

EAST LYME BOARD OF EDUCATION
East Lyme, Connecticut

MINUTES OF
ACADEMICS, ATHLETICS AND ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, May 11, 2010
Room B101, East Lyme High School
7:30 p.m.

Members Present: Mary Broderick (Co-Chair), