

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

JOINT BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Date: December 7, 2023

Regular Meeting – Valley Regional High School Media Center

CHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION: David Fitzgibbons, Maria Scherber, Dale Bernardoni, Jan Taigen, Rebecca Greenberg-Ellis,

DEEP RIVER BOARD OF EDUCATION: Bob Ferretti, Scott Hallden, Alyson Whelan, Joel Harris, Kevin Harris

ESSEX BOARD OF EDUCATION: Lon Seidman, Nancy Johnston, Cassandra Sweet, Marjorie Russell

REGION 4 BOARD OF EDUCATION: Kate Sandmann, Richard Strauss, Lon Seidman, John Stack, Jennifer Clark, Lol Fearon, Jane Cavanaugh, Rick Daniels

OTHER ATTENDEES: Brian White, Superintendent, Robert Grissom, Finance Director, Sarah Brzozowy, Assistant Superintendent, Christen Papallo, Director of Pupil Services, Kelley Frazier, Clerk

CALL TO ORDER and VERBAL ROLL CALL

Chair Sandmann called the meeting to order at 7:01p.m

The Chairs of the Essex, Chester and Region 4 Boards called their respective Boards to order at 7:06pm. Deep River gained a quorum later in the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion duly made and seconded the Chester, Essex and Region 4 schools **VOTED** to accept the consent agenda consisting of the minutes from the regular meeting of October 5, 2023.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comment.

REPORTS AND OTHER ITEMS

Superintendent Update

District Update/Information and Communication

No report.

Assistant Superintendent Report

General Update

No report.

Finance Director's Report

Held until Individual Board Meetings.

OTHER ITEMS

Budget Themes and Overview

Superintendent White gave a high level overview of budgetary needs for the district. He discussed how to align the resources to meet the goals. There are teaching and learning considerations both in academic and behavioral needs. Each class size going forward at Valley is approximately 100 students. Superintendent White discussed legislative actions which may affect budgetary items.

Superintendent White discussed the services he hopes to expand. Mental health and social interaction should be looked at in all towns and consideration should be made in working with Tri-Town Youth Services to support students and families. Social and emotional needs post COVID are significant and have budgetary consideration. Supporting the teachers is crucial. The universal screener was discussed. A comprehensive Capital Plan will be presented during the budget process. A facilities and operations manager will be included in the budget.

The needs of our aging buildings is significant. The roof at Central Office needs to be replaced. HVAC and air quality testing will be an item discussed when developing the budget. Security considerations will be discussed in executive session during the budget process. Universal systems and processes across the Boards is a goal. Transportation expenses are up 15-17%. The medical insurance reserve account can pose some opportunity to discuss funding levels.

Discussion held regarding how to get budgetary need information to the public. Superintendent White is working with elected officials as to what is feasible and what isn't. Prioritizing the needs is important. All board members need to understand the big picture of the district budgets.

Committee Reports

Curriculum

No Update.

Finance

No update.

Policy

No update.

Supervision District Committee Updates

No update.

Ad Hoc Committees

No update.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Next regular Joint BOE Meeting, February 22, 2024 @6:30pm @ VRHS Media Center

ADJOURNMENT:

On motion duly made and seconded, the Chester, Deep River, and Region 4 Boards of Education unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 8:54pm.

The Essex Board remained in session to discuss Essex BOE only business.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Essex Board unanimously **VOTED** to add an *interview and possible vote to appoint a candidate to fill an Essex BOE vacancy* to the agenda.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Essex Board unanimously VOTED to appoint Kristen Pillion to fill a vacancy until the next general election in November of 2025, at which time the position shall return to the ballot for a term ending November 2027.

