

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

**Board of Education Minutes
Monday, March 12, 2012
Regular Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.
INTV Room B101
East Lyme High School**

REGULAR MEETING

Board Members Present: Tim Hagen (Chair), Rich Steel (Secretary), Jaime Barr, Jill Carini, Laura Greenstein, Al Littlefield, Marlene Nickerson Pam Rowe, Christopher Sandford

Board Members Absent: Melissa Ford

Administrators Present: Dr. James Lombardo (Superintendent), Brian Reas (Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Pupil Personnel), Dr. Karen Costello (Administrator for Program Improvement), Judy DeLeeuw (MS Principal), Melissa DeLoreto (NC Principal), Linda Anania (FL Principal), David Miko (HA Principal), Michael Susi (HS Principal), Don Meltabarger (Business/Facilities Director)

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Tim Hagen called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.
- II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Led by Tim Hagen

Dr. Lombardo announced that the meeting was being broadcast live on local Channel 22 and live streamed on the district website.

RECOGNITION CEREMONY

*National Merit Scholarship Finalists
East Lyme High School Grade 12 Students*

*Andy King
Hrishikesh Somayaji
Nathan Zhao*

*Literacy Volunteer Service
Retired East Lyme High School English Teacher*

Mark Hogan

III. PUBLIC COMMENT - None**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION: Al Littlefield moved approval of minutes of the Board of Education February 27, 2012 Regular Meeting, as amended (Marlene Nickerson was present); Jill Carini seconded.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

MOTION CARRIED

V. SPECIAL REPORTS

- A. Students' Representative – Sarah Kukich and Kaley Roberts
- Musical production was a huge success
 - Journalism field trip to Columbia University, NYC, NY
 - Technology field trip to Pfizer
 - Spring Fling Dance - 3/30/12
 - Yearbook deadline - 4/1/12
 - Bikeathon fundraiser – 4/28/12
 - Best Buddies Week activities 3/12 – 3/16/12
- B. Selectmen's Representative – was not present
- C. Salem Board of Education Representative - George Jackson was not present
- D. Town Building Committee Representative – Ray O'Connor
Ray O'Connor requested the Board close out the following completed projects:
1. LEARN wing roof replacement at Lillie B. Haynes School
 2. HS boiler replacement
 3. HS rooftop unit replacement project
- E. Other Reporters - None

VI. CONSENT AGENDA - None**VII. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

- A. Finance/Facilities/Community
1. Discussion/action re: Proposed Architectural Bids for EL Athletic Complex Project
Dr. Lombardo and the FFO Committee recommended Gayle Associates, the lowest bidder, as the architectural firm for the EL Athletic Complex Project.

MOTION: Al Littlefield moved to authorize the Superintendent to sign contract documents with Gayle Associates, following final discussion with Town officials and the architectural firm, regarding the EL Athletic Complex, with the bid not to exceed \$69,150 as presented: Marlene Nickerson seconded.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

MOTION CARRIED

2. Discussion re: Monthly Budget Status Report for FY12
Don Meltabarger updated the Board on the FY 12 budget status as of February 29, 2012. Al Littlefield reported that the FFO Committee reviewed the budget status and proposed budget transfers to be presented to the full Board on March 26.

B. Instruction

1. Update re: ELPS Kindergarten Study Committee Progress
Assistant Superintendent Brian Reas provided a summary of the Full Day Kindergarten Study Committee's work to date. The committee, consisting of parents, community preschool directors, Board of Education members, teachers, principals and interested community members, was tasked with researching the desirability and educational rationale for expanding our half day program to full day. Research has included visits to full day kindergarten programs, the review of dozens of research articles, and a review of our current

programs. Common core curriculum was mentioned. The public is invited to attend the Community Forum on Tuesday, March 27, 2012, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. in the Gerald M. Mistretta Commons, East Lyme High School. The Full Day Kindergarten Study Committee expects to present its recommendation to the full Board in May.

2. Presentation/Discussion re: Proposed Changes to Grade Point Average (GPA) Determination and Class Rank for ELHS

ELHS Principal Mike Susi presented a recommended change to the way grade point average (GPA) is determined and the elimination of class rank at ELHS. Currently a simple, non-weighted GPA and a weighted class rank, based on the weighted GPA of a student's leveled classes, is reported to students in their junior year and to colleges. By recalculating GPA and eliminating class rank, a more equitable process will be created and students will be presented in the best possible light as they move forward. Mr. Susi stated that class rank is not currently a true representation of student performance, and by not reporting class rank, colleges will look beyond the numbers to evaluate the individual student. The proposed change is supported by Curriculum Council, the AAA Committee and Dr. Lombardo. Parent informational sessions are scheduled.

