

Minutes of the Chester School Board Meeting  
February 10, 2010

The February 10, 2010 meeting of the Chester School Board was called to order by Chairman Royal Richardson at 7:05p.m. The meeting was broadcast live on analog channel 22 and digital channel 100.3 on the Comcast cable system and recorded for future playback.

**Present:**

- Chester school board members Chairman Royal Richardson, Valerie Weider, Catherine Treanor, Mat Stover, and Michael Romick who arrived at 7:55 p.m.
- Superintendent Victor Petzy, Jana Ruiz, Special Services Coordinator, Principal Leslie Leahy, and Annmarie Scribner – District Financial Manager.
- Guests Kelly Glynn, Kelsey Slade, Maria Veale, and Matt Rittenhouse reporter from the *Tri-Town Times*.

**The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.**

**MANIFEST**

Chairman Richardson presented the following manifests for approval:

AP Manifest #14      \$192,646.28  
Payroll Manifest #17   \$227,812.79

**The motion to “accept the manifests as read” was made by Ms. Weider and seconded by Mr. Stover.**

**There was no discussion.**

**Chairman Richardson called for a vote on the above motion made by Ms. Weider and seconded by Mr. Stover. The motion passed by a voice vote of 4-0.**

**MINUTES**

January 13, 2010

Minutes submitted to board from the January meeting.

**Ms. Weider made a motion to “accept the 0 January 13, 2010 minutes with the spelling and grammar corrections presented by Mr. Stover.” Motion was seconded by Ms. Treanor.**

**There was no discussion.**

**Chairman Richardson called for a vote on the above motion made by Ms. Weider and seconded by Ms. Treanor. The motion passed by a voice vote of 4-0.**

**SCHEDULED GUESTS -**

1. Pinkerton Students: Kelly Glynn and Kelsey Slade gave an update on happenings at Pinkerton Academy and an update on future events.
2. Susan Kessler gave an update on Technology Grants that Chester has applied to and received.

Ms. Kessler spoke about Open NH a mini grant where in grade 2 students study animals of the world by using Webkins stuffed animals and the Internet. This grant targets Language Arts, Science and Social Studies.

A second grant called Tech Leader Cohort is currently being used in Ms. Campbell's grade 5 class and is expanding to Ms. Dinger's grade 4 classroom. One of the highlights is the use of touch screen technology such as iPods.

The third grant and the most prized one to date is the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Classroom Grant that focuses on school wide literacy initiative for grades 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, the Media Center, and the Middle School learning lab. Ms. Kessler added that net book labs are also included and are being targeted to grades 5, 6, and 8, each lab comes with 25 units. And lastly, Ms. Kessler said that a key component is Professional Development for the staff. The equipment used creates a 21<sup>st</sup> century learning environment with the use of interactive white boards, LCD projector, laptop, and a document camera.

Ms. Kessler thanked the school board, the administration, and staff for their help in securing these grants and she added that there were many who helped in writing these grants, it was not just her alone.

Chairman Richardson said that the awarding of the grants supplement the school system but does not replace or diminish the technology backbone.

Mr. Stover asked how the net books would be distributed.

Ms. Leahy said that one system will go out to each team.

Chairman Richardson said that these grants show a great cooperative effort by everyone.

**PUBLIC INPUT – None.**

**BUDGET COMMITTEE INPUT – None.**

**REPORTS** – Written reports were provided to board members.

**PRINCIPAL** – report submitted and delivered by Ms. Leslie Leahy.

Summary of topics:

**Academic**

**NECAPS-**

Early results are out. We appear to have gained 5% overall in reading proficiency. There was a 1% loss in proficiency in math. We are currently assessing the individual scores to determine where the decrease occurred since our overall mean scaled score increased. This translates to about 5 students. The good news in math is more students shifted from proficient to above proficient. Chester continues to outscore the state in overall proficiency in reading and math.

