

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

**Board of Education Minutes
Tuesday, May 15, 2012
Regular Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.
INTV Room B101
East Lyme High School**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Board Members Present: Tim Hagen (Chair), Rich Steel (Secretary), Jaime Barr, Al Littlefield, Marlene Nickerson, Pam Rowe, Chris Sandford

Board Members Absent: Jill Carini, Melissa Ford

MOTION: Pam Rowe moved to enter into Executive Session at 6:47 p.m., and to include Dr. Lombardo to discuss personnel issues; Al Littlefield seconded.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

The Board exited Executive Session at 6:57 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING

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

Board Members Absent: Jill Carini, 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), Heather Mileski (Special Education Coordinator), Michael Susi (HS Principal), Dr. Judy DeLeeuw (MS Principal), Melissa DeLoreto (NC Principal), Dr. David Miko (HA Principal), Linda Anania (FL Principal), Dr. Mike Sullivan (Asst. Principal – Coastal Connections), Don Meltabarger (Business/Facilities Director)

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Tim Hagen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Led by Tim Hagen & Rich Steel

Student Spaceflight Experiments Program (SSEP) Presentation

East Lyme Middle School Group Experiment Winners

Lactobacillus acidophilus

Mushroom Growth w/Hydrogen Peroxide

Fighting Mold w/Hydrogen Peroxide

Mariners

Saige Deveau
Grace Foltz
Daven Roberts
Sydney Taylor

Seadogs

Stella Fisher
Rachel Natzel
Jessica Oddi

Seadogs

Noah Barnhart
Brandon Hall
Nicholas Hyde
Makaih Olawale

MS Teachers:

Ms. Carla Weitovich
Ms. Linda Natri
Ms. Deborah Galasso
Mr. Joe Kelly
Mr. Glenn Penkofflidbeck
Ms. Samantha Cregger

Mission Patch Award Winners

First Place

Hannah Goldreich, Grade 4, Niantic Center School
Hannah Scheyder, Grade 6, East Lyme Middle School

III. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION Marlene Nickerson moved approval of minutes of the Board of Education April 24, 2012 Regular Meeting, as presented; Jaime Barr seconded.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

MOTION CARRIED

V. SPECIAL REPORTS

- A. Students' Representative – Sarah Kukich and Kaley Roberts
- AP exams are winding down
 - Recap of Prom Fashion Show, EL Spectacular, and NHS fundraiser
 - Fine Arts Magazine distribution next week
 - Upcoming Physics trip to Six Flags
 - Junior Prom, Saturday, May 19 at Branford House in Groton
 - ELHS Alumni Film Festival, Saturday, May 19, 12:00 – 4:00 p.m., EL Library
 - Girls' Crew Team has qualified for States
 - National Honor Society Fundraiser
- B. Selectmen's Representative
- C. Salem Board of Education Representative – George Jackson
- Salem budget passed for 2012-2013 and full-day Kindergarten will occur
- D. Town Building Committee Representative – Ray O'Connor was present
- E. Other Reporters

VI. CONSENT AGENDA – None

VII. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**A. Finance/Facilities/Community****1. Discussion/action re: Proposed Appointment to the East Lyme Board of Education**

Chairman Tim Hagen opened nominations for the Board of Education position vacated by Laura Greenstein. The term expires December 2, 2013.

MOTION: Rich Steel moved to nominate Elizabeth Groeber to the East Lyme Board of Education for the term through December 2, 2013 as presented; Pam Rowe seconded.

VOTE: **UNANIMOUS** **MOTION CARRIED**

Chairman Tim Hagen called for additional nominations. There were none.

MOTION: Chris Sandford moved to close the nomination; Marlene Nickerson seconded, and the appointment vote followed.

VOTE PRO: Tim Hagen (Chair), Rich Steel (Secretary), Jaime Barr, Al Littlefield, Marlene Nickerson, Pam Rowe

VOTE CON: None

ABSTAIN: Chris Sandford **MOTION CARRIED 6:0:1**

2. Discussion/action re: Proposed Involvement by the East Lyme Town Building Committee with the East Lyme Athletic Complex Project

The Board of Selectmen voted to involve the Town Building Committee during the construction of the East Lyme Athletic Complex project. Dr. Lombardo agreed and recommended that the Board formally request the Town Building Committee's assistance.