3. Discussion re: Proposed East Lyme School District Calendar for 2012-2013

Dr. Lombardo presented the proposed ELPS Calendar for 2012-2013. The calendar mirrors the "regional calendar" in several ways: common PD days on Nov. 6 and March 28; common Thanksgiving, December and April vacation weeks; and a common start of the February break. The mirror departs from the "regional calendar" in the following ways: school on Veterans Day; four (4) half days for local PD; parent conference days; and a full week for February break. The ELPS Calendar Committee met on several occasions and staff and community input was considered. The Committee recommended an additional half day for parent conferences on May 1, 2013, but the recommendation of three consecutive half days was not supported by the Superintendent. Concerns were voiced regarding the number of half day sessions and the impact they have on students and parents. Contractual obligations do not allow for additional full days of professional development. The full February break was another concern. Dr. Lombardo will present an alternate calendar at the March 26 Board meeting.

C. Policy

1. Discussion re: First Reading of BOE Policy 5118 – Students – Nonresident Students (Revision)

The policy was discussed by the Policy Review Committee and was presented to the full Board for a first reading. The second reading is scheduled for April 24.

2. Discussion re: First Reading of BOE Policy 5131.9 – Students – Bullying (Revision)

The policy was discussed by the Policy Review Committee and was presented to the full Board for a first reading. The second reading is scheduled for April 24.

3. Discussion re: First Reading of BOE Regulation 5131.9 – Students – Bullying (Revision)

The regulation was discussed by the Policy Review Committee and was presented to the full Board for a first reading. The second reading is scheduled for April 24.

4. Discussion re: First Reading of BOE Policy 5145.122 – Students – Search and Seizure – Use of Dogs to Search School Property (New)

The regulation was discussed by the Policy Review Committee and was presented to the full Board for a first reading. The second reading is scheduled for April 24.

D. Personnel

E. Other

VIII. ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

A. Superintendent of Schools – Dr. James Lombardo

- Congratulations to Dr. Judy DeLeeuw, East Lyme Middle School Principal

- Dr. Lombardo referred to his memo dated 3/12/12 re: A Summary of Program Efficiencies – \$1.5 million savings over last 2 ½ years
 - ELPS District Newsletter – March 2012
 - Secretarial and custodial contract negotiations are underway
- B. Assistant Superintendent of Schools – Mr. Brian Reas
- C. Business/Facilities Director – Mr. Don Meltabarger

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. AAA Committee – Committee Meeting follows regular Board meeting
- B. FFO Committee – Committee Meeting Report of 3/12/12
The HS baseball field project will be completed by June.
- C. Policy Committee – The Committee met on 3/5/12. Additional policies will be brought to the Board.

X. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. CABE Board Leadership Award to East Lyme Board of Education for 2010, 2011
- B. Norwich Regional Adult Education Brochure
- C. NEAS&C letter to HS Principal Michael Susi dated 3/2/12 re: Continuation of ELHS Accreditation
- D. The Viking Saga, Volume 45, Edition 13

XI. NOTICES

- A. Notice of the following staffing changes:
1. Appointments
 - Margaret Burdick, .5 Special Education Long-Term Substitute Teacher, FL, 2/28 – 4/5/12
 - Lauren Sam, .15 After School Aide, NC and .30 After School Aide, MS, 1/3-/12
 2. Reassignments
 3. Increase/Decrease
 - Kelly Piper from .75 to 1.0 Special Education Long-Term Substitute Teacher, 2/27/12 – 4/16/12
 4. Retirements
 5. Resignations
 - Javier Hernandez, .35 After School Aide, FL, 2/10/12
 6. Student Teachers/Interns
 7. Supplemental Assignments (2011-2012)

* not a member of the ELPS professional staff

- B. Notice of the following out of state field trips
1. ELMS students to Sterling Williamstown, MA on Saturday, 3/24/14 to visit the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute
 2. ELHS students to NYC, NY on Monday, 3/26/12 to tour the Museum of Modern Art and the Empire State Building
 3. ELHS students to NYC, NY on Friday, 3/30/12 to accompany Spanish exchange students to visit Ground Zero, Wall Street, etc.

XII. BOARD COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Board Comments
1. Special Board of Finance Meeting, March 28, 2012, 7:00 p.m., EL Town Hall – Budget Reviews
 2. Tim Hagen, Dr. Lombardo, Brian Reas and Rich Steel participated in the *Read Across America* Program
- B. Future Agenda Items
1. Proposed ELPS Calendar for 2012-2013 – 3/26/12
 2. Second Reading of BOE Policies – 4/24/12

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Jaime Barr moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 p.m.; Jill Carini seconded.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully Submitted,
Richard Steel
Richard Steel
Secretary, East Lyme Board of Education