This is all based on raw data as the state is still correcting individual student data reports data for the AYP report which is now slated to be out in mid March. We are looking at data now to determine individual student growth and grade level growth and will be plugging in GMAD and GRADE scores for a cross comparison of assessments. Maggie will be working with teachers on finding specific common areas weakness and modifying instruction for students this spring and next fall in those areas.

### Reading Grant-

Mrs. Fawcett, the middle level reading teacher, applied for and won a small grant to fund her summer school Reader's Café program which she will run for a second year.

### Personnel

**Mrs. Raspuzzi** -Grade 6 science would like to retire next year and has submitted her resignation for acceptance by the board.

**Mrs. Flanagan**-The technology classroom assistant will be relocating to Tennessee next year so this will be her last year at Chester Academy.

### Student Management

**Enrollment Report-** Enrollments are up by three students for this January from 636 to 639. The numbers recently increased another three students for early February to a tentative 642. Final numbers for February won't be ready until the end of the month. Ms. Leahy also noted that the school has had two new inquiries from people who plan to close on houses in early spring.

	Oct 2008	June 2009	July 2009	Aug 2009	Sept 2009	Oct 2009	Nov 2009	Dec 2009	Jan 2010
<b>Public Kindergarten</b>			37	37	35	35	34	34	34
<b>Grade 1</b>	64	63	69	71	68	68	68	68	69
<b>Grade 2</b>	67	66	64	63	63	63	63	63	63
<b>Grade 3</b>	68	67	65	67	65	65	65	65	65
<b>Grade 4</b>	82	83	68	67	67	67	67	67	68
<b>Grade 5</b>	76	78	83	84	83	84	85	85	84
<b>Grade 6</b>	84	82	79	80	75	75	73	73	74
<b>Grade 7</b>	81	80	83	88	84	84	85	85	85
<b>Grade 8</b>	82	84	80	84	83	84	84	83	83
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>604</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>628</b>	<b>641</b>	<b>623</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>623</b>	<b>625</b>
<b>Pre-3 yr</b>	6	9	5	5	7	7	7	7	8
<b>Pre-4 yr</b>	8	8	8	8	6	6	6	6	6
<b>Kindergarten</b>	11	11							
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>629</b>	<b>631</b>	<b>641</b>	<b>654</b>	<b>636</b>	<b>638</b>	<b>637</b>	<b>636</b>	<b>639</b>

**Washington DC-** Attendance is down again this year. The current total of students planning to attend the trip is 52 of 84 students. This is 12 less than the survey taken this past fall. Ms. Leahy said that the 7<sup>th</sup> grade parents will be surveyed this spring to determine whether it will be a school supported trip for next year.

**Boys Basketball** - Congratulations to the boys' basketball team for beating Epping to win the Class S Championship. Well done to the girls' basketball team for making it to the semi finals.

### Building and Grounds

**Generator** - The work has been completed on the generator. In cases of emergencies this building may now be used as a shelter. There will be hot water in the bathrooms in the gymnasium. The kitchen will be fully functional.

## Administration

**Technology** - Now that we have the grant confirmed, there will be a building assessment of equipment from this fall to reassess building needs and create a three-four year plan that focuses on building needs related to education and instruction. The school will also be continuing to reduce paper consumption in classroom and administrative areas where appropriate. In April, a plan will be presented to the technology committee, members of the school board, and building staff for feedback and suggestions. In May, the plan will be finalized and presented to the school board in June.

Chairman Richardson suggested a workshop be held with the school board and staff regarding the Technology of Chester Academy.

## Community Relations

**February 15<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup>** is spirit week

**February 16<sup>th</sup>** Faculty/Student Basketball Game in the gym at 6 pm

**February 22<sup>nd</sup> -26<sup>th</sup>**-school vacation

**PTA** is currently accepting donations of services or products for their Adult Dance/Silent Auction in March.

**March 9<sup>th</sup>**-Voting at the town hall on the school warrants all day.

\*\*\*\* Mr. Romick arrived at 7:66 p.m. \*\*\*\*

**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADMINISTRATOR** – Report submitted and delivered by Ms. Jana Ruiz

### Parent Survey:

Earlier this month the NH Department of Education Bureau of Special Education sent the results of both 2008-2009 and 2009-10 results from the parent survey to provide us with information regarding parent involvement with the special education process. The results are very positive and indicate that parents feel a part of the process, their questions are attend to, their input is considered in development of the IEP and they are provided with resources regarding disabilities and best practices. The preschool aged survey which was part of this survey only provide information for the 2008-2009 school year as the cell size for responders was to small to calculate.

