

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

JOINT BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Date: February 22, 2024

Regular Meeting – Valley Regional High School Media Center

CHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION: Dale Bernardoni, Jan Taigen, Ken Rice, Stuart Johnson, Jen Blalock, Lorraine Connelly, Maria Scherber

DEEP RIVER BOARD OF EDUCATION: Bob Ferretti, Alyson Whelan, Pat Maikowski, Melissa McIntyre, Lenore Grunko, Joel Harris

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

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

OTHER ATTENDEES: Brian White, Superintendent, Robert Grissom, Finance Director, Sarah Brzozowy, Assistant Superintendent, Kelley Frazier, Clerk

CALL TO ORDER and VERBAL ROLL CALL

Ms. Sandman called the meeting to order at 7:03p.m

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

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion duly made and seconded the Chester, Essex, Deep River and Region 4 schools **VOTED** to accept the consent agenda consisting of the minutes from the regular meeting of December 7, 2023.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Niki Waz, President of the Teachers Union, discussed her concerns regarding teacher morale in light of conversations regarding adding PK-6 to Region 4.

REPORTS AND OTHER ITEMS

Superintendent Update

District Update/Information and Communication

No formal report.

Assistant Superintendent Report

General Update

Dr. Brzozowy gave an update on literacy considerations in the Elementary Schools.

Finance Director's Report

Held until Individual Board Meetings.

OTHER ITEMS

Presentation on Health Insurance

Joe Spurgeon, Lindberg & Ripple, discussed the insurance fund (see attached). A policy will be created on how to deal with the reserve. Questions were answered.

Discussion and possible VOTE to approve the proposed 2024-25 Supervision District Budget as presented, per the recommendation of the Supervision District Committee.

Superintendent White discussed the development and initiatives in this budget.

Upon motion duly made and seconded the Chester (4 Yes; 2 No = M. Scherber, S. Johnson; 0 abstentions = motion passed), Essex (unanimous), Deep River (5 Yes; 2 No = P. Maikowski, L. Grunko; 0 abstentions = motion passed), and Region 4 (8 Yes; 1 No = R. Daniels; 0 abstentions = motion passed) Boards **VOTED** to approve the proposed 2024-25 Supervision District Budget, as presented, per the recommendation of the Supervision District Committee.

Committee Reports

Curriculum

Committee Chair Nancy Johnston shared that class rank was discussed as well as the age change for Kindergarten. A waiver related to the age change has been developed for parents interested in pursuing that.

Finance

John Stack shared that they held a discussion with Joe Spurgeon regarding health insurance in preparation for his presentation to the Boards earlier this evening.

Policy

Committee Chair Lon Seidman discussed the policies on the agenda for a First Read this evening. Per the approvals process, these will now go before the individual boards next month for any further discussion, and will return for a Second Read and vote at the April Joint BOE meeting.

Supervision District Committee Updates

No update.

Ad Hoc Committees

No update.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Next regular Joint BOE Meeting, April 4, 2024 @6:30pm @ VRHS Media Center

ADJOURNMENT:

On motion duly made and seconded, the Essex, Chester and Deep River Boards of Education unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 9:48pm. Region 4 remained in session for the following Region 4 only business:

Update and Discussion on status of JWMS Security Project

Superintendent White and Mr. Grissom shared an update on the status of the JWMS security project and reminded the Board that the project was placed on hold while a JWMS remediation plan was being determined. Administration asked for BOE guidance as to when to restart that work to move forward with regards to engaging with the chosen vendor to begin the necessary design work. There was Board consensus that administration should proceed with requesting the design work to start as soon as possible. The building committee will reconvene and discuss next steps.

Adjournment of Region 4 BOE

Upon a motion duly made and seconded the Region 4 Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 10:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kelley Frazier, Clerk