

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE NEXT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
DEEP RIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION
JANUARY 20, 2011**

The regular meeting of the Deep River Board of Education was held on Thursday, January 20, 2011. In attendance were Christine Daniels, Gale Dilger, Lauri Wichtowski, Mark Malcarne, Art Robbins, Liz Tracy-Montecalvo and James Olson. Also in attendance were Dr. Ruth Levy, Superintendent, Ian Neviasser, Assistant Superintendent, Jack Pietrick, Principal, Mr. Garth Sawyer and Kelley Frazier, Clerk. Karen Nelson-Oliveria and Dave Berardis were not able to attend.

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Daniels called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mark Malcarne moved to approve the minutes from the November 18, 2010 meeting and the Accounts Payable report. James Olson seconded the motion which carried by a unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comment

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE- DRES Students

Student Presentation

Nick Mardjekaj and Linden Duval presented the Principal's Report. Sixth grade and Second grade are lunch buddies once a week. The older students sit with the younger students and act as role models. The Fifth grade science class has become buddies with a class in Middletown. They will have field trips together. The school held a toy drive at the holiday chorus concert. This was a great success with 200 new toys being collected. During Valentine's Day week they will be doing another fundraiser called "Warm Feet Warm Heart". They will collect new socks for people in Eastern European counties.

Reading Consultant Update – C. Miller, K. Menard

Dr. Pietrick introduced Kathy Miller and Kristin Menard the new school reading consultants. They updated the Board on the process of selecting children and the steps taken when receiving reading intervention in Deep River. They explained Tier instruction terminology. They presented the support given by the Reading Consultants by grade level. In assessing the needs of the children, they received input from an Education Consultant as well as the Department of Education to get guidance about what materials would best most beneficial. Both teachers met with staff teachers to discuss the support given to classroom students. This was a great collaborative time for the reading consultants and the teachers. They also meet with teachers during grade level meetings to support literacy needs. One in five students is having an intervention. Mr. Malcarne asked if this is an average ratio. Ms. Miller and Ms. Menard feel that being proactive and early intervention is the key to children being successful readers. Dr. Levy thanked both

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teachers for creating a great collaborative environment among the staff. Ms. Daniels also thanked the presenters for bringing a much needed service and being so enthusiastic about their work. Dr. Pietrick feels that all students are being helped who need help. Parents are communicated with regularly about the progress their children are making by their classroom teacher. Assessments are in place district wide, but there is ongoing progress monitoring. DRA testing is done three times a year.

Midyear DRES Goals Update – Dr. Pietrick

Dr. Pietrick distributed the Grade Level goals and gave a brief overview. The Steering Committee meets once a month. These reports are compiled from Performance Plus and worked on during the Professional Development Days.

REPORTS:

Financial Status Report – Mr. Garth Sawyer

Mr. Sawyer gave a brief update of the financial status. The school is expected to have a year end deficit, based on early estimates, due to unanticipated special education expenses. The Out of District Special Education services have also increased. The expected deficit is \$45,000. Some projections are still uncertain based on student needs but may be more clear in the next month. Mr. Smith is well aware of these expenses. Dr. Pietrick is being very careful about expenditures. The reading support program came from grant funds. This will be presented to the Board of Finance in the near future. Dr. Levy noted that this is happening state wide but most districts outlook this unanticipated expense in their budgets. Mr. Malcarne would like to look historically at how many years we have gone back to the town and how many years we have had our budget frozen to accommodate these sorts of expenses. Dr. Levy will prepare a list of factors that cause these expenses to happen more frequently and to try to quantify the cost of lost productivity of having to go back for additional funds repeatedly. Ms. Wichtowski would like the Board of Finance to see how it affects all students.

Cafeteria Report:

Mr. Sawyer gave an update on the status of the cafeteria. The cafeteria is breaking even with the small subsidy given by the Board. Mr. Malcarne and Mr. Olson had lunch in the cafeteria and noted that food was much improved, but they voiced concern because the kids are still not buying the cafeteria food.

Committee Reports – C. Daniels

Joint PK-12 Committees

The Policy and Curriculum Committees have a meeting scheduled in March 15th. Finance is scheduled for January 25, 2011.

Supervision District Committee Update: C. Daniels, L. Wichtowski, G. Dilger

This committee is reviewing the possibility of implementing an arrangement in our district that would take the place of Regionalization and would be a co-agreement between the schools. A Co-Agreement is a step toward Regionalization but alleviates the fear of loss of control that the towns might feel. This agreement allows the district to work together to combine our purchasing power. This sort of agreement is currently in the infancy stage. A short portion of Budget Workshop for Supervision District will be a PowerPoint presentation given by Mr. Seidman to explain what these sorts of agreements can and cannot do. Dr. Levy feels that getting the towns to Regionalize will be difficult. This will be presented to the town Selectmen as well as the Board of Finance.