### Measured Progress Website:

Ms. Maggie Holm came to a special education meeting held on Tuesday, February 9, 2010 and presented how to navigate the measured progress site to view caseloads and assessment results to plan additional interventions for struggling students. Case Managers will be reviewing student data, completing item analysis, and developing interventions based on this information.

**FINANCIAL MANAGER** – Report submitted and delivered by Ms. Annmarie Scribner.

**09-10 Budget Forecast** - Ms. Scribner reported that the current financial forecast for the 2009-10 Fiscal year shows a \$71,057 positive balance. The \$115,000 Medicaid IDEA High School funds have been applied to the Special Education lines.

Regular Education is currently showing a positive balance of \$87,956 due to savings in the following areas:

1. Tuition – Public school tuition has a projected surplus of \$105,802
2. Improvement of Instruction - \$10,000
3. Office of the Superintendent - \$8,834 mostly from a change in the insurance plan

#### 4. Salary savings in Technology of \$8,010

Special Education is currently showing a deficit of (\$-16,899) and is reflected on the following areas:

1. Out of District Tuition (\$37,000)
2. There are some savings in Pinkerton Tuition, Psychological, Speech, PT, and OT lines.

Ms. Leahy added that parents of grade 8 students will be receiving information on how to log into Web To School and access their child's grades. This pilot program will enable parents to look at the grades in real time. Ms. Leahy said that parents will be able to check on homework grades, quizzes and tests but that some grades may take two weeks to post due to teacher workloads and based upon the assignments and tests. Ms. Leahy added that grade 7 will have access by the end of the year and pointed out this was a goal of school board.

#### **SUPERINTENDENT**

Reference Superintendent Report by Dr. Victor Petzy. .  
*Items covered throughout the agenda.*

**Special IDEA Supplement:** The district has received a letter from Commissioner Barry of the NH Department of Education that brings the issue to closure.

**Nurses Recognition:** Dr. Petzy received second letter from Commissioner Barry commending nurses across the state for their response to H1N1 and to give special recognition to Katie Pierson and Lynda Cioli for their efforts at Chester Academy.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Comments on Deliberative Session** – Mr. Stover watched the replay of the meeting on CETV-22 and asked if any board members had any comments from the deliberative session.

Chairman Richardson said that fewer than 100 participated and overall it was good meeting. He added that he felt there was still a lot of confusion regarding the SB2 process from everyone; that the public was confused as to what their role was. Chairman Richardson felt that the size of the crowd may have been affected by Pinkerton's Course Night. He added that some people had come forward asking how to get rid of SB2 and suggested that it be brought up in fall.

Mr. Romick, who presented the budget said that he was encouraged to see voters come out and take the time to be involved. Mr. Romick said that the number of attendees was larger than most other area towns that use the SB2 process. Mr. Romick suggested that next year a mailer be sent out before the deliberative session to inform the voters of the warrant before the meeting.

Mr. Stover supported that idea. Mr. Stover credited the Chester Educational Association for stepping up to a new idea regarding compensation, it is unique and a big concession for a union entity to make.

Mr. Romick added that new Collective Bargaining agreement simplifies language and the pay system will be beneficial to the district now and in the future. .

#### **NEW BUSINESS –**

**Update on Technology Grants/Susan Kessler** – covered earlier in meeting.

**NECAP Results** - covered earlier in meeting.

**District Report** – District clerk Robert Grimm reported that all pieces of the Annual Report have been received except the School Board report. Chairman Richardson said that he will have a report distributed to the board for review the weekend of February 13-14 and the report will be submitted February 15.

