

EAST LYME BOARD OF EDUCATION
East Lyme, Connecticut

Tuesday, May 28, 2013
Regular Board Meeting: 7:00 p.m.
Room B101 (INTV Room)
East Lyme High School

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Board Members Present: Tim Hagen (Chair), Jaime Barr Shelburn (Secretary), Candice Carlson, Melissa Ford, Carolyn Nee (arrived 7:05 and left at 8:45 p.m.), Marlene Nickerson (arrived at 7:30 p.m.), Pam Rowe, Chris Sandford

Board Members Absent: Al Littlefield and Jill Carini

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

- I. CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Tim Hagen
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Led by Tim Hagen and Kaley Roberts
- III. PUBLIC COMMENT**
 1. Dick Waterman, 11 Lake Ave ext, member of the 20/20 Town Committee, shared his suggestions on how to facilitate town facility needs.
 2. Linda Johansen, HS teacher, was disappointed that health insurance was not on any of the Board agendas tonight. She expressed concerns that AETNA insurance coverage is not substantially equal to the present coverage, AETNA may have significantly underbid which will result in future increases, and the answers to many union questions have not been provided.
 3. Gil Gallant, ELTA President, voiced AETNA concerns regarding claim denial statistics and stop loss issues.
 4. Maia Vargas, 18 Pontiac Dr, spoke in support of the Coastal Connections Program and encouraged the Board to be forward thinking when discussing space for the Coastal Connections Program and the 18-21 year old Transition Program.
 5. Dave Rhodes, 26 North Rd, spoke of the educational awards of East Lyme. He made note to an unprofessional comment made by a Board member regarding Niantic Center School. He urged the Board to consider the best options for elementary schools, not just based on costs and without bias.

CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF BOARDS OF EDUCATION (CABE)
STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD WINNERS

Daniel Gage, Grade 12
Kaley Roberts, Grade 12

GOVERNOR'S SCHOLAR

Unni Kurumbail, Grade 11

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Candice Carlson moved approval of minutes of the Board of Education May 14, 2013 Regular Meeting as presented); Marlene Nickerson seconded.

VOTE PRO: Tim Hagen (Chair), Jaime Barr Shelburn (Secretary), Candice Carlson, Melissa Ford, Marlene Nickerson, Chris Sandford

ABSTAIN: Carolyn Nee, Pam Rowe

MOTION CARRIED

V. SPECIAL REPORTS

- A. Students' Representative – Kaley Roberts
 - Orchestra and choir groups earned platinum awards in a recent adjudication
 - Upcoming events include, NHS Handball Tournament, Senior Dinner Dance, Senior Prom, NHS Race for the Cure
- B. Selectmen's Representative – Mark Nickerson
 - Budget referendum passed
 - Town has completed the purchase of the Samuel Smith House on Plants Dam Road
 - Amtrak Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for last part of boardwalk, accessing at Cini Park, on June 7
 - Celebrate East Lyme, July 20
 - Town wide Clambake, June 14, tickets available at EL Parks and Recreation
- C. Salem Board of Education Representative – George Jackson was present.
- D. Town Building Committee Representative
- E. Other Reporters

VI. CONSENT AGENDA - None

VII. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

- A. Finance/Facilities/Community
 - 1. Discussion re: Adolescent Substance Abuse Prevention (ASAP) Community Coalition Presentation
At the Board's request, East Lyme Youth Services Director Sarah Butterfield gave a presentation on the Adolescent Substance Abuse Prevention (ASAP) Community Coalition and reviewed the April 2012 East Lyme Youth Drug and Alcohol Survey. The mission of the ASAP Coalition is to work as a community to adopt strategies that identify, reduce, and prevent substance abuse amongst our community's youth. Sarah highlighted positive and negative trends of our youth and gave examples of what ASAP is doing to stop adolescent drug use. She asked the Board to provide a representative to regularly attend the ASAP meetings, to disseminate information to parents and students about ASAP through the schools, and to approve the 2014 survey request to continue to track 7-12 grade alcohol and drug use.
 - 2. Discussion/action re: Budget Reductions for FY 2014
Dr. Lombardo shared his May 28, 2013 revised recommendation for achieving the \$650,000 reduction in the FY 14 budget and stated the list is expected to change within the next two weeks due to staffing changes, retirements and reductions through attrition. Discussion ensued regarding the proposed elimination of the elementary Spanish program and the difficulty in growing the program with the current elementary time constraints. Support was heard for maintaining the ELHS Marching Band Program and for providing after school opportunities in foreign language for elementary students. Board members were asked to forward thoughts and questions to Dr. Lombardo. Board action is expected at the next meeting.
 - 3. Discussion re: Update on District Actions Regarding School Security
Dr. Lombardo continued to update the Board on district actions regarding school security. Final upgrades for summer are being planned. Administrators spent one half day reviewing the safety plan with Chris Olsen. Based on his most recent reading of the state's budget, Dr. Lombardo does not expect East Lyme will receive security funds next year.

