

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE NEXT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
DEEP RIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
SEPTEMBER 15, 2016 7:00PM**

The regular meeting of the Deep River Board of Education was held on Thursday, September 15, 2016. In attendance were Miriam Morrissey, Imran Munawar, Tadhya Ciaglo, James Olson, Tracy Dickson, Paula Weglarz and Michelle Grow. Also in attendance were Dr. Ruth Levy, Superintendent, Kristina Martineau, Assistant Superintendent, Garth Sawyer, Business Manager, and Christian Strickland, Principal. Absent: Nelle Andrews, Hadley Kornacki

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Grow called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

Mr. Olson has returned to the Board filling Mr. Talbot's seat after he moved.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded the Deep River Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to vote on the Consent Agenda in one vote. Abstentions: Jim Olson

Upon a motion made by Tracy Dickson and seconded by Miriam Morrissey the Deep River Board of Education **VOTED** unanimously to approve the minutes from the May 19, 2016 regular meeting, the special meeting held on June 30, 2016 and the Accounts Payable report as written. Abstentions: Jim Olson

Ms. Grow discussed her follow-up from the last meeting regarding detail for the Accounts Payable report. She did note that an Auditor does review these expenses. Mr. Sawyer discussed the procedures in the Business Procedure manual for the reporting. In the future more detail will be given with a description of the item being paid for. There are many checks and balances in place. The procedures manual is an internal document and approved by the Joint Board of Education. Mr. Munawar requested a copy of the manual.

STUDENT REPORT

No Update at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comment.

OTHER ITEMS:

Principal's Update

Mr. Strickland introduced new staff at Deep River Elementary School.

Thomas Peterlik discussed the healthy food certification from the State of Connecticut. The school menu was based on the items that were most popular with the students.

Upon a motion made by Miriam Morrissey and seconded by Tatria Ciaglo the Deep River Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to renew certification for 2016-17 that all food items sold to students during schools hours, other than those covered by exemption, will meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards to qualify for CSDE's Healthy Food Certification and monetary compensation from the State.

Mr. Strickland gave a brief update. The Parks and Recreation and Celebrate Learning programs were housed in the school this summer. There was also work done in the school this summer. One boiler was replaced by a gas boiler. We still have the remaining oil boiler. An improvement to the PA system occurred this summer which will enhance our security. There is also a lockdown panic system in place. We have 282 students enrolled. The Professional Development was very productive on mandated training. The plan for Chromebooks was also developed. Teachers also learned more about the Goggle platform. Back to School night was well attended.

Mr. Strickland discussed MAP testing data for last year. He is happy with the results. A target area in 2014 was to focus on science and we have seen significant progress in this area. Scores are being reviewed and then goals for targeted instruction in the classroom will be created. Teachers will also use this data for their own growth goals. We are looking at top performing schools and sharing their strategies. The process is in the early stages. Dr. Levy does feel that all schools should have their own Math Coach. Essex and Chester are also seeing the same trend in their scores. Mr. Strickland discussed his action plan for improvement.

The PTO purchased a mixing box for the microphones and reading furniture. Picnic tables in the courtyard were also replaced. Mr. Strickland also discussed a generous donation of a Sohmer grand piano. It has been appraised and tuned.

Upon a motion made Tracy Dickson and seconded by Jim Olson the Deep River Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to accept the donation of the Sohmer grand piano for the Deep River Elementary School.

Mr. Strickland discussed the multi-purpose research lab. The PTO may have additional resources for this room.

The earlier date for the Back to School night has received positive feedback.

Financial Status Report – Mr. Garth Sawyer

Mr. Sawyer gave a brief update of the financial status for Deep River Elementary School for the 2015-2016 school year. Deep River ended very well for the year. There was a small surplus. Mr. Sawyer discussed savings in the budget.

FY2016-2017

Mr. Sawyer gave a brief update on the budget. It is early in the year. We are currently starting the year with a small surplus. We will remain vigilant of any unforeseen circumstances and we will keep the Board informed of any developments as they arise.

Cafeteria Report – Mr. Sawyer

There has been additional meals served which has generated more revenue. This is a period of increasing food costs. We will not receive as much federal funding this year. The summer lunch program had a good start. This is federally reimbursed 100 percent.

Committee Reports

Finance will be held on September 27, 2016.

Curriculum will be held on September 19, 2016.

Policy will be held on September 19, 2016.

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

Supervision District Committee Update

No update.

LEARN

No Update.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Ms. Martineau discussed the math pilot which is moving forward. The resources are being reviewed. We will pilot two assessments in the fall and one in the spring. We are working towards math consistency throughout our three elementary schools. Next generation science had a group of K-12 educators reviewing the science practices. There will be a recommendation for resources in the future. There is no assessment for Science in the spring. The October Professional Development will focus on Math and Science. Science scores have increased across our three elementary schools.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

District Update – Information and Communication

We have many positive initiatives this year. We have had an excellent beginning of the year. The one to one technology has taken off in all our schools. The teachers are able to monitor students on their Chromebooks in the school and at home. Dr. Levy thanked Pam Murphy for her hard work. Because of her efforts, the rollout went very smoothly. This has moved our schools forward into being global citizens. Educators are very excited about the Google platform. Valley Regional ranked 389 in the top 500 high schools in the United States by *Newsweek*. This is a culmination of the work done in our preschool, elementary schools and the middle school. Strategic Planning will have a kickoff in November. November 13th Valley Regional will be reviewed for our NEASC accreditation. We are sending more teachers to be trained for the baccalaureate program. CIVIS has approved our district to have international students. They will pay tuition. Students will stay with host families. We would also like to develop a sister school relationship.

Senator Murphy's aide met with Dr. Levy and Ms. Martineau. Discussion centered on the manufacturing program. This program will be promoted more. Dr. Levy would like to get funding to become a magnet school in manufacturing.

Discussion Regarding Any Pending Policies – Standing Item

No Policies to discuss.

Discussion Regarding Pertinent Legislative Updates for 2016-17

New legislation regarding student privacy was discussed. All contracts that may have access to student information will have a clause that needs to be signed off. There are different levels of authorization in our district. Special Education funding from the State will be reviewed. Payments to magnet schools will also be reviewed. Evaluations for staff and administrators will be discussed. An appeal has been made regarding unconstitutional funding. She will keep the Board updated on this.

Mr. Olson is on the Committee for doing finding an appropriate way to remember Dick Smith. One suggestion was that the elementary school be renamed after Dick Smith. The school may also have a citizenship award in his memory. There may also be a scholarship for a graduating senior. Dr. Levy suggested that we need to see how many Smith Elementary schools there are so we are not confused with other schools. The Committee would like their suggestion to be submitted to the Board of Selectmen by the end of the year.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comment.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- 8.1 Next Joint BOE meeting is October 6, 2016
- 8.2 Next Deep River BOE next regular meeting November 17, 2016 at 7:00pm.
- 8.3 Election of Board Officers
- 8.4 BOE and Community Input for 2017-18 budget
- 8.5 Presentation of Major budget drivers for 2017-18
- 8.6 NWEA Update
- 8.7 BOE Self-evaluation

ADJOURNMENT

On motion duly made and seconded the Board unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley Frazier, Secretary