Clerk Grimm aid that the Report would then go to the printer on February 16 and take about a week to be published.

**CORRESPONDENCE** – Chairman Richardson brought forward the following correspondence.

1. A copy of the letter sent by the NH Education Commissioner to the US Department of Education Secretary Duncan regarding educational grants from stimulus money and that Chester Academy was singled out.
2. A letter from Jean Methot regarding the Southern NH Planning Commission challenge for earth day, the environment, and the earth resources.
3. A software package that has an education component for the upcoming 2010 US Census.

**POLICIES** – None.

## **PERSONNEL**

### **Faculty Resignations**

Dr. Petzy announced that Ann Raspuzzi, a long time science teacher has resigned effective June 30, 2010.

**Mr. Romick made a motion to “regretfully, I mean regretfully, accept the letter of resignation by Ms. Ann Raspuzzi” Motion was seconded by Ms. Treanor.**

**There was no discussion.**

**Chairman Richardson called for a vote on the above motion made by Mr. Romick and seconded by Ms. Treanor. The motion passed by a voice vote of 4-0.**

The district also received a resignation letter from Joanne Flanagan who has worked with Sue Kessler for several years.

**ANTICIPATED DATE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Wednesday, March 3, 2010.**

### **NONPUBLIC SESSION, RSA 91-A: 3II (c, e)**

**Mr. Stover made a motion “to move the meeting to a Non-Public Session, pursuant to RSA 91-A: 3II (c,e) for personnel and student issues” Ms. Weider seconded the motion.**

**Chairman Richardson called for a roll call vote on the above motion made by Mr. Stover and seconded by Ms. Weider. Roll call vote was taken and board members Richardson, Treanor, Weider, Romick, and Stover all voted in the affirmative, 5-0.**

Meeting went into Non-Public session at 8:35 p.m. on February 10, 2010.

Also in attendance and participating in the Non-Public Session were Superintendent Dr. Vic Petzy, Special Services Coordinator Jana Ruiz, and Chester Academy Principal, Leslie Leahy.

## **CLOSURE OF NON-PUBLIC SESSION**

**Mr. Stover made a motion “to conclude the Non-Public Session, pursuant to RSA 91-A: 3II (c,e).” Mr. Romick seconded the motion.**

**Chairman Richardson called for a roll call vote on the above motion made by Mr. Stover and seconded by Mr. Romick. Roll call vote was taken and board members Richardson, Treanor, Weider, Romick, and Stover all voted in the affirmative, 5-0.**

The meeting returned to Public Session at 9:55 p.m. on February 10, 2010.

## **PUBLIC DISCUSSION –**

**Mr. Stover made a motion to “accept with great appreciation for his contributions to the Chester School District; with regret for the loss of his counsel and expertise; and with respect, the letter of resignation from Dr. Petzy and to wish him well in the future.” Mr. Romick seconded the motion.**

**Chairman Richardson called for a roll call vote on the above motion made by Mr. Stover and seconded by Mr. Romick. Roll call vote was taken and board members Richardson, Treanor, Weider, Romick, and Stover all voted in the affirmative, 5-0.**

There were no further specific items for the Board’s consideration or any items to vote upon.

There being no further discussion, Ms. Weider made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Treanor seconded the motion. Board Members Richardson, Romick, Stover Treanor and Weider all voted in the affirmative

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Ms. Weider made a motion “to adjourn the meeting.” Ms. Treanor seconded the motion.**

**There was no discussion.**

**Chairman Richardson called for a roll call vote on the above motion made by Ms. Weider and seconded by Ms. Treanor. Roll call vote was taken and board members Richardson, Treanor, Weider, Romick, and Stover all voted in the affirmative, 5-0.**

The Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m. on February 10, 2010.

Draft minutes respectfully submitted February 11, 2010.

Above minutes approved at March 3, 2010 school board meeting by a vote of 5-0.

A true Attest.

Robert S. Grimm, School District Clerk