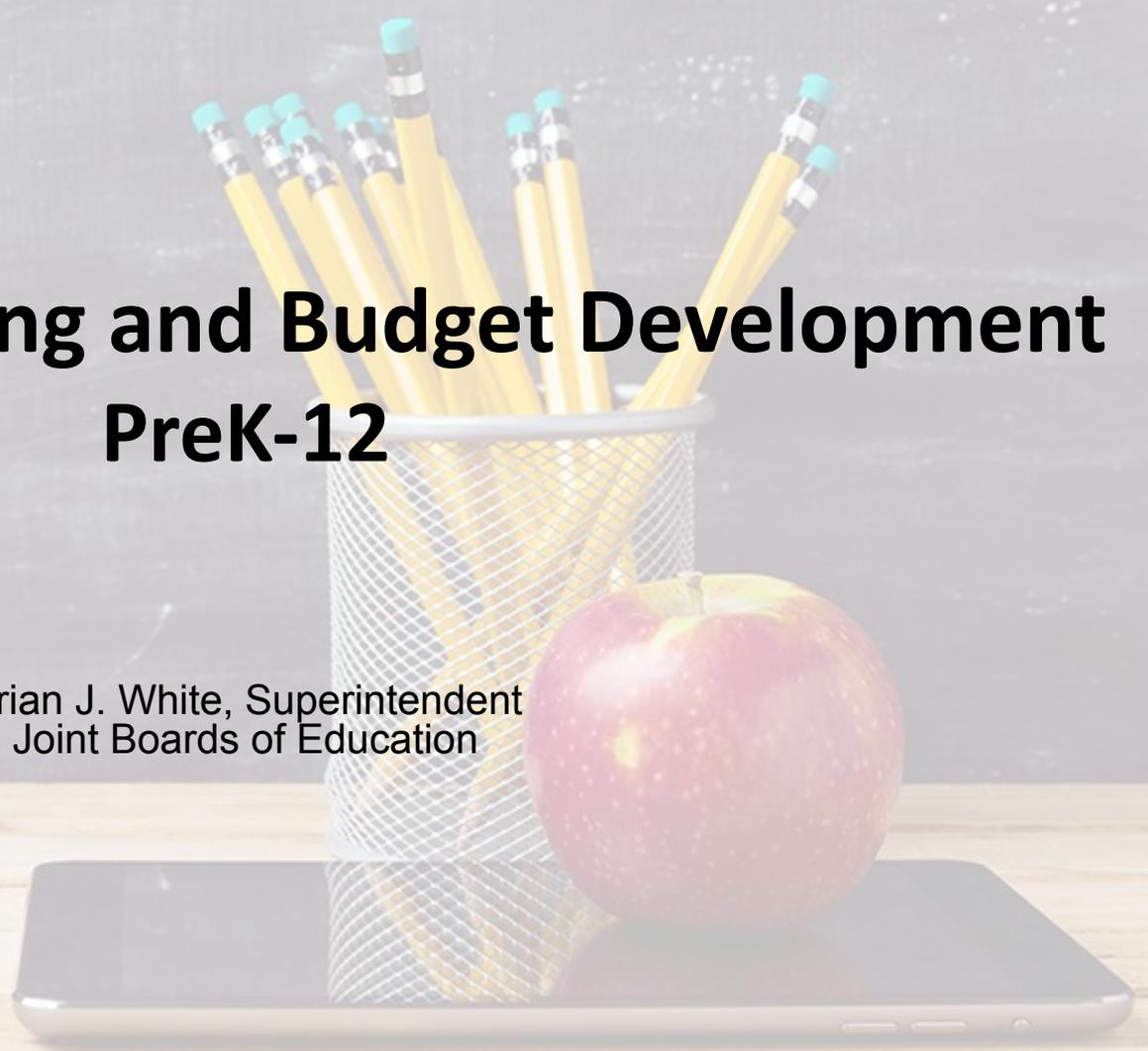
On motion duly made and seconded, the Essex Board unanimously VOTED to adjourn at approx. 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley Frazier, Clerk