DRES Facilities (Buildings and Grounds) – C. Daniels

Mr. Malcarne asked Dr. Pietrick to follow up on the Asbestos Report which is still outstanding. Dr. Pietrick noted that there was a leak in the Kindergarten room due to ice dams. One consideration may be to consider heating elements. The maintenance staff discovered that there is no insulation around the duct work and there is a large opening in the attic. They have been raking the snow off of the roof to help with the ice dams. Ms. Wichtowski asked about having a professional inspection company come in to do a formal inventory. The cost may be prohibitive. Mr. Smith is aware of these issues and may consider doing some roof work. Dr. Levy noted that Pete is doing a phenomenal job.

Other Committee Reports:

None

ASST. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – I. Neviaser

District Update: Review 2009-2010 Strategic School Profiles

Ian Neviaser discussed the TEAM plan. This will be reviewed in February beginning with the new teacher reflection papers. The plan for disputes for beginning teachers has been approved. The 2009-10 Strategic School Profiles were not available to be presented. Mr. Neviaser spent a day in a meeting to review the CMT testing process. He noted that by 2015 every child will take the test on the computer. This is currently being piloted. The Professional Development day was postponed on the 18th due to snow. On the 11th of January the trainer for the Curriculum Connector for Performance Plus trained 20 teachers across the district. This allows teachers to match their daily lesson plans to curriculum. The Administrators are conducting Instructional Rounds in all schools. The group feels a strong directive would be to build classroom libraries. Ms. Wichtowski suggested having parents donate books to the school. Dr. Levy said that all donated books need to be reviewed by the librarian. Ms. Monteclovo suggested having the PTO involved. They may be able to set up a fund to purchase books the school could use. Dr. Pietrick will coordinate this effort.

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Superintendent's Report

District Update

Dr. Levy read a letter from Ann Rolston thanking the district for participating in a respectful negotiation. Dr. Levy noted that receiving this sort of note is unheard of and very positive.

Information and Communication

Cyber Bullying Article

Dr. Levy discussed an article about cyber bullying. She noted that the Middle School and High School are working aggressively to inform parents about this. Ms. Wichtowski asked if the social development programs are addressing this issue? Dr. Pietrick stated that social develop is not addressing this, but each case is addressed by the school and that there is not too much of this type of bullying in the school at this time.

Update on Preschool Program

There is a need for another classroom as there are five more students requiring these services. The district has approved a .5 special education preschool teacher and .4 speech language pathologist. This is taken out of grants but will need to be addressed in the future.

If we have more snow days this year the graduation date may have to be reviewed. Dr. Levy said that safety is the issue when cancellations occur.

Presentation of Draft DRES Budget for 2011-2012

Dr. Levy stated that this is a preliminary draft budget. The ARRA funds need to go back into the budget. Supervision district budgets were built on the increased needs of the preschool. Dr. Levy said that prioritizing is critical. They have had to revisit some of the programs in the schools to prioritize and reprioritize non-mandated programs. The Gifted and Talented, FLES and Instrumental Music programs are being reviewed. Dr. Levy feels strongly that this district needs to offer full day Kindergarten beginning next fall. There is a plan to solicit feedback from the public and to communicate this. In the Deep River Elementary budget, enrollment projections will increase to 353 children. The budget drivers are the Supervision District increase, the salary contractual increase, health benefits, early retirement, utilities, supplies, repairs and maintenance and special education. The increase is 8.58%. The new positions will be scrutinized, but there is a need for a special education paraprofessional. Additional Services will be prioritized with the town. There will be much more depth in developing these numbers in the budget workshops. The Kindergarten numbers will be available soon. Ms. Monteclovo asked about the impact of not having a FLES program. This is hard to measure. There may be other avenues (LEARN) to bring diversity into our schools. The use of technology could also help with this. Mr. Malcarne said everyone is having to ask where we want to go with limited funds. All day Kindergarten is not mandated but the curriculum requires a full day. It may be considered to have families participating as mentors in the preschool program pay tuition.

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PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comment

ADJOURNMENT

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously VOTED to move into Executive Session at 9:08pm to discuss the Mid-Year Evaluation of the Superintendent. The motion passed unanimously.

Regular Session Resumed at 9:42pm.

On a motion duly made and seconded the Board unanimously VOTED to adjourn at 9:44pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley Frazier

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- 8.1 DRES BOE 2011-12 Budget Workshop (Feb 10th, Mar 2nd, Mar 14th)
- 8.2 Vote to Adopt DRES Budget for 2011-12 (Mar)
- 8.3 Vote on Staff non-renewals (Mar)
- 8.4 Present DRES 2011-12 Budget at town meeting (TBD)