Jennifer Tousignant, Principal, Jennifer Nucci, Assistant Principal and Kelley Frazier, Clerk. Absent:

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Lon Seidman at 7:00p.m.

STUDENT REPORT

Robin Uzzo and Ann Roussel discussed a series of professional learning experiences called READCONN. They discussed the reading program in the school. Students Jack Berardinelli, Ella Smith, Carson Majors and Brooke Karch discussed the reading program they are using in school and the enjoyment they get out of reading.

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon a motion duly made by DG Fitton and seconded by Loretta McCluskey the Essex Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of January 12, 2017 and the Accounts Payable report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comment.

OTHER ITEMS:

Principal's Update

Ms. Tousignant gave a brief update. The Invention Convention was held last week. Eight winners are moving to the regional competition. Fifty students participated. Family night occurred last week. It was enjoyed by all. The after school enrichment programs had 40 students. Lego 1 and the Chess Club each has 30 students participating in the program. Go Big with Kindness week was celebrated last week. Report cards go home on March 20th followed by conferences and the book fair. Mr. Seidman was asked to present at the Kindergarten Parent Orientation. Placement for all grade levels will be worked on for next year.

REPORTS:

Financial Status Report – Mr. Garth Sawyer

Mr. Sawyer gave a brief update on the financial status for Essex Elementary School. Currently the budget is projecting a surplus based on staffing changes and lower unemployment costs. We will remain vigilant of any unforeseen circumstances and we will keep the Board informed of any developments as they arise.

Cafeteria Report – Mr. Sawyer

Mr. Sawyer gave an update on the status of the cafeteria budget. There is a decline in lunch purchases due to the declining enrollment.

VOTE on Recommended Budget Transfer for 2016-17

Upon a motion made by DG Fitton and seconded by Loretta McCluskey the Region 4 Board of Education **VOTED** unanimously to approve the recommended budget transfers for 2016-17.

Committee Reports

Finance will be held on March 28, 2017.

Curriculum will be held on March 20, 2017.

Policy will be held on March 20, 2017.

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

Supervision District Committee Update

The budget is complete and has gone through a public hearing. The meeting for contraction negotiations for the paraprofessionals did not occur as scheduled because of lack of attendance.

LEARN

A lobbyist was present and discussed events happening at the capital.

The CAFE discussion with the legislators was discussed. Mr. Seidman distributed the CAFE Bill Tracking document. People are encouraged to contact their legislators to discuss their concerns.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Next generation science is being reviewed. This will have minimal impact and will be implemented strategically year by year. The Tech Summit will be postponed until later in the year.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Budgets are currently being worked on. The High School will move forward to host 25-30 students from China along with two teachers. We will accept 4 tuition paying students for the next school year. The I/B program is marching forward. The scheduling change was approved by the Region 4 Board last week. We now have a modified 7 period block. Last week the Principals discussed the Math Coach roles and responsibilities. This position will help our teachers and students to be confident.

Discussion Regarding Any Pending Policies – Standing Item

No policies to discuss.

Discussion and possible VOTE to adopt proposed 2017-18 Essex Elementary School budget to be presented to the Town.

Mr. Sawyer discussed the budget. Health costs are much lower than anticipated. There will also be a retirement. The Region 4 budget will go to public hearing with a 2.9% increase.

On a motion made by DG Fitton and seconded by Loretta McCluskey, the Essex Elementary School Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to approve the 2017-2018 budget of \$7,461,594(seven million, four hundred sixty one thousand, five hundred and ninety four dollars) which is a -2.28% decrease and to recommend this be brought to the Town of Essex.

Discussion Regarding School Lunch Prices

The Board agrees that prices should be raised. The proposal for the elementary schools is raise the price to \$3.00 and \$3.50 for Middle School and High School. There will also be an increase in the adult lunch prices.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION –PERSONNEL

Upon a motion duly made and seconded the Essex Elementary Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to go into Executive Session at 8:20pm. Dr. Levy was invited to stay.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:23pm.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded the Essex Elementary Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to approve the Staff Non-Renewal Notice as recommended by Superintendent Levy.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Next Joint BOE meeting April 6, 2017
- Next Essex BOE Meeting is May 11, 2017 @ 7:00pm
- BOE Self-evaluation (TBD)

ADJOURNMENT

On motion duly made and seconded the Board unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 8:23p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley Frazier, Secretary