

**CHESTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING  
CHESTER ELEMENTARY MEDIA CENTER  
MAY 25, 2023 7:00pm**

**F.O.I. Compliance** – Subject to BOE approval at a future meeting

**Chester BOE**

David Fitzgibbons  
Jan Taigen  
Dale Bernardoni  
Rebecca Greenbert-Ellis  
Lorraine Connelly  
Ken Rice

**Administration**

Brian White  
Bob Grissom  
Sarah Brzozowy  
Tyson Stoddard

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Fitzgibbons at approx. 7:02 p.m.

**VERBAL ROLL CALL FOR BOE MEMBERS**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Upon duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously **VOTED** to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of March 23, 2023, and the Accounts Payable report as written.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No Comment

**REPORTS AND OTHER ITEMS:**

**Superintendent's Report**

**District Update – Information and Communication**

Mr. White shared an update and some next steps regarding the recent passage of the Region 4 Athletics Fields and Facilities Improvements bonding initiative at referendum.

He also shared that school safety and security site assessments were completed at every building recently and discussed the process by which the results will be reported and addressed in the coming year.

Mr. White shared a brief summary of the discussions held at the Joint BOE Retreat on Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. They emerged with a commitment to engage local town leadership.

**Assistant Superintendent's Report**

**General Update**

Dr. Brzozowy shared that The Connecticut Association of School Business officials have awarded Mr. Grissom with the Rising Star Award.

### **Financial Status Updates**

Mr. Grissom reviewed the enclosures including the Current Year to Date Financial Status; the Cafeteria Fund Update; and the Medical Reserve Tracking report.

He also shared that he is collaborating with our Director of Food Services to develop a list and quotes for equipment that needs to be upgraded.

Mr. Grissom reviewed enclosure #6 and discussed the associated request for transfers between line items.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously VOTED to approve the transfers as presented.

### **Principal's Update**

Mr. Stoddard shared an update on recent and upcoming events at Chester Elementary.

### **Other Items**

The Board discussed the items that were up for vote at the April 06, 2023 Joint BOE meeting where the Chester BOE did not have a quorum.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Chester Board unanimously VOTED to approve the Minutes of Regular Joint Board Meeting of February 23, 2023.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Chester Board unanimously VOTED to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to vote "yes" on implementing the healthy food option of C.G.S. Section 10-215f and approve the following motion language for the healthy food option: Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the board of education or governing authority certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Chester Board unanimously VOTED to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to vote "yes" to allow food and beverage exemptions and approve the following motion language: The board of education or governing authority will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The "regular school day" is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food and beverage sales.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Chester Board unanimously VOTE to adopt the following policies as recommended by the Joint BOE Policy Committee and adopted by the Deep River, Essex and Region 4 Boards of Education on April 06, 2023 :

Update Existing with the following:

Policy #1110.1 Communication – Parent Involvement (*encl #8*)  
Policy #1324 Fundraising (*encl #9*)  
Policy #1331 Prohibition Against Smoking (*encl #10*)  
Policy #3171.1 Non-lapsing Education Fund (*encl #11*)  
Policy #3542 School Lunch Service (*encl #12*)  
Policy #4122 Evaluation, Termination, and non-Renewal of Athletic Coaches (*encl #13*)  
Policy #5113/5113.2 Attendance / Truancy (*encl #14*)  
Policy #5131.6 Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Use by Students (*encl #15*)  
Policy #5131.911 Bullying (*encl #16*)

Adopt New:

Policy #3542.22 Food Services Personnel Code of Conduct (*encl #17*)  
Policy #3542.41 Food Services Personnel Professional Standards (*encl # 18*)  
Policy #3542.43 Charging Policy Food Service (*encl # 19*)  
Policy #4118.234 Psychotropic Drug Use (*encl #20*)  
Policy #5131.62 Chemical Health for Student Athletes (*encl #21*)  
Policy #5144.4 Physical Exercise and Discipline of Students (*encl #22*)  
Policy #5163 Policy to Improve Completion Rates of Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) (*encl #23*)  
Policy #6141.51 Enrollment in an Advanced Course or Program and Challenging Curriculum (*encl # 24*)  
Policy #6172.1 Equitable Identification of Gifted and Talented Students (*encl # 25*)

There was a discussion regarding enclosure #6, a memo from Supervision District Committee Chair, Lon Seidman regarding the general process for superintendent contract negotiations and evaluations.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Curriculum**

The Committee met, but did not discuss any new business

### **Finance**

Mr. Grissom shared the agenda items that the Committee discussed

### **Policy**

Several policies are in some stage of review.

## **Supervision District Committee Updates**

No update was shared

## **LEARN**

Dale Bernardoni shared an update on the work done by LEARN over the past year.

**Discussion Regarding any Pending Policy for all BOE's**

There was a chance to discuss the following proposed revised policies, all of which had their First Reading at the April 06, 2023 Joint BOE meeting. The Second Reading and possible Vote to approve them will be held at the June 1<sup>st</sup> Joint BOE meeting.

Policy #3160 Transfer of Funds between Categories (Fund Balance Section)  
Policy #4118.231/4218.231 Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug Free Workplace  
Policy #5114 Suspension and Expulsion / Due Process  
Policy #5132 Dress Code  
Policy #6162.4 Volunteers  
Policy / Bylaw #9221

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No comments were made

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – Personnel**

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously VOTED to move into Executive Session at approx. 8:24 p.m. for the following Personnel Matter:

- Evaluation of Superintendent

The Board returned from Executive Session at approximately 9:00 p.m.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Joint BOE Meeting Thursday, June 01, 2023 @ 7:00pm
- Chester BOE Regular Meeting September 28, 2023 @7:00pm

**ADJOURNMENT**

On motion duly made and seconded the Board unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at approx. 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Bryan, Substitute Clerk