4. Discussion re: Update on Xiangjiang High School Cooperative Agreement with East Lyme High School
Dr. Lombardo and ELHS math teacher Linda Johansen recently participated in a Skype conference with China. Jeff Drew, the ELPS Chinese Language and Cultural Summer Camp Director, will travel to Xiangjiang High School this week to speak to officials about the East Lyme High School program.

- B. Instruction
- C. Personnel
- D. Policy

VIII. ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

- A. Superintendent of Schools – Dr. James Lombardo
 - 2013 ELPS Stars Recognition Ceremony, Monday, June 3, 5:45 – 6:45 p.m., Frances Ewers Library, ELHS
- B. Assistant Superintendent of Schools – Brian Reas
 - MS and HS concerts were fabulous!
 - Upcoming Memorial Day events at the schools
- C. Business/Facilities Director – Mr. Don Meltabarger had no report

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. AAA Committee
- B. FFO Committee – oral report of 6:00 p.m. meeting
- C. Policy Review Committee – oral report of 4:15 p.m. meeting

X. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. The Viking Saga, Volume 46, Edition 17

XI. NOTICES

- A. Notice of the following staffing changes:
 1. Appointments
 - Amy D’Anna, 1.0 Language Arts Long Term Substitute Teacher, MS, 5/10/13 – 6/21/13
 2. Reassignments
 - Peter Coombs from 1.0 Custodian, MS to 1.0 Head Custodian, FL, 5/13/13
 3. Increases/Decreases
 4. Retirements
 - Stowell Burnham, 1.0 Head Custodian, MS, 7/12/13
 5. Resignations
 6. Supplemental Appointments (2012-2013 SY):

- XII.** Notice of the following out of state field trips: None at this time

XIII. BOARD COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Board Comments
- B. Future Agenda Items
 1. Exit interview process for administrators
 2. Extra-curricular club presentations – requested by Melissa Ford
 3. Discussion re: Redistricting – Al Littlefield
 4. Board Liaison to Schools – Carolyn Nee

XIV. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Marcie Cunningham, 12 Morton St, expressed concerns that AETNA is not substantially equal or better than the current insurance plan. She encouraged the Board to choose a carrier based on proven quality.
2. John Arnold, 99 Sleepy Hollow Rd, encouraged the Board to look at elementary facilities needs with a comprehensive review. He asked the Board to consider the true needs of the students and what makes sense for the town.

3. Bill Derry, 212 Pennsylvania Ave, suggested more work be done by the ELPS Facilities Vision Committee to determine how to best meet needs of current and future programs within the town. He encouraged the Board to hire an architect and to move forward.
4. Laurie Barry, Curriculum Instructional Leader and HS teacher, thanked the Board for its support of the foreign language program and asked the Board to consider reinstating the elementary Spanish program in the district.

The Board took a short break at 9:08 p.m.

XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Chris Sandford moved to enter into Executive Session at 9:09 p.m. and to include the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent to discuss personnel matters, pending litigation and negotiations; Pam Rowe seconded.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

MOTION CARRIED

The Board exited Executive Session at 9:44 p.m.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Pam Rowe moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:44 p.m.; Chris Sandford seconded.

UNANIMOUS

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully Submitted,
Jaime Barr Shelburn
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 Secretary, East Lyme Board of Education