



**Regional School District #4**  
**Chester – Deep River – Essex – Region 4**  
**JOINT BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Via Google Meet  
**Dial +1 (617) 675-4444**  
**PIN: 470 819 985 3232#**  
June 03, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m.

**AGENDA**

To: Members of the Chester, Deep River, Essex, and Region 4 Boards of Education  
Subject: **June 03, 2021 Joint Board Committee Meeting**  
Time: Joint Board Committee Meetings begin promptly at **7:00 p.m.**  
Place: **Via Google Meet – To listen remotely please dial (US) +1 (617) 675-4444 PIN: 470 819 985 3232#**  
(We kindly ask that you **please mute your phone immediately** upon connecting to the meeting as this will improve the audio quality for all participants. Google Meet may do this automatically, depending on the number of people already connected to the call. If so, pressing **\*6** will unmute your phone when it's time to speak)

Please contact Jennifer Bryan at Central Office [jbryan@reg4.k12.ct.us](mailto:jbryan@reg4.k12.ct.us) if you are unable to attend.

Mission Statement

We, the communities of Chester, Deep River, Essex and Region 4, engage all students in a rigorous and collaborative educational program. We prepare our learners to be respectful citizens who are empowered to contribute in a globalized society.

**1. Call to order. 7:00 p.m.**

- 1.1 The Appointed Chair of the Supervision District Committee acts as the Chair of the Joint Board of Education Committee meeting and calls the meeting to order. (The Vice-Chair of the Supervision District is the alternate in the absence of the Supervision District Chair).  
\* **Chair of Supervision District rotates each Dec. – Chester BOE Chair is now the Supv. Dist. Chair**
- 1.2 The Chester, Deep River, Essex, and Region 4 Board of Education Chairs call their respective Boards to order and report a quorum (# of BOE members needed for a quorum)  
Chester (5 members), Deep River (5 members), Essex (4 members), Region 4 (5 members)
- 1.3 Regarding Action Items: the Chair of the Joint Board of Education meeting follows parliamentary procedure on items requiring a vote of the Joint Board of Education. All discussion shall be held with the Joint Board. The Chair of the Joint Board shall call for and record a vote by the respective Boards of Education in alphabetical order. Items are approved only with an affirmative majority vote of each respective Board of Education

**2. Consent agenda** – The following items are to be handled as combined and by single vote. Any Board member may request that an item be pulled out for further discussion.

- 2.1 Minutes of Regular Joint Board Meeting of April 01, 2021 (*encl #1*)

**3. Public comment**

The public is reminded to state name and town for the record. Comments should be kept to a maximum of three minutes. Public comment is not intended to be a question and answer period; rather it is an opportunity for the Boards to hear citizen comment related to educational matters.

**4. Reports**

- 4.1 Superintendent's report (*B. White*)
  - a. District Update
  - b. Information and Communication
- 4.2 Finance Director's Report (HOLD until next individual Board meetings)

#### 4.3 Other Items:

- Discussion and possible **VOTE** to approve tuition rates for the 2021-22 school year as recommended by the Joint BOE Tuition Committee, as presented

#### 4.4 Committee reports.

- a. Joint PK-12 Committees – (*Comm. Chair*) Policy – *TBD*; Curriculum – *J. Stack*; Finance – *R. Daniels*

<b>Finance</b>	<b>Policy</b>	<b>Curriculum</b>
TBD	TBD	TBD

- b. Policy committee report (8 members). (Chair *TBD*)
- c. Finance committee report (8 members) (*R. Daniels*)
- d. Curriculum committee (9 members) (*J. Stack*)
- e. Ad hoc committees (as needed).

#### 5. **Public comment**

The public is reminded to state name and town for the record. Comments should be kept to a maximum of three minutes. Public comment is not intended to be a question and answer period; rather it is an opportunity for the Boards to hear citizen comment related to educational matters.

#### 6. **Executive Session – Negotiations**

Review recommendation of Joint BOE RFP Legal Review Committee and discuss contract for legal services

#### 7. **Return to Public Session for VOTE** to appoint legal counsel

#### 8. **Future agenda items**

8.1 Next Regular Joint BOE Meeting, October 07, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m.

#### 9. **Adjournment\*** – (Chester, Deep River, and Essex Boards ONLY)

#### 10. **\*The Region 4 Board of Education will stay in session for the following R4 only business:**

10.1 Discussion and possible **VOTE** to approve a transfer of unexpended 2020-21 funds in the amount presented as an appropriation to the Capital Reserve Fund (*R4 Only Encl #2*)

