

EAST LYME BOARD OF EDUCATION
East Lyme, Connecticut

SPECIAL MEETING
Monday, April 21, 2014
6:00 p.m.
Room B101, East Lyme High School

FILED IN EAST LYME
CONNECTICUT
APR 29 2014 AT 10:15 AM/PM
Lesley A. Blais
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

MINUTES

Board Members Present: Tim Hagen (Chair), Al Littlefield (Secretary) (arrived 6:05 p.m.), Joe Arcarese, Jill Carini, Candice Carlson, Rob Kupis, Marlene Nickerson (arrived 6:10 p.m.), Pam Rowe, Barbara Senges

Board Members Absent: Jaime Barr Shelburn

Administrators Present: Dr. James Lombardo, Brian Reas (Asst. Superintendent), Dr. Karen Costello (Admin. for Program Improvement), Linda Anania (FL Principal), Dr. David Miko (HA Principal), Melissa DeLoreto (NC Principal), Dr. Judy DeLeeuw (MS Principal), Mike Susi (HS Principal), Kim Davis (Sp Ed Coordinator), Robyn McKenney (Technology Director), Don Meltabarger (Finance and Facilities Director)

I. CALL TO ORDER – 6:03 p.m. by Chair Tim Hagen

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by Tim Hagen

There was no objection to moving Public Comment (other than the ELHS graduation date and the last of school) to follow the discussion/action items.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT – No public comment

IV. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Discussion/action re: Proposed ELHS Graduation Date for the Class of 2014

Dr. Lombardo explained that the graduation party committee has found another venue for their party on Wednesday, June 18. He and Principal Susi recommended the Board waive the June 19 school day for seniors only, graduation will be held on June 18, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. and the school calendar for all other students will remain unchanged with the last day of school as Thursday, June 19, 2014 (1/2 day). The Board thanked the parent committee for its work.

MOTION: Jill Carini moved to waive the June 19 school day for seniors only, with the graduation ceremony to be held on June 18, 2014 at 5:30 p.m., leaving the school calendar for all other ELPS students unchanged with the last day of school as Thursday, June 19, 2014 (1/2 day); Candice Carlson seconded.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

MOTION CARRIED

B. Discussion/action re: Board of Education's 2014-2015 Budget Reduction of \$550,000 as Directed by the Board of Finance

- Dr. Lombardo presented an alternative solution and two possible options to reach the \$550,000 budget reduction as directed by the Board of Finance.
- **Alternative Solution** - He stated he does not recommend and considers the possibility of closing Niantic Center School a premature move as the Educational Architect, the Board, and an Ad-Hoc committee will be working over the next year to firm up a plan and provide recommendations that will address the future for all of our elementary facilities.
- **Option 1** - Put forth a budget that does not follow state law to put the unfunded state mandated Administrator/Teacher Evaluation Plan into effect for the 2014-15 year.
- **Option 2** - The following (based on the consensus of the Administrative Team):

Possible Reductions

	FTE	AMOUNT	DISCUSSION NOTES
Teaching Staff			
- High School	2.00	126,858.00	<i>Classes with lowest enrollment</i>
- Middle School (Activities)	0.50	47,000.00	<i>Low enrollment, music offering (Band) Grade 5</i>
- Flanders Elementary	1.00	63,429.00	<i>Low enrollment - 4th Grade (≈ 25 Students per class)</i>
- Lillie B. Haynes Elementary	1.00	63,429.00	<i>Low enrollment - 4th Grade (≈ 25 Students per class)</i>
Subtotal:	4.50	300,716.00	
Sports & Extracurricular			
- High School Sports	-	29,000.00	<i>Equitable across all programs</i>
- High School Activities	-	18,000.00	<i>Equitable across all programs</i>
- Middle School Athletic Account	-	29,000.00	<i>Most MS programs run by Parks & Rec with limited school programs</i>
Subtotal:	-	58,018.00	
Technology & Instruction			
- Technology Resources	-	37,000.00	<i>District-wide reduction</i>
- District-wide Technology Consultant	-	52,212.00	<i>Elimination of new position (serving HS)</i>
- Instructional Resources (Per Pupil)	-	50,000.00	<i>Reduction of \$1.1 Million Budgeted (usually frozen until Spring)</i>
Subtotal:	-	139,212.00	
Maintenance			
- Flanders Elementary Exterior Door Replacement	-	5,000.00	<i>Facilities Capital Improvement</i>
- Lillie B. Haynes Elementary Exterior Door Replace	-	5,000.00	<i>Facilities Capital Improvement</i>
- Boat House Roof Replacement	-	12,322.00	<i>Facilities Capital Improvement</i>
- Middle School Carpet Replace	-	11,750.00	<i>Cyclical Facilities Capital Improvement</i>
Subtotal:		34,072.00	
TOTAL BUDGET REDUCTION:	4.50	550,000.00	