MOTION: Chris Sandford moved that the East Lyme Board of Education request the East Lyme Town Building Committee's assistance during the construction of the East Lyme Athletic Complex project; Marlene Nickerson seconded.

VOTE: **UNANIMOUS** **MOTION CARRIED**

3. Discussion re: Proposed ELPS Budget Reduction of \$350,000 as Directed by the Board of Finance for 2012-2013

Dr. Lombardo updated the Board on the suggested reductions to reach the required 2012-2013 budget reduction of \$350,000 directed by the Board of Finance. Pre-purchases in technology equipment, materials and supplies will be considered. The Town Referendum will be held on Thursday, May 24 at the East Lyme Community Center.

4. Discussion/action re: Proposed CT State Department of Education (CSDE) Healthy Food Certification Statement for East Lyme Public Schools for 2012-2013

As in past years, East Lyme Public Schools has elected not to participate in the program because the \$.10 per lunch received from the State of CT would not be sufficient funds to offset the revenue loss.

MOTION: Al Littlefield moved to approve the non-election of the Connecticut State Department of Education Healthy Food Certification Statement for East Lyme Public Schools for the 2012 – 2013 school year as presented; Rich Steel seconded.

VOTE: **UNANIMOUS** **MOTION CARRIED**

B. Instruction

1. Update re: Proposed Expansion of Coastal Connections Program for 2012-2013

Dr. Lombardo formally requested the expansion of the Coastal Connections program. Sufficient out-of-district interest exists to generate tuition paying students. The Carelot building at 315 Flanders Road has room for expansion and no additional staff was requested.

MOTION: Al Littlefield moved to approve the proposed expansion of the East Lyme Public Schools Coastal Connections Program for 2012-2013, enrolling up to five(5) tuition paying students as presented; Jaime Barr seconded.

Discussion/action action was delayed to follow the VII.C.2. Proposed Transition Academy Expansion presentation.

Coastal Connections discussion continued. Program Director Dr. Mike Sullivan and ELHS Principal Mike Susi emphasized the importance of housing the program in a separate and distinct location from ELHS and addressed questions related to program challenges. They also explained the internship process for students and mentors and how the program relates to the proposed expansion of the ELPS Transition Academy for 18-21 year olds with special needs. Concerns were voiced that by accepting out of district students to the Coastal Connections program, East Lyme students might be turned away. Dr. Lombardo recommended the Board approve the expansion of the program to allow the program to move forward.

The motion was amended as follows:

MOTION: Al Littlefield moved to approve the proposed expansion of the East Lyme Public Schools Coastal Connections Program for 2012-2013 for East Lyme students, with the continuation of the Board's close monitoring of the program, and giving Dr. Lombardo the option to return to the Board with future out of district requests; Jaime Barr seconded.

VOTE PRO: Tim Hagen (Chair), Rich Steel (Secretary), Al Littlefield, Marlene Nickerson, Pam Rowe, Chris Sandford

VOTE CON: Jaime Barr

MOTION CARRIED 6:1

2. Proposed Expansion of East Lyme Public Schools Transition Academy for 18-21 Year Olds with Special Needs for 2012-2013

The district has experienced success with its local transition program for 18-21 year old special needs students by contracting the services of a job coach. Assistant Superintendent Brian Reas explained that the district now has the opportunity to better serve students and to generate additional savings by hiring a 0.5 FTE special education teacher and a 1.0 FTE job coach to provide services to 5-6 students previously served by an outside vendor. The estimated cost savings is \$95,000 after the additional staff expenditure and the Carelot rental expansion at 315 Flanders Road.