10.2 Update regarding status of listing of Region 4 owned property at Falls Landing.

10.3 Adjournment of Region 4 Board



**Regional School District 4**  
**Chester – Deep River – Essex – Region 4**  
**Boards of Education Committees – School Year 2020-21 (Updates in Progress)**

<b>Joint BOE Standing Committees</b> (standing committees have regularly scheduled meetings)	
<b>*Joint PK-12 Policy Sub-Committee</b>	R4(Sandmann/Clymas) CH(Bernardoni/Scherber) DR(Maikowski/Campbell) ES (Seidman/McCluskey)
<b>*Joint PK-12 Curriculum Sub-Comm.</b>	R4(Cavanaugh/TBD) CH(Bibbiani/Fearon) DR(T.Dickson/Grunko) ES (Johnston/Sweet)
<b>*Joint PK-12 Finance Sub-Committee</b>	R4 (Clark/Daniels) CH (Pollock/Englert) DR (Hallden/Lewis) ES (Seidman/Watson)
<b>Supervision District Committee</b> (2 yr terms end in Nov. of the year listed after each name)	R4 (Sandmann 21 / Cavanaugh 21 / Clark 21) CH (Fearon 21 /Fitzgibbons 21 / Englert 21) DR (Campbell 21 / Ferretti 21 / Morrissey 21) ES (Johnston 21 /McCluskey 21 / Seidman 21)

<b>Joint Ad Hoc Committees</b> (ad hoc committees meet for a designated period or as needed)			
Personnel & Negotiations		<u>Contract duration</u>	<u>Initiate negotiations</u>
- Joint BOE Teacher negotiations	R4 (Daniels/Clymas/TBD) CH (TBD/Englert Alt.) DR (Morrissey/TBD Alt.) ES (TBD/Watson)	Expires 7/2022	6/2021
- Joint BOE Administrator negotiations	Same as ABOVE for Teacher negotiations	Expires 7/2023	9/2022
- Joint BOE Paraeducator negotiations	Same as BELOW for Net Tech et al.	Expires 7/2021	3/2021
- Joint BOE NetTechs et al negotiations (ElemSec/Elem Nurses/ElemNetTech/R4NetTEch/ElemCustodians)	R4 (Daniels/Clymas/TBD) CH (Fitzgibbons, TBD) DR (Campbell/Ferretti Alt.) ES (TBD/Watson)	Expires 7/2021	3/2021
- Cafeteria (all schools)		Expires 7/2021	3/2021
Public Relations & Community Outreach	R4(TBD/TBD), CH (Bibbiani), ES (Seidman), DR (Wegalarz/TBD)		
Technology	R4(TBD), CH(Englert), ES (Seidman), DR (TBD)		
School Calendar	R4(TBD/Daniels), CH (Englert), ES (McCluskey), DR (TBD)		
LEARN Joint BOE representative(s)	R4(Cavanaugh), CH(Bernardoni), ES(TBD), DR(TBD)		
School Security Advisory Committee	R4(TBD), CH(Greenberg-Ellis, Bibbiani), DR(TBD), ES(TBD)		
Tuition Committee	R4(TBD), CH (TBD), DR (Morrissey), ES (McCluskey/Seidman Alt.)		
RFP Transportation Bid Review	R4(Cavanaugh), CH (Englert), DR (TBD), ES (Seidman/TBD)		
RFP Legal Bid Review	R4(Clymas, Daniels), CH (Scherber), DR (Dickson), ES (Johnston)		
Joint BOE Insurance Committee	R4(Clymas), CH (Bernardoni), DR (Lewis), ES (Seidman)		

<b>Individual BOE Ad Hoc Committees</b> (ad hoc committees meet for a designated period or as needed)			
<b><u>Chester BOE</u></b>			
Facilities	Englert		
PTO	Smith		
CATV Advisory Council (Cable TV)	For Discussion		
<b><u>Deep River BOE</u></b>			
Facilities	Morrissey/Ferretti		
PTO	rotating		
School Improvement Team	TBD		
CATV Advisory Council (Cable TV)	TBD		
<b><u>Essex BOE</u></b>			
Building	Seidman		
PTO	Rotating		
School Improvement Team	TBD		
Essex Foundation	McCluskey / TBD		
Communications	Rotating		
CATV Advisory Council (Cable TV)	TBD		
<b><u>Region 4 BOE</u></b>			
Personnel & Negotiations		<u>Contract duration</u>	<u>Initiate negotiations</u>
▪ R4 Secretaries/Nurses	Clymas/Daniels/TBD	Expires 7/2021	3/2021
▪ R4 Custodians	Clymas/Daniels/TBD	Expires 7/2021	3/2021
R4 Audit & Finance	TBD/TBD		
School Improvement Team	TBD/TBD/TBD		
R4 Grounds and Buildings Maintenance and Oversight Committee	Sandmann/TBD/TBD		
JWMS Security Project Building Committee	Daniels		
R4 Educational Foundation	TBD		
Region 4 Extra compensation points committee	Clark (only 1 rep needed)		
R4 Long Range Athletic Facilities Planning Task Force	Clymas/Daniels		
R4 Safety	TBD		
R4 Advisory Council (PTO)	For Discussion		
R4 Facilities Study Committee	TBD		