Strategic Planning and Budget Development PreK-12

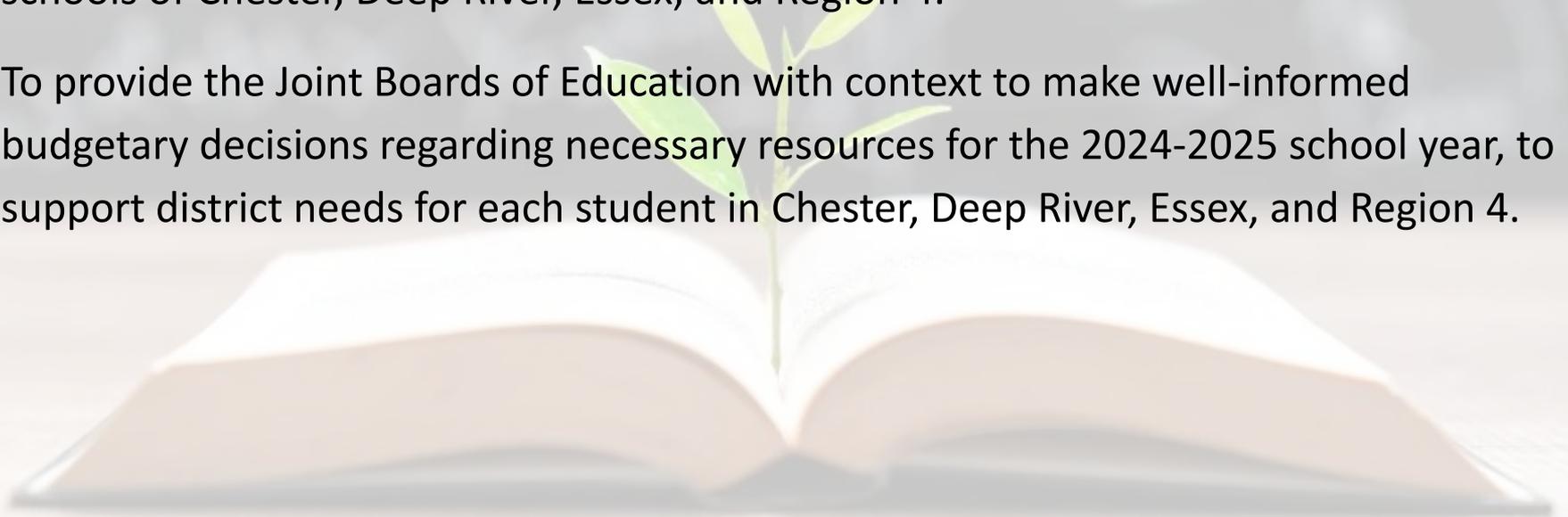
Brian J. White, Superintendent
Joint Boards of Education



Presentation Purpose

To provide the Joint Boards of Education with a high level overview of each strategic priority that promotes academic excellence and a positive culture and climate in the schools of Chester, Deep River, Essex, and Region 4.

To provide the Joint Boards of Education with context to make well-informed budgetary decisions regarding necessary resources for the 2024-2025 school year, to support district needs for each student in Chester, Deep River, Essex, and Region 4.



Strategic Priority #1- Teaching and Learning

To provide each student with high quality classroom instruction to promote successful student outcomes.

Measures of Success

- SBAC (Grades 3-8)
- SAT (Grades 11)
- AP Exams
- IB Exams
- Internal Academic Assessments
- College/Career Readiness -CSDE Indicators 5, 6
- High School Graduation Rate

Strategic Priority #1- Teaching and Learning

- **Student Enrollment Projections: 2024-2025**
- **★ Early Grades Literacy**
 - Granted the Transitional Waiver
 - Working with Staff Developer on new ELA Curriculum
 - 2024-2025: Continue work with staff developer to create SoR aligned curriculum
- **Bridges Math Program (K-5)**
 - Updated Bridges math program being piloted in three elementary schools
 - 2024-2025: Need new classroom sets for all elementary schools
- **Kindergarten Legislation**
 - Per state law, students must be 5 years old by September 1
 - 2024-2025: District developing assessment protocol for parents interested in special consideration
 - *Note: Potential implications for Pre-K programming with potential influx of 4 year olds*
- **Pre-Kindergarten**
 - 39 students currently enrolled in PreK program housed at Essex Elementary School
 - Incoming Birth-3 referrals have increased by 50% since this time 2022-2023
 - 2024-2025: Add new classroom to increase programmatic reach (1 PreK teacher, 1 PreK para)
- **Specialized Programming/ Intensive Autism Program**
 - Added a Special Education Teacher and Paraprofessional post-budget to meet student need
 - 2024-2025: Continue budgetary support of these positions

Strategic Priority #1- Teaching and Learning

- **iReady Universal Screener**
 - Piloted for Mathematics and ELA for all students in Grades 1-9 (K begins in January)
 - 2024-2025: Continue use of universal screener as part of core programming
- **iReady My Path**
 - Piloted in grades K-8 for students in need of Tier II and Tier III support in Math and ELA
 - 2024-2025: Implement for all K-8 students to intervene or enrich Math and ELA performance
- **Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)**
 - Transition from SRBI practices to an MTSS system
 - Worked with staff developer to develop district-wide system in all 5 schools
 - 2024-2025: Continue work with staff developer on job-embedded practices
- **Data Analysis**
 - Currently, student data is housed in multiple areas
 - 2024-2025: Enhance PowerSchool as a centralized data warehouse and implement PowerSchool Analytics
- **Special Education Support**
 - From September-November 2022: up 173% (from 15 to 41)
 - Referrals from September-November 2023: Have reached 82% of total 2022-2023 referrals
 - 2024-2025: ESSER Grant Funding used to support mental health staff: 3 school psychs (.5,.5,.4) Special education staff (.7)-moving to Operational Budget

Strategic Priority #2- Culture and Climate

To partner with students, staff, and families to maintain a positive learning environment where every child is successful.

Measures of Success

- Stakeholder surveys
- Discipline data
- Attendance data/ chronic absenteeism rate
- Participation rate for student recognition programs
- Participation rates for extra-curricular sports, clubs and activities

Strategic Priority #2- Professional Culture and Climate

- **Staff Evaluation**

- Transitioned from EdReflect to PowerSchool Unified Talent
- Developing a new Staff Evaluation plan with CAS and PDEC
- 2024-2025: Continue use of PowerSchool Unified Talent and Implement new Evaluation Plan for all staff

- **Professional Development**

- Professional Development has been provided by EastConn, Geodes trainers, and iReady through the 2023-2024 school year
- PD Calendar is developed and released in May in response to all staff input
- 2024-2025: Continue partnership with outside agencies and organizations for meaningful Professional Development

- **Professional Learning**

- Professional Learning of staff is currently tracked in multiple ways
- 2024-2025: Leverage Professional Learning software to track PD opportunities and provide on-demand sessions responsive to staff need

Strategic Priority #2- School Culture and Climate

- **Mental Health Supports**

- Increase in student need
- ESSER Grant Funding used to support mental health staff: 3 school psychs (.5,.5,.4) (from slide 5)

- **In-House District Programs**

- Resources to keep students in district with wraparound services
- Early intervention practices to support a growing need
- 2024-2025: Contract with Effective School Solutions for additional family support and resources



Strategic Priority #3- Finance and Operations

Develop and implement practices to ensure effective long-range, strategic financial and operational planning.

Measures of Success

- Budgets for Supervision, Region 4, Chester, Deep River, and Essex districts that move initiatives forward and are supported by the public
- Annual audit reports
- Long-range facilities master plan
- A review of PK-12 configuration of our schools and future costs of operation

Strategic Priority #3- Finance and Operations

- **Facilities and Operations Director**
- **★ Facilities Master Planning**
- **Capital Improvement Planning**
 - Long Range Capital Planning (R4)
 - Central Office Roof (R4)
 - HVAC (All Districts)- New Air Quality Legislation
- **Information Technology**
 - To continue to enhance technology systems across the district
 - District wide IT Resources (Server, Central Office Devices)
 - PowerSchool Enrollment Express

Strategic Priority #3- Finance and Operations

- **Unpacking Security Audit by Board of Education**
- **★ Transportation Contract Renewal**
 - Daily Transportation (After School and Extracurricular Programming)
 - PreK, Special Education, ESY/Summer School Transportation
- **Nursing Staff Support**
 - Currently have a Nursing Coordinator
 - 2024-2025: Develop Nursing Supervisor role to allow for training, evaluation, and supervision
- **Health Insurance Reserve Strategy**



Thank you