MOTION: Al Littlefield moved to approve the proposed expansion of the East Lyme Public Schools Transition Academy for 18-21 year olds with special needs for 2012-2013 with the employment of a 1.0 FTE job coach and a 0.5 FTE special education teacher as presented; Pam Rowe seconded.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

MOTION CARRIED

3. Discussion: Proposed Recalculation of Grade Point Average (GPA) and Elimination of Class Rank for East Lyme High School Students Beginning with the Class of 2016 (and Possibly the Class of 2015)

The Board continued discussion on the recommendation to modify the Grade Point Average (GPA) calculation and eliminate class rank at East Lyme High School, beginning with the class of 2016. On April 24, the Board asked the district to explore the possibility of implementing the proposal beginning with the class of 2015, and the potential to bring electives into the weighted system. Principal Susi reported on the positive feedback received from the recent informational meeting for parents of current grade 9 students. A proposal will be presented for discussion/action at the May 29 regular Board meeting.

4. Discussion/action re: Proposed Safe Schools Climate Plan for East Lyme Public Schools
 Dr. Lombardo informed the Board that recent legislation requires all CT School Districts to adjust new anti-bullying policy and regulations. As part of that legislation, each Board of Education is required to review and endorse the Safe School Climate Plan for each of its schools. The AAA Committee has reviewed the draft plan and recommends Board approval.

MOTION: Jaime Barr moved to adopt the Safe School Climate Plan for East Lyme Public Schools dated May 15, 2012, as presented; Chris Sandford seconded.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

MOTION CARRIED

- C. Policy
- D. Personnel
- E. Other

VIII. ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

- A. Superintendent of Schools – Dr. James Lombardo
 Alcohol/Drug Summit was held today with participants First Selectman, ELPD, CT State Police, Child & Family representative, Dave Putnam (ELYouth Services), ELPS administrators, counselors, school psychologist and District Safety Officer Chris Olsen. The purpose of the summit was to share information and perceptions of alcohol/drug use in East Lyme and improve our approaches in dealing with related issues.
- B. Assistant Superintendent of Schools – Mr. Brian Reas
 - Full Day Kindergarten Study Committee Presentation – 5/29/12
 - Summer School Plan Update
 - ELPS Technology Plan – Robyn McKenney continues to expand our horizons
- C. Business/Facilities Director – Mr. Don Meltabarger

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. AAA Committee – Committee Meeting follows regular Board meeting
- B. FFO Committee – Committee oral report of 4/15/12 meeting – Budget transfers, update on EL Athletic Complex, and plan to conduct student survey in June regarding school facilities
- C. Policy Committee
- D. Personnel Policy Committee (Non-certified/Non-affiliated) – Tuesday, May 29, 2012, 6:30 p.m.

X. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Letter of thanks from the EL Senior Center to Dr. Lombardo re: collaborative technology programs with ELHS
- B. Town of East Lyme Long Range Capital Plan Department Requests Draft dated 4/2/12

XI. NOTICES

- A. Notice of the following staffing changes:
 1. Appointments
 2. Retirements
 3. Resignations
 - Kristen Dennis, .45 School Aide, FL, 4/30/12
 - Colleen Gebhard, 1.0 Teaching Assistant, HS, 6/15/12
 4. Supplemental Assignments (2011-2012)
 - Jeff Handler, Women's Asst. Athletic Director, HS
 - Adam Opsahl, Boys' Lacrosse Volunteer Coach, HS, not a member of the ELPS professional staff

- B. Notice of the following out of state field trips:
1. ELHS students to Fisher's Island, NY on Wednesday, 5/9/12 to participate in the Fisher's Island Golf Tournament
 2. ELHS students to NYC, NY on Tuesday, 5/22/12 to visit the Metropolitan Museum of Art

XII. BOARD COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Board Comments
1. AAA and FFO Committee Meeting times will be alternated – Jaime Barr
 2. Dr. Lombardo and those who attended the Town Meeting were thanked - Tim Hagen
 3. Dr. Lombardo was commended in responding to questions posed at the Town Meeting – Tim Hagen
- B. Future Agenda Items
1. Full Day Kindergarten Study Committee Presentation – 5/29/12
 2. Discussion/action re: Proposed Recalculation of Grade Point Average (GPA) and Elimination of Class Rank
 3. Discussion re: Recess and Lunch Time (at the request of Melissa Ford)
 4. Program Report on Special Education (at the request of Melissa Ford)

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Jaime Barr moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 p.m.; Al Littlefield seconded.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

MOTION CARRIED

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