**F.O.I. Compliance** – Subject to BOE approval at a future meeting

## JOINT BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

**Date:** April 01, 2021

### **Regular Meeting – REMOTE MEETING held**

*(To view a recording of this meeting, please visit our website [www.reg4.k12.ct.us](http://www.reg4.k12.ct.us) and select “Remote Meeting Recordings” under the BOARD OF EDUCATION Heading)*

CHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Charlene Fearon, Dale Bernardoni, Rebecca Greenberg-Ellis, Kris Pollock, Rob Bibbiani, Maria Scherber
DEEP RIVER BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Miriam Morrissey, Bob Ferretti, Lenore Gunko, Missy Campbell, Tracy Dickson, Betsy Scholfield, Pat Maikowski
ESSEX BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Lon Seidman, Mark Watson, Nancy Johnston, Loretta McCluskey
REGION 4 BOARD OF EDUCATION:	Kate Sandmann, Jane Cavanaugh, Rob Bibbiani, Lori Ann Clymas, John Stack, Jennifer Clark, Rick Daniels, Lon Seidman

Also in attendance: Mr. Brian White, Superintendent; Sarah Smalley, Director of Pupil Services; Robert Grissom, Finance Director

### **CALL TO ORDER and Verbal Roll Call**

Supervision District Committee Vice-Chair Miriam Morrissey called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Chairs (or their designee) of the Chester, Essex and Region 4 Boards called their respective Boards to order at 7:00 p.m. *(the Deep River Board did not have a quorum present at roll call, but gained a quorum shortly thereafter and was called to order)*

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

On motion duly made and seconded the Chester, Deep River, Essex and Region 4 Boards unanimously **VOTED** to approve the consent agenda consisting of the Minutes from the regular meeting of February 25, 2021.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – No comments were made

### **REPORTS AND OTHER ITEMS**

Superintendent White shared updates related to dealing with Covid-19 at our schools. He shared today’s in-person attendance percentages from each school and reported that we have seen a steady increase in students coming back from remote learning to attend in-person, with a notable increase over the last two or three weeks presumed to be due to more widespread vaccinations and the reintroduction of after-school activities at JWMS, as well as the warmer weather in general, which allows for more outside activities. The high school continues to work with their student leadership to keep increasing the numbers for those attending in person, with a focus on increasing social opportunities, in a safe manner.

Superintendent White talked briefly regarding spring sports and spectators. Valley will be communicating out more specifically with regards to this topic next week. He also discussed on-going efforts at elementary schools, the middle school, and the high school to provide meaningful end-of-year activities including promotion ceremonies, prom, graduations, etc... Parents should expect to receive communications from their student’s principal once specific details for these types of events have been determined.

He reported that administration has recently initiated two K-12 committees; one for Social and Emotional Learning and one for Academic Intervention and that they are already reflecting on efforts to date and thinking about the start of the next school year. Administration is still awaiting guidance from the State of CT to know whether or not remote learning will be a component of the next school year, but for now, we are planning on having all students with us in person, unless state guidance says otherwise.

He provided a brief update on ESSER II grant funds that may be available for use in the 2021-22 school year. More details will be shared with the Boards as they become known.

He also shared that the districts are expecting a second wave of American Rescue Plan funding, but they are still awaiting guidance from the federal government to know how those funds might be used and any impact those funds may have on our budgets. He will continue to update the boards as information becomes known.

Superintendent White noted that because some administration has received some questions recently regarding how decisions pertaining to how schools are functioning during the pandemic are made, he wanted to review details that have been communicated throughout the school year. He reminded everyone that all decisions are collaborative decisions between building administration, central office administration, and our local health districts. Decisions are not made in isolation. We also work closely with other local schools and their health districts when appropriate. Localized differences in school size, student numbers, physical layout of buildings, staff numbers and availability, etc... are all localized factors that can determine how we are able to implement guidance from state and local health departments, which may differ between other districts.

Superintendent White discussed the enclosure regarding an amendment, for the 2020-21 school year only, to provide flexibilities to the Educator Evaluation Plan previously approved by the Joint BOE on June 04, 2015. The amendment has been approved by the CSDE. These flexibilities are related to disruptions to the school year last year and this, caused by the pandemic, as well as a heightened need to focus on more qualitative goals regarding the social and emotional welfare of students.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Chester, Essex and Region 4 Boards unanimously VOTED and the Deep River Board (6 Yes / 0 No / 1 abstained - B. Ferretti = passed) to adopt the CSDE approved *flexibilities* amendment to the Educator Evaluation and Support Plan adopted by the Joint BOE on June 04, 2015, for the 2020-21 school year.

Superintendent White reviewed the enclosure showing a proposed reduction in the Supervision District budget for 2021-22. This reduction is due to a change in personnel at Chester Elementary and as such, is found in the direct billing salary and benefits line(s) for Chester Elementary. The Chester Board approved this change within their proposed budget last week, therefore the Supervision District budget may now be revised accordingly.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Chester (4 Yes / 1 No – K. Pollock / 1 abstained – M. Scherber = passed), Deep River (6 Yes / 1 No – P. Maikowski = passed), Essex (unanimous), and Region 4 (unanimous) Boards VOTED to approve the reduced Supervision District budget in the new amount of \$8,214,486.

Thomas Peterlik, Director of Food Services discussed the annual request for approval of the Healthy Food Certification. There are two motions that must be voted on in order to be in compliance with the program.

On motion duly made and seconded the Chester, Deep River, Essex and Region 4 Boards unanimously VOTED to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to vote "yes" on implementing the healthy food option of C.G.S. Section 10-215f and approve the following motion language for the healthy food option: *Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the board(s) of education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.*

On motion duly made and seconded the Chester, Deep River, Essex and Region 4 Boards unanimously VOTED to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to vote "yes" to allow food and beverage exemptions and approve the following motion language: *The board(s) of education or governing authority will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1)the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2)the sale is at the location of the event; and 3)the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The "regular school day" is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held.*

**COMMITTEE REPORTS** – No reports were made

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – No comments were made

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Next regular Joint BOE meeting – June 03, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m.
- Vote on Joint BOE RFP Legal Bid Review Committee’s recommendation to appoint counsel (*June*)

**ADJOURNMENT\*:**

On motion duly made and seconded, the Chester, Deep River, and Essex Boards of Education unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at approx. 7:43 p.m.

**\*The Region 4 Board of Education stayed in session for the following R4 only business:**

Based on the March 4<sup>th</sup> Region 4 Board action directing him to proceed with discussions with any interested parties, and to develop a draft RFP for Realtors for Board approval, Superintendent White provided the Board with an update regarding the possible sale of the Region No. 4 owned property located at Falls Landing Road, in Deep River.

Superintendent White shared that he had conversations with a local realtor and a local brokerage firm who had reached out to him to express their interest in working with Region 4 in connection with selling this property. He anticipated that both parties will respond to the RFP once it has been put out.

Superintendent White reviewed the proposed RFP which has been vetted through legal counsel.

There was time for discussion regarding the Region 4 Board enclosure of the proposed RFP for Real Estate marketing and Brokerage Services.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Region 4 Board unanimously **VOTED** to direct the Superintendent to release the RFP as written and presented.

Superintendent White shared information regarding a donation of \$2171.52 from the Region 4 Foundation to John Winthrop Middle School to be used for the purchase of exercise equipment.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Region 4 Board unanimously **VOTED** to approve the Superintendent’s recommendation to accept the donation of \$2171.52 to JWMS from the Region 4 Foundation for the purchase of exercise equipment.

Representatives from Mahoney Sabol, Mike VanDeventer and Lauren Messina presented the 2019-20 Financial Audit Reports for Region No. 4. (see attached)

There was a time for Board members to ask questions. The Board discussed whether or not they wanted to use \$5,389 of the surplus amount, the maximum remaining amount allowed under the statutory 1% total, to go towards reducing the Capital Reserve Deficit. It was decided that the full surplus amount would be returned to the member towns instead.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously **VOTED** to approve the Superintendent’s recommendation for distribution of surplus Region No. 4 funds from FY 2019-20 to the member towns based on 2019-20 contributions as follows:

Chester: \$73,239  
Deep River: \$107,530  
Essex: \$125,671  
Total Surplus: \$306,440 fully returned to member towns.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Region 4 Board unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at approx. 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Bryan, Clerk