- Dr. Lombardo explained that over the past four years, creative solutions such as conversion from oil to natural gas, revenue from Coastal Connections, Energy (Electricity) contract savings, and providing SPED programs in-house instead of out-placements have saved the taxpayers approximately \$4.1 million dollars and the District has still been able to save funds to grow new programs. But the District has run out of creative solutions.
- Dr. Lombardo was asked to consult the Board attorney to review the option of not following state law with regard to not implementing the Administrator/Teacher Evaluation Plan.
- Board members elected to defer budget discussion to allow time for the audience to speak.
- No action taken.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Sarah Benoit, 107 Hillcrest Road, Niantic - Asked how we would move schools to other schools while keeping in mind small class sizes and stressed the importance of a well thought out process with parent input.
2. Maia Vargas, 18 Pontiac Drive, Niantic - Commended Dr. Lombardo and the administration for creative ways other than closing school.
3. Tara Dowling, 19 Pleasant Drive Ext., Niantic - Cautioned the Board of Finance about loose and light comments about closing Niantic Center School and the anxiety to students and the community. She encouraged options to be looked at and the Board's creativity to get through the process.
4. John Arnold, 99 Sleepy Hollow Road, Niantic - Expressed concerns regarding the negative effect talking about the possible closure of Niantic Center School has on children and asked the Board for more detail on the estimated cost savings of doing so.
5. Karen Delesdernier, 254 Giants Neck Road, Niantic - Spoke of the importance of the "whole student" and encouraged the Board to rethink the elimination of freshman sports option.
6. Gil Gallant, East Lyme Teachers Association (ELTA) President - Commended the Board on the cost savings over the past years and preserving teaching positions and small class sizes. He described the District as a "Class A District with Class A results" and encouraged the Board to meet the state law.
7. Mary Walsh, 2 Spencer Avenue, Niantic - Asked for more specifics regarding low class sizes at the high school and eliminating positions as a part of potential budget reductions.
8. Ms. Croteau, 184 West Main Street - Spoke of the stressful affect of careless comments by the BOF regarding the closing of Niantic Center School and suggested the district explore redistricting options to bring more students to Niantic Center School.
9. Jennifer Murray, 7 Tabernacle Avenue, Niantic - Expressed concerns regarding the possible closure of Niantic Center School to incoming Kindergarten students expecting to attend Niantic Center School in the fall.
10. Sonja Mazzulli, 183 North Bridebrook Road - Stressed the importance of small class sizes and keeping safety issues in mind.
11. Lou deLaforcade, 22 Rose Lane - Spoke of concerns regarding cuts impacting students and asked if administrative positions were examined.
12. Bill Derry, 212 Penn Avenue - Commended Board for keeping class sizes down and stated community schools are why kids are so successful. He advised the Board not to cut anything more from the budget.
13. Becky Lillie, 14 South Trail, Niantic - Praised Niantic Center School and its passionate parents and encouraged the Board to focus on preserving Niantic Center School. She also spoke on the importance of keeping freshman sports.
14. Bill Dowling, 3 Cottage Lane, Niantic - Praised Niantic Center School as an unbelievable institution. He expressed concerns regarding unfunded state mandates and asked the Board not to make cuts at the expense of children.
15. Randee Siegal, 65 Old Black Point Road, Niantic - Asked why our exemplary district is not exempted from government unfunded mandates and spoke of the amazing teachers, parents and the community in general.
 - Chair Tim Hagen announced that more budget discussion will be held at the next Board of Education meeting on Monday, April 28. *The Board of Finance Public Hearing immediately followed at 7:00 p.m. in the East Lyme High School Mary Broderick Auditorium.*

VI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Pam Rowe moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:55p.m.; Candice Carlson seconded.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,
Albert Littlefield
Albert Littlefield, Secretary
East Lyme Board of Education