

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT BOARD OF
EDUCATION MEETING

DEEP RIVER BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
March 18, 2010

The regular Board of Education meeting for March was held on Thursday, March 18, 2010 in the Media Center of the Deep River Elementary School.

Present: The following Board members were present: Gale Dilger, Liz-Tracy Montecalvo, Christine Daniels, Jim Olson, K.C. Nelson-Oliveria, Dave Berardis, Arthur Robbins, Mark Malcarne (arrived at 7:14), and Lauri Wichtowski.

Administration Present: Dr. Jack Pietrick, Principal, Dr. Ruth Levy, Superintendent, and Garth Sawyer, Business Manager

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was call to order by Christine Daniels at 7:02 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes from January 21, 2010 meeting and Accounts Payable Report

Laurie Wichtowski made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Gale Dilger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

None.

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

Dr. Pietrick introduced Daniella Alvarado and Brooks Robinson, 6th grade students. These students will report on the recent events at DRES. The children reported:

Student Council is sponsoring a Hearts for Haiti campaign. Purchased hearts are displayed on the bulletin board. Their goal is to have all students in the school represented by a heart.

Dr. Pam Austin, DRES teacher, received her doctorate degree from Central.

The sixth grade students are once again participating in the DARE Program. This program educates the children on drug abuse resistance and is presented by the State Trooper. The DARE graduation will be held at a Rock Cats game.

Sixteen students will be participating in the Invention Convention.

Upcoming events include:

March 22, 2010 – Dr. Suess birthday
March 23, 2010 - Read Across America
March 24, 2010 – Hat Day
March 25, 2010 – Sneaker Day
March 26, 2010 – Funny Hair Day

Teacher Conferences will be held 3/24 – 3/26.

Christine Daniels thanked the students for their excellent presentation.

REPORTS

Financial Status Report

Garth Sawyer distributed the Budget Status Report. Garth reported that the small deficit reported at the last meeting has been addressed. At this time, no additional appropriation request is anticipated.

Budget Transfers 2009-2010

The Budget Transfer Report was distributed.

Cafeteria

Garth Sawyer distributed the Cafeteria Report. The report indicates that the cafeteria is running at a slight deficit. Garth anticipates that projected revenues will increase to meet the projections. He feels by the end of the year, the cafeteria should “break even”.

Policy – meeting postponed until May – The Network Techs are currently reviewing/developing an Internet Usage Policy.

Curriculum

Dave Berardis reported that the Curriculum Committee met on March 16th and discussed the mathematics in grades 6, 7 and 8.

Finance – The Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for March 30, 2010.

Status Update Regarding Unification of PK-6 to Region 4

The Board held an open discussion regarding the unification of PK-6 to Region 4. Topics of discussion included:

Maintenance and ownership of the school buildings – Dr. Levy reported that presently, the intent is to have the towns maintain ownership and responsibility for the school building; however we still need to find out if current legislation will allow this scenario.

Assurance that children will remain in town schools – Dr. Levy reported that this was a major concern in the original FAQs. This issue will be addressed in the governance documents. Unless all 3 towns vote the change the procedure, children will attend the elementary school in their town. The possible exception would be for a specialized program that would be advantageous to a particular group (i.e. Autistic group)

What if parents choose to send their child to a school in a different town? Dr. Levy responded that this probably would not be possible; however these scenarios would need to be addressed in the governance documents. Currently, a child can attend school in another town pending BOE approval and payment of tuition.

Would there be a weighted vote system? Dr. Levy responded that currently, Region 4 does operate under a weighted vote; however, this has never been called upon in recent years. The Board discussed the concern that since the town of Essex is larger than both Deep River and Chester, they have the ability to pass budgets even if Deep River and Chester reject. Dr. Levy responded that an Oversight Committee, with representatives from each town, would be formed. She added that this is a concern for all 3 of the towns.

Joint Meetings – Dr. Levy reported that because of the current structure of the region, all of the current meetings are necessary.

Christine Daniels commented that regionalization will provide a more efficient system but it will not necessarily save money.

Laurie Wichtowski added that we need to define the added efficiencies that will be experienced with regionalization. Dr. Levy responded that these efficiencies include the continuity of staff (superintendent, payroll, finance) and consistency in leadership. These efficiencies can lead to savings.

Mark Malcarne suggested an open forum for residents. However, before such an event can be scheduled, answers to the many questions need to be finalized.

Mark Malcarne commented that the trust level throughout the district has increased dramatically. Christine Daniels added that Dick Smith does support regionalization.

Laurie Wichtowski suggested that when presenting information to the public, include test scores and highlight the seamless transition experienced when Dr. Levy replaced Mr. Caron as Superintendent. This type of consistency has benefited the schools, making this area a desirable place to live and thus keeping property values high.

Dr. Levy thanked the board for their input and reported that a meeting with Supervision District is scheduled for Tuesday, March 23, 2010 to discuss further.

Facilities

Dr. Pietrick reported on damage as a result of a recent rainstorm. The library storage room experienced water/damage as did areas of the gym and gym lobby. He continued that the staff/custodians addressed the areas. Dr. Pietrick e-mailed both the Building Committee and Dick Smith. Dick Smith is currently negotiating with contractors and anticipates several weeks before the pitched roof over the library can be completed.

Mark Malcarne updated the Board on the HVAC coil and the difficulties involved to replace/maintain the coil. Mark added that he feels replacement is necessary.

Christine Daniels reported that the insurance will pay for replacement and the Town has been helpful; especially the fire department.

PTO

Gale Dilger reported that she presented the budget to the PTO. She added that the PTO is looking for new officers.

Asst. Super Report

Dr. Pietrick updated on the Board on the School Improvement Plan and distributed information on same.

Christine Daniels reported that Kindergarten registration begins in April. Dr. Pietrick commented that there will be 3 Kindergarten classes.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Levy reported that the Deep River Rotary held their weekly meeting at Valley. Many members had not been into the school since the renovation project and were impressed by the school. She stressed the importance of having community involvement at the schools; especially the senior citizen groups.

Dr. Levy reported on the possibility of a "Golden Pass" for senior citizens which would allow them free tickets to sporting events at the schools. The Student Council is discussing hosting a dinner for senior citizens, served by the team players.

District Report

Dr. Levy reported that the CMTs are nearing completion and have gone smoothly. She added that the Performance Pathway program will be beneficial when reviewing the results.

Budgets

Dr. Levy reported that Supervision District is at 3.5%, Region 4 is at 1.71%, with billings to the towns (Deep River 2.14%), (Essex 2.98%) and , (Chester 1.19%).

Dr. Levy continued that the early retirement incentive resulted in savings. Overall, 17 individuals took the package, including 5 from Deep River (Marsha Royce, JoAnn Bennett, Cammy Kochanowski, Nancy Solovei and Tadria Ciaglo).

Dr. Levy continued that she is already receiving calls and e-mails from applicants.

Proposed DRES 2010/11 Budget

Mark Malcarne made a motion to adopt the Deep River Elementary Budget for 2010-11 in the amount of \$4,940,203. Dave Berardis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously VOTED to move into Executive Session at 8:50p.m. to discuss possible action regarding non-renewal of certified staff members and a personnel issue. (Dr. Pietrick was invited to the Executive Session)

Regular Session Resumed at 9:00pm.

On a motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously VOTED to approve the Superintendent's recommendation that the contract employment of the attached list of faculty not be renewed for the following year upon its expiration at the end of the 2009/10 school year and the Superintendent of Schools is directed to advise such person(s) in writing of this action.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEM

Pricing of School Lunch

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made and duly seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Helchowski