

EAST LYME BOARD OF EDUCATION
East Lyme, Connecticut

Special Meeting
PUBLIC HEARING
Monday, February 10, 2014
7:00 p.m.

FILED IN EAST LYME
CONNECTICUT
Feb 21, 2014 AT 9:00 AM/PM
Suzanne A. Blais
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Mary Broderick Auditorium, East Lyme High School

MINUTES

- Board Members Present: Tim Hagen (Chair), Al Littlefield (Secretary), Joe Arcarese, Jill Carini, Rob Kupis, Al Littlefield, Marlene Nickerson, Pam Rowe, Barbara Senges, Jaime Barr Shelburn
- Board Members Absent: None
- Administrators Present: Dr. James Lombardo (Superintendent), Brian Reas (Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Pupil Personnel), Dr. Karen Costello (Administrator for Program Improvement), Kim Davis (Sp Ed Coordinator), Don Meltabarger (Business/Facilities Director), Linda Anania (FL Principal), Dr. David Miko (HA Principal), Melissa DeLoreto (NC Principal), Dr. Judy DeLeeuw (MS Principal), Jen Frost (MS Asst. Principal), Jason Bitgood (MS Asst. Principal), Robyn McKenney (Technology Director)

I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:05 p.m. by Chair Tim Hagen

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by Tim Hagen

III. AGENDA ITEMS

A. Discussion re: Presentation on the Draft 2014/2015 Budget for East Lyme Public Schools
Dr. Lombardo gave a PowerPoint presentation of the draft 2014/2015 Budget for East Lyme Public Schools. A total budget of \$43,989,614; representing a 4.9% increase over the current-year budget was presented as follows:

- 0.88% - Federal Mandates (Affordable Care Act - \$372,000)
- 1.08 % - State Mandates (Administrator & Teacher Evaluation Plans - \$296,587) and new initiatives
- 2.92% - General Budget
- 4.88% Total Budget increase for 2014-2015

The average budget increase between FY 11 and FY 15 is 2.4%.

- The budget priorities align with the district's long range plan.
- The major increases in the budget are reflected in salaries, benefits and insurance, natural gas, technology lease, support for evaluation, immediate projects, and maintenance.

- Staff changes include the following:
 - 1.0 FTE Assistant Principal (Administrator's Bargaining Unit – Split between Flanders and Haynes Elementary Schools)
 - 2.0 FTE Dean of Students (Teacher's Bargaining Unit – High School and Middle School)
 - 1.0 FTE Elementary Spanish/French Teacher (Reinstatement of Global Language at Elementary Level)
 - 2.0 FTE Instructional Aides (Compensating for those moved to implement Full Day Kindergarten)
 - 1.0 FTE Computer Consultant (High School)
 - 3.0 FTE Bus Monitors (Student Safety-- Elementary and Middle School bus runs)
- Enrollment reflects a projected overall district decrease of 25 students.

The Board will continue discussion and deliberations and expect to adopt a final budget proposal NLT March 10. The adopted budget will then be forwarded to the Board of Finance. Board Chair Tim Hagen invited the public to submit questions and comments to elps.budget@eastlymeschools.org. The PowerPoint presentation, budget questions, clarifications and replies will continue to be posted to the website.

B. Receive public comment relative to the draft 2014-2015 school district budget

1. Mike Schultz, Lovers Lane, welcomed the new Board members and thanked all members for their service. Mr. Schultz questioned whether the quality of education in the classroom is really compromised if class sizes are increased. He requested an update regarding the status of the change in medical insurance carriers and asked why there is an increase in insurance costs. He suggested the District pass some of the extra-curricular costs onto parents of participating students. He stated the contractual obligations for personnel extend too far out, and suggested this be considered in future negotiations.

Dr. Lombardo stated the budgeted insurance costs are based on the existing provider. The proposed switch to Aetna will result in a cost savings to the district. The uncertainty surrounding the Affordable Care Act and the unfunded, state-mandated evaluation process present a challenge regarding budget planning.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Jaime Barr Shelburn moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m.; Marlene Nickerson seconded.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

MOTION CARRIED

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