

**EAST LYME BOARD OF EDUCATION
East Lyme, Connecticut**

Special Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

7:00 p.m.

Room B101 (INTV Room), ELHS

Board Members Present: Tim Hagen (Chair), Rich Steel (Secretary), Jaime Barr, Jill Carini, Melissa Ford, Laura Greenstein, Al Littlefield, Chris Sandford

Board Members Absent: Marlene Nickerson, Pam Rowe

Administrators Present: Dr. James Lombardo (Superintendent), Dr. Karen Costello (Administrator for Program Improvement), Linda Anania (FL Principal), Dr. David Miko (HA Principal), Melissa DeLoreto (NC Principal), Judy DeLeeuw (MS Principal), Kim Davis (Special Education Coordinator), Mike Susi (HS Principal), Jason Bitgood (MS Assistant Principal), Rod Mosier (MS Assistant Principal), Don Meltabarger (Business/Facilities Director), Nancy Burdick (Business Manager)

I. CALL TO ORDER— 7:03 p.m. by Chair Tim Hagen.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by Tim Hagen and Nancy Burdick

III. DISCUSSION/ACTION

1. Discussion re: Initial Presentation of the Proposed ELPS Budget for 2012-2013

Dr. Lombardo presented the proposed budget for 2012-2013. Budget priorities align with district goals. The initial budget represents a 3.8% increase over the adopted budget for the current year. Salary and benefit changes represent 3.2 of the 3.8% budget increase. The reduction of 4.0 teachers is due to a decline in enrollment and is expected to be absorbed through retirements. Some reallocation of funding is necessary to cover staffing positions funded by a two-year federal jobs grant, which will not be available next year. Major increases include salaries, custodial overtime, and unemployment. The increase in supplemental salaries is due to under budgeting in 2011-2012. Cost control and program modifications include reduction in special education tuition due to program changes, reduction in fuel costs due to natural gas conversion at HA, MS and HS, reduction in projects to reflect shift to service contracts and 2011-2012 work, and reduction in legal fees. Dr. Lombardo noted the approximate 50% cost savings in special education tuition since 2008-2009, primarily due to creating programs and bringing students back to the district. Initiatives deferred include full day kindergarten pilot, new World Languages, and the development of funds/resources for the Capstone Project. Budget discussion will be held on January 23, 30, and February 6, with possible adoption of the budget on February 13, but no later than February 27. A public hearing will be held on January 30. The PowerPoint presentation is available on the district website. Questions were recorded and will be responded to in written form. Dr. Lombardo encouraged Board members to submit further budget questions by email.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Karen Rak, 27 Black Point Road, posed the following budget questions: 1) What percentage of the 3.2% increase in salary and benefit changes is related to the Coastal Connections Program; 2) What is the total cost of the Coastal Connections Program; 3) Have programs been evaluated and efficiencies been explored and by whom. She thanked Dr. Lombardo and the Board for the budget presentation and the opportunity to speak.

2. Mike Schultz, Lovers Lane, thanked Dr. Lombardo for the budget presentation and requested that 2012-2013 budget questions and responses be made available to the public. His questions to the Board are as follows: 1) Health care costs per employee; 2) Solar panel savings; 3) Cost of extra curricular activities and associated increases for FY 13.

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION – None**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: Jaime Barr moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m.; Al Littlefield seconded.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Steel

Richard Steel, Secretary

East Lyme Board of Education