

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE
August 20, 2015 MEETING
Joint Board of Education Committee
June 4, 2015

A regular meeting of the Joint Board of Education Committee was held on Thursday, June 4, 2015 in the John Winthrop Middle School Library, with the following Board Members present:

- CHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION: David Fitzgibbons, Arthur Henick, Robert Bibbiani, Charlene Fearon, Crystal Sonn, Maria Scherer, Wendy King (7:15pm Arrival)
- DEEP RIVER BOARD OF EDUCATION: Dave Berardis, Hadley Kornacki, Nelle Andrews, Miriam Morrissey, Peter Corcoran, Michelle Grow
- ESSEX BOARD OF EDUCATION: Lon Seidman, DG Fitton, Loretta McCluskey, Carolyn Rotella, Mark Watson, Adam Conrad
- REGION 4 BOARD OF EDUCATION: Chris Riley, Jennifer Clark, Mario Gioco, Elaine Fitzgibbons, Jane Cavanaugh, Leigh Rankin, Ann Monaghan, Lauri Wichtowski and Elaine Fitzgibbons (7:12pm Arrival).

Also in attendance: Dr. Ruth Levy, Superintendent; Joanne Beekley, Assistant Superintendent, Garth Sawyer, Business Manager, Christian Strickland, DRES Principal, Scott Jeffrey, EES Principal, Mike Barile, CES Principal, Bill Duffy, JWMS Principal, Kristina Martineau, VRHS Principal & Kelley Frazier, Substitute Board Clerk.

CALL TO ORDER

Supervision District Committee Chair Lon Seidman called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

The Chairs or Vice-Chairs of the Essex Board, Deep River, Chester and the Region 4 Board of Education called their respective Boards to order at 7:04 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion duly made and seconded the Chester, Deep River, Essex and Region 4 Boards of Education **VOTED** to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the April 16, 2016 regular meeting of the Joint Boards of Education. Abstentions: Lauri Wichtowski

PUBLIC COMMENT – no comments were made

OTHER ITEMS –

MAP Presentation – Principals

Administrators from Essex, Chester, Deep River, John Winthrop Middle School and Valley Regional High School were present and discussed MAP testing and data. It was noted that we are empowering teachers with the proper Professional Development to understand this program. Our teachers are learning how to administer the MAP test and to analyze the data. Teachers are looking more carefully at the data and are discussing the strengths and weaknesses of the program. Dr. Beekley noted that next year's Professional Development will also focus on MAP analysis. Mr. Jeffrey discussed the type of data teachers are receiving. Mr. Strickland discussed the continuum of learning. Mr. Barile discussed how MAP addresses students who need enrichment or added help. Mr. Duffy noted that MAP provides us with student learning levels. It helps us to identify students who may need specific intervention. We can target instruction. Ms. Martineau said that MAP fills a void because it provides us with valuable information on Grade 9 students which we did not have before. It allows a seamless transition from Grade 9 through Grade 12. Dr. Beekley would like the ability to break apart the reporting. The Board had various questions regarding MAP data. The tests are administered 3 times per year. Dr. Beekley noted that we may decide to administer the test twice per year for older students. The feedback from the teachers is that this is valuable tool. MAP testing is complete in 10th grade.

REPORTS

Superintendent's Report

Regionalization

Dr. Levy discussed the second version of the regionalization plan. Attendance at the regionalization forums has been low. Chester has had the most attendees to their meetings. The second draft has received positive feedback. At a meeting earlier this week with the Boards of Finance, Selectmen and Board of Education Chairs, it was decided that this may not be the right time to try to regionalize. Dr. Levy is not sure at this time, we can reach an agreement. Mr. Riley feels that we have not convinced enough people to move forward with this. We may be able to look at this down the road. Mr. Riley feels that we have done all that we can. Mr. Seidman discussed the legislative changes.

Financial Status Update

Mr. Sawyer gave a general overview of the district wide fiscal status. He discussed each school's end of year financial status. Mr. Sawyer will be providing more detailed information at the individual Board meetings.

Vote on Superintendent's Recommendation to Appoint Shipman and Goodwin as Legal Counsel for the Board of Education of Chester, Deep River, Essex and Region 4 for 2015-16.

On a motion duly made and seconded the Chester, Deep River, Essex and Region 4 Boards **VOTED** to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to appoint Shipman and Goodwin as legal counsel for the Boards of Education of Chester, Deep River, Essex, Region 4 and Supervision District for 2015-16. The motion passed. Abstentions: Arthur Henick, David Berardis. Nays: Ann Monaghan and Mario Gioco

Ms. Monahan said that she has asked for three years that this contract go out for bid. She is concerned that this has not happened. The reason we have not done this was due to

regionalization. This will be addressed next year. Ms. Monahan would like to make sure we are getting a competitive rate and quality services. Mr. Seidman suggested that we add this discussion to the agenda of a future meeting to vote on having this contract go out for bid.

Committee Reports

The Joint BOE Policy Committee held a second reading and **VOTED** on the following policies:

- #4112.8/4212.8 Nepotism
- #6173 Homebound Instruction
- #4132 Publication or Creation of Materials

On a motion duly made and seconded the boards of Essex, Chester, Deep River and Region 4 **VOTED** unanimously to approve Policy #4112.8/4212.8 Nepotism, Policy # 6173 Homebound Instruction and Policy # 4132 Publication or Creation of Materials as presented.

Finance Committee – Mark Watson

The next meeting is in September.

Curriculum Committee - David Fitzgibbons

The next meeting is in September.

Regionalization Plan – R. Levy

Report given previously.

Ad Hoc Committees

Formation of ad hoc committee to determine recommendation regarding feasibility of mandatory pre-employment drug testing.

Region 4 discussed their interest in doing drug tests for prospective employees. It was suggested that a committee be formed to investigate the components of pre employment drug testing. This information would need to be brought to the Policy Committee. Dr. Levy asked the Ad Hoc Committee to research this from the educational stance rather than other employment situations which do this because of risk. She is also asking Shipman and Goodman to look at other districts that currently do this in their school system.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded the Joint Board of Education **VOTED** to form an Ad Hoc committee to study pre employment drug testing for prospective employees.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Dr. Beekley reported that the State did approve the Educator Evaluation Plan. The plan has brought to light some concerns. Dr. Beekley discussed that our district needs to redefine what an ineffective teacher. We need to define the level of classroom performance should be so that we can make sure we have the best teachers in our classrooms. We also need to review how we reach our goals. The plan has brought to light some concerns. Mr. Seidman thanked Dr. Beekley for her hard work on this plan.

Upon a motion made by Miriam Morrissey and seconded by DG Fitton the Joint Boards of Education **VOTED** to adopt the Educator Evaluation plan.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No comments were made

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- 7.1 Next Regular Joint BOE Meeting, August 20, 2015 @ 7:00 p.m.
- 7.2 Update on Celebrate Learning Summer Program (Aug)
- 7.3 First Reading of BOE Meeting Calendar for upcoming calendar year(Aug)
- 7.4 Update on summer hiring (Aug)
- 7.5 Legislative Update (discussion at Sept. meeting)(Aug)
- 7.6 Executive Session – presentation of Superintendent’s goals(Aug)

ADJOURNMENT:

On Motion duly made and seconded, the Chester, Deep River, Essex and Region 4 Boards of Education unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 8:20p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley Frazier, Substitute Clerk