

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE NEXT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
CHESTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION  
January 26, 2017**

The regular meeting of the Chester Board of Education was held on Monday, January 26, 2017. In attendance were David Fitzgibbons, Tom Englert, Becky Iselin, John Stack, Arthur Henick, Charlene Fearon, Maria Scherber and John Ropiak. Also in attendance were Dr. Ruth Levy, Superintendent, Kristina Martineau, Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Joanne Beekley, Principal and Kelley Frazier, Clerk. Absent: Rob Bibbiani

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Fitzgibbons at 7:00p.m.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Upon a motion made by Tom Englert and seconded by Arthur Henick the Chester Board of Education **VOTED** unanimously to approve the minutes from the November 21, 2016 regular meeting and the Accounts Payable report.

**STUDENT REPORT**

Dr. Beekley introduced the student leaders at Chester Elementary who discussed the leadership conference they recently attended.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No Comment

**OTHER ITEMS:**

**Community and Board Input on 2017-18 Budget**

The Supervision District budget reduced art and music for Chester Elementary to 4/5 time. Mr. Fitzgibbons feels that this would be a loss. He would like to include this in the elementary school budget. This will be discussed further during the budget workshops. Mr. Stack said that he is in support of this. This is an integral part of education at CES. He feels that the town will support this. The budget needs to support the educational needs of our students. Enrollment has increased. There will be an increase in the elementary budget for this year. The town will need to understand the complex relationship between the Supervision District, Region 4 and Elementary School budgets. Mr. Fitzgibbons would like to encourage the Region 4 Board of Education to publicize the vote.

**Principal's Update**

Dr. Beekley gave a brief update. CES is in the second Academy session. It is going well and is a great motivator. Preparation for the STEAM Fair is underway.

A matching grant from Travelers was received. An Inventor will come during the STEAM Fair to work with second and third grade. This money will be given to her for her efforts.

Upon a motion made by Arthur Henick and seconded by John Stack the Chester Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to accept the matching grant of \$100.

### **REPORTS:**

#### **Financial Status Report – Dr. Levy**

Dr. Levy gave a brief update on the financial reporting for Chester Elementary. We are currently projecting a small surplus. We will remain vigilant of any unforeseen circumstances and we will keep the Board informed of any developments as they arise. The health insurance reserve is low and needs to be replenished. The Finance Committee will address this and Mr. Stack will contact Mr. Sawyer.

#### **Cafeteria Report – Dr. Levy**

The increase cost of staff and decreasing sales have caused a deficit.

### **Committee Reports**

The Finance Committee will meet on January 31, 2017.

Curriculum and Policy meetings were cancelled due to weather and will be rescheduled.

### **OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Supervision District Committee Update**

Allocation of expenses for the elementary schools regarding special education costs has been tabled until after the budgets are complete. Dr. Levy and Mr. Sawyer will then offer a recommendation. The budget has been approved by the Committee and it is now going to public hearing on February 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. Currently, the increase is .46%. Additional staff in the proposed budget is for a behavioral specialist and a dyslexic specialist.

### **LEARN**

On December 8, 2016, Thomas Giard III, Superintendent of Waterford Public Schools presented Waterford's district initiatives and innovations. One notable initiative is a K-5 weekly coding class which culminates in a coding and 3-D printing elective in middle school. On January 12, Bridgette Gordon-Hickey, Director of Student Support Services, presented information about LEARN Support Services. There is now a diagnostic crisis center available which is piloting a small classroom, offering deep expertise for students in Prek-Grade 5. This crisis center will address issues and then students can be sent back to district with supports and consultative services.

#### **Assistant Superintendent's Report**

On March 10, 2017, the Professional Development Day will be a Technology Summit which will address technology requests from teachers. The teachers have shifted from introductory to more advanced classes. The Strategic Planning Process will evaluate the testing metrics for accurate results. Math results need additional data for better analysis. Data will be available next year. Staff is always looking at ways to keep children engaged. Mr. Stack noted that trends happen gradually. He requested an assessment by the Administration of where we are as a school in all subject areas. District assessments are available at the end of the year. A presentation may be made at the May meeting.

### **District Update – Information and Communication**

Yesterday was the Legislative breakfast. Three Legislators listened to our educators. ECS funds have been reduced for all three of our towns. Budgets are currently being worked on. Region 4 budget is seeing an increase due to legal costs, mandates and special education costs. Niche released a report of the top schools in Connecticut. Valley Regional High School has been rated number 23. This is a very prestigious award. Our collaboration effort with a sister school in China is moving forward. We are hopeful to have up to four Chinese students attend Valley Regional next year for one year. There will also be a two week summer program for 35 students. Host families are needed. Strategic Planning is focusing on developing a plan for our district for the next 5-10 years. This will be shared in the future.

### **Discussion Regarding Any Pending Policies – Standing Item**

No policies to discuss.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION – BOARD SELF EVALUATION**

Upon a motion duly made and seconded the Chester Elementary Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to go into Executive Session at 8:14 p.m.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:07 p.m.

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- 9.1 Next Joint BOE meeting is February 23, 2017
- 9.2 Chester Budget Workshops, Feb 3rd, Feb 15th, Mar 14th, 2017 (Central Office)
- 9.3 Next Chester BOE regular meeting is March 23, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.
- 9.4 Vote on non-renewals (Mar)
- 9.5 BOE and Community Input for 2017-18 budget (on-going)

### **ADJOURNMENT**

On motion duly made and seconded the Board unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley Frazier, Secretary