

**CHESTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
REMOTE MEETING
JANUARY 28, 2021 7:00pm**

F.O.I. Compliance – Subject to BOE approval at a future meeting
(To view a recording of this meeting, please visit our website www.reg4.k12.ct.us and select “Remote Meeting Recordings” under the BOARD OF EDUCATION Heading)

Chester BOE

David Fitzgibbons
Tom Englert
Rebecca Greenberg-Ellis
Dale Bernardoni
Kris Pollock
Kristin Smith
Maria Scherber
Charlene Fearon
Absent: Rob Bibbiani

Administration

Brian White
Tyson Stoddard
Bob Grissom

CALL TO ORDER

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon a motion duly made by Tom Englert and seconded by Rebecca Greenberg-Ellis the Chester Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to approve the minutes from the special meeting of November 23, 2020 and the Accounts Payable report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comment.

REPORTS and OTHER ITEMS:

Superintendent’s Report

District Update

Mr. White gave a brief report. He introduced Mr. Grissom who is the new Finance Director for Region 4. There has been a successful reopening of schools after the holidays. Chester has been unaffected by Covid since the return to school. The district continues to work through the challenges of Covid.

Information and Communication

Mr. White gave a Covid update. He noted the changes to the quarantine protocol which was adopted under guidance of the Essex health department and the CRAHD health district. Additional changes to the quarantine protocol are being reviewed. Mr. White discussed the process of contact tracing and the guidelines for the schools. This practice continues to be reviewed. The school is working with the Governor’s office to get staff vaccinated. The only employees who have currently received their vaccine are the nurses.

Sharing of Superintendent’s Goals

Mr. White shared his goals for the district.

Finance Office Report

Current Year to Date Financial Status Update

Mr. Grissom presented the financial status report. Mr. Grissom discussed the expense report year to date. Expenses are tracking well and trends are favorable at this time. Mr. White noted that we need to plan for a more typical year in the budgeting process. An unexpected transfer of funds in the amount of \$14,000 for heating oil. The proposed transfer is to cover a heating oil bill which is expected in February. This is informational only and no action is required by the Board. Mr. Grissom answered questions from the Board. Mr. Grissom will get information to Mr. Englert regarding oil left in the old tank when it was removed.

Cafeteria Fund Update

Mr. Grissom discussed the cafeteria reporting. Participation is lower, but participation in the Grab and Go program is good. A profit is expected at this time.

Medical Reserve Tracking

Trends indicate lower usage. This is due to claim avoidance due to the Covid pandemic. Claim expense is down approximately 26%. Insurance projections may include a return to a more normal claim projection and an anticipation of possible delayed claims. It is important that there are adequate reserves to pay for these claims. An upcoming budget workshop will include a presentation by the insurance representative.

Principal's Update

A brief update was given. Mr. Stoddard is monitoring students who are in remote learning. Currently 30 percent of students are remote learning. A \$4,000 grant has been received from Arts for Learning Connecticut which will fully fund a two week remote learning experience. All classes will have two 45 minute classes. STEAM was kicked off this month with 25 students participating. This is all virtual and voluntary. Student leaders are doing Kindergarten read aloud which are virtual.

Possible VOTE to Approve Memorandum of Agreement between The Chester, Deep River, Essex Regional School District No. 4 Education Association as Presented (encl #6)

Upon a motion made by Tom Englert and seconded by Rebecca Greenberg-Ellis the Chester Elementary Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between The Chester, Deep River, Essex, Regional School District No. 4 Education Association as Presented (encl #6).

Committee Reports

No Committee Meetings.

Supervision District:

The budget is being worked on. The proposed budget has a 3.49% increase over last year. Funding and billing of the summer program is being reviewed. Discussion was held regarding what is currently in the Supervision budget. A public hearing will be held February 1st. Kristin Smith stated that she feels any increase to the budget will be

difficult to support due to job loss and families suffering from financial hardships because of the pandemic.

Other Committee Reports

LEARN Committee Report

Ms. Bernardoni attended the last meeting. This is a very complex organization made up of 7 schools. Their goals were discussed. One goal is to be cognizant of diversity. CAPS created a blueprint which was shared to transform public schools. Area superintendents are hosting legislature forums which are included in the blueprint. The ocean avenue school is being renovated and an application for a \$10M building project has been submitted. This will be a preK-12 for children with specialized needs for learning. Diversity is a focus and they are dedicated to working with their districts on this.

Ms. Greenberg-Ellis gave an update on the Security Committee. She noted that infrastructure improvement will be discussed for the High School, Middle School and DRES. She will keep everyone informed.

Discussion regarding and Pending Policies

None Pending.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comment

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

7.1 Chester BOE Budget Workshops: Feb 4th, Feb 23, March 23, 2021 at 6:00PM

7.2 Joint BOE Meeting Regular Meeting is February 25, 2021 @ 7:00pm

7.3 Chester BOE Regular Meeting is March 25, 2021 @ 7:00pm

ADJOURNMENT

On motion duly made and seconded the Board unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 8:12p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley Frazier, Secretary