

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO COMMITTEE APPROVAL AT THE
February 26, 2015 MEETING
REGIONAL SUPERVISION DISTRICT COMMITTEE**

December 04, 2014

A regular meeting of the Regional Supervision District Committee was held on Thursday, December 04, 2014 in the John Winthrop Middle School Library, with the following Committee members present:

CHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Dave Fitzgibbons
DEEP RIVER BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Michelle Grow, Miriam Morrissey
ESSEX BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Lon Seidman, Loretta McCluskey
REGION 4 BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Elaine Fitzgibbons, Lauri Wichtowski, Chris Riley (arrived at 6:35 p.m.)

Also in attendance: Dr. Ruth Levy, Superintendent; Joanne Beekley, Assistant Superintendent; Garth Sawyer, Business Manager, and Jennifer Bryan, Committee Clerk.

Audience of Citizens: none present

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Lon Seidman called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion duly made and seconded the Committee unanimously VOTED to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes from the regular meeting of October 02, 2014, and the Accounts Payable Report.

OTHER ITEMS

The Committee and any community members present, were asked for their input on the development of the 2015-16 budget. No comments were shared, but Mr. Seidman reminded everyone that if they have any input they'd like to share, they can send it to Dr. Levy or him.

PUBLIC COMMENT -

None present

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION

Financial Status – Business Manager Garth Sawyer reviewed the highlights of the Supervision District financial status updates for the current year. Everything is in good shape at this time.

Individual BOE reports

Chester – Board Vice-Chair David Fitzgibbons had nothing new to report for the Chester BOE.

Deep River – Board Chair Michelle Grow reported that tonight is the DRES PTO fundraiser, Winter Wonderland with kid-made crafts. She also reported that Principal Strickland has partnered with LEARN and a school in Middletown to work on science and math based lessons. This partnership helps to foster an exchange of information that should have a positive effect on future CMT scores and provide students with more science exposure. The school is also starting a science fair this year to complement Invention Convention.

Essex – Board Chair Lon Seidman reported finally getting the ball rolling on the roof replacement project. He reported that a recent town meeting showed great town support for that and other town capital projects. He also noted that the NWEA presentations that all Boards had received at their individual meetings last month was intriguing. He noted that after many years, it's interesting to start to see a teacher having the ability to look at individual student progress and structure learning accordingly.

Region 4 – Board Chair Chris Riley reported on the class of 2014 graduating profile. He noted that he believes it reflects well on all of the districts K-12. He also discussed the recent *Nerdwallet* article on the “Best Bang for your Buck” School Districts, noting that Region 4 was in top 10 for CT. Which again he feels reflects well on all of the districts, K-12. Additionally he reported that due to unexpected special education costs, Region 4 is looking at a significant deficit and is starting to deal with that in a responsible manner.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Held until the Joint BOE meeting

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Information and Communication

Superintendent Levy’s district report was held until the Joint Board meeting.

Dr. Levy discussed declining enrollment. She said that in speaking with the three First Selectmen, they are all supportive of a regionalization process. There will now need to be some conversations at the State level if it’s determined the Boards wish to move forward. She noted that she will be a strong advocate for regionalization and will work to provide as much information for stakeholders as possible. She said she would work with the Governor’s office to try to ease the laborious process that has existed in the past for regionalization.

Her next recommendation is to get 1 or 2 people from each Board, along with Board Chairs and administrators, to form a smaller committee to look at regionalization and begin moving forward if that's the consensus of the Boards. Several Committee members mentioned that they are hearing more from people in the communities who support regionalization and are wondering when it will be pursued. Dr. Levy noted that there is still a lot to be determined in terms of the operational discussion, but the process needs direction first, and then they can all work to develop steps and processes of operations that make sense for all three towns. She also noted that in discussions with the Teacher's Association leadership, they are 100% behind the regionalization effort as well.

Dr. Levy read the retirement letter of Dr. Joanne Beekley, Assistant Superintendent effective June 30, 2015.

PUBLIC COMMENT –

None present

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- BOE & Community Input on 2015-16 Budget (on-going)
- Supervision District Budget Workshop I: December 9, 2014 @ 6:00 p.m. @ CO
- Supervision District Budget Workshop II: January 7, 2015 @ 6:00 p.m. @ CO
- Supervision District Budget Workshop III (if needed): January 13, 2015 @ 6:00 p.m. @ CO
- Supervision District Public Meeting on Budget: February 2, 2015 @ 7:00 p.m. @ JWMS
- Next Regular Supervision District Meeting: February 26, 2015
- Vote to Approve Proposed Supervision District Budget for 2015-16 (Feb.)
- Executive Session to Vote on Supervision District Staff Non-Renewals (Feb.)
- Review/approval of Supervision District Audit Report for 2013-14 (*TBD*)

ADJOURNMENT:

On motion duly made and seconded, the Committee unanimously VOTED to adjourn at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Riley, Secretary,
Jennifer Bryan, Clerk