

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE March 3, 2016
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 4 Board of Education**

A regular meeting of the Regional School District No. 4 Board of Education was held on Thursday, January 8, 2016 in the John Winthrop Middle School Library, with the following Board members in attendance:

Leigh Rankin, Lori Ann Clymas, Susan Hollister, Jane Cavanaugh, Chris Riley, Elaine Fitzgibbons, Jim Olson, Mario Gioco, and Jennifer Clark- as well as Senior Student Representatives Acacia Bowden and Julia Hammond

Also in attendance:

Administrators: Superintendent Dr. Ruth I. Levy,
Assistant Superintendent, Kristina Martineau
Business Manager Garth Sawyer;
Valley Regional Principal Mike Barile
John Winthrop Principal William Duffy
Board Clerk Kelley Frazier (Substitute)

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Riley called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board VOTED (8 Yes, 1 abstention-Mario Gioco = motion passed) to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 5, 2015, the Special Meeting on December 14, 2015 and the Accounts Payable Report.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

No comments were made.

OTHER ITEMS

Region 4 Student Representatives Report

JWMS Middle School students

Charlotte Marsden and Arick Outama presented the school report. The Winter sports club began today. The girl's basketball team is undefeated and the boys team is 2-1. Math Counts and Lego Robotics did well in their recent competitions. Seventh and Eighth grade students participated in a Geography Bee. We had an internet safety presentation. Star Girl has been selected for the one book one school program for 2016.

Acacia Bowden and Julia Hammond discussed the events happening at Valley Regional High School. A Student Council pep rally highlighted academic, sports and various music and arts awards. Valley Regional Music Production of "The Adam's Family" is underway. The winter sports are in full swing. Competitions for Mock Trial and Model UN were successful.

Presentation of 2014-15 Region 4 Audit Report – Mahoney Sabol

Mr. Bauer discussed the audit. He thanked Mr. Sawyer and his team for their help. The audit report was previously distributed. A highlighted presentation of key points was discussed.

Discussion and Possible VOTE Regarding Return of Surplus Funds to the Member Towns

Mr. Sawyer discussed the fund balance. He discussed the two methods of dealing with these funds. Mr. Riley feels that sending half back to the towns and half to the sinking funds is the best way to do this. Mr. Gioco feels that we should return it all to the towns.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Clymas and seconded by Mr. Olson the Region 4 Board of Education **VOTED** to transfer \$26,675 of the end of year surplus for FY 2014-2015 to the Regional School District #4 Capital Sinking Funds with the remaining surplus to be returned to the participating Towns of Regional School District 4 per the ADM of that year. The amount of the reimbursement to the Towns is for \$26,675. (8 Yes, 1 No -Mario Gioco = motion passed)

Town of Chester	\$ 6,439
Town of Deep River	\$ 8,267
Town of Essex	<u>\$11,969</u>
Total	\$26,675

Valley Regional High School – Principal, Mike Barile

General Update

Principal Barile stated that 22 students were invited to perform at the NEMF. Many students in fall sports received shoreline and state recognition. Twenty four of our high school students have been accepted to colleges. Mr. Barile discussed the excitement of staff regarding the IB program. There will be 16 faculty members going to Northport on Long Island to discuss their IB program. Department coordinators will attend this program. There have not been any concerns expressed by the teachers.

John Winthrop Middle School Principal, Bill Duffy

General Update

Principal Duffy discussed that the school has received a grant from the Region 4 Education Foundation. Equipment for the Art Department will be purchased as well as two new pitching machines. Student success plans have been completed. Students has gone through goal setting and written Smart Goals which will be revisited throughout the year. These goals consider academic, social and emotional goals. This information is stored on Naviance.

Discussion Regarding Committee Assignments – C. Riley

Mr. Riley explained his approach selecting committee assignments for the year ahead, pointing on the importance and value of giving board members the opportunity to serve on different committees. Ms. Fitzgibbons voiced her concerns regarding Chester not having Region 4 representation on the Supervision District Committee. She feels that due to the regionalization issues, Chester needs to be represented, and she feels that the residents of Chester will see this as a problem. Ms. Clymas and Ms. Fitzgibbons want the minutes to reflect that they feel that Chester should have Region 4 representation on the Supervision District. Mr. Riley pointed out that given the weighted voting on the Region 4 Board (2.4 votes among 9 members) and representation from the Chester Board of Ed on the Supervision Board (3 of 12), Chester was adequately represented. He also explained that all members are always welcome to attend Supervision District meetings. He also stated that the Elementary and the Middle School/High School Boards of Education vote on items after the Supervision District Committee has approved them.

REPORTS

Financial Status Updates

Business Manager Garth Sawyer reviewed the financial status report. Mr. Sawyer discussed the areas of deficit. There are 18 students attending magnet or Vo-ag programs. We are anticipating a decrease in the Excess Cost Grant. He will be looking at areas where cost savings may occur. Region 4 is projected to have a small deficit. The Administration will keep the Board informed of any developments.

Cafeteria Report

We did receive a grant from the National Dairy Council. This grant was used to purchase a smoothie machine. The kids are enjoying it. Our average daily sales have increased. Mr. Peterlik is researching selling coffee and coffee drinks in the high school. Dr. Clark feels that a survey should be done to get the parent’s opinion. This will be researched further before being presented to the Board for approval.

Committee Reports

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

Supervision District Committee Update

There were 2 budget workshops which resulted in a Supervision District budget that has an increase of 2.78%. Most of this increase is for a Math Coach who will work with the teachers in all four schools - elementary through middle school. This will go to a public hearing on February 1st.

LEARN

Ms. Fitzgibbons discussed the competition between magnet schools and public schools. LEARN feels that they are providing services to the public schools in their consortium. Dr. Howley serves the magnet system well. She does a superior job in promoting the LEARN schools. We have to take steps to ensure that our students will want to stay in our district. She suggested conducting a survey of students who do not attend our schools to find out the reasons why they choose other options.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

District Update – Information and Communication

Superintendent Levy discussed that the exploration of the IB program is very exciting. She is researching a connection bringing students from China to our district. There will be a presentation at the March meeting to inform the Board of this program. We need to be approval from the Federal Government. A site visit will occur to meet with Administration. We are developing and implementing a plan to allow us to accept tuition paying students.

Next Wednesday night the Wizards basketball team is coming to Valley Regional High School. February 8th there will be a community dinner which will be open to families. The kids did a great job performing at Carnegie Hall. Our school will host the legislative breakfast.

We had an employee who was out on leave and has returned.

Discussion Regarding Any Pending Policies – Standing Item

#5141_4 Reporting Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect

The changes are purely statutory.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Ms. Martineau discussed attending a workshop with Johnathon Costa to discuss strategic planning. She also met with all three town's historical societies to discuss working together. We will honor the history of all three towns and find what binds us together. Our Tech Summit is coming up in February. Teachers will attend various workshops.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS - none present

EXECUTIVE SESSION –PERSONNEL

The executive session was not needed.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Region 4 Budget Workshops for 2016-17 Budgets: Jan 27th, Feb 04th, Feb 24th at 6:00 @CO
- Next Joint BOE meeting February 25th
- Next Region 4 BOE meeting March 3rd
- Community input for 2016-17 budget (on-going)
- Presentation of Proposed Reg 4 Budget for 2016-17 (Mar)
- Discussion and Possible VOTE on recommended Reg 4 Budget Transfers(Mar)
- Presentation on International Baccalaureate (IB) (Mar)
- BOE Self-evaluation (TBD)

ADJOURNMENT

On motion duly made and seconded the Board unanimously VOTED to adjourn at 8:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Clark, Secretary
(Kelley Frazier, Substitute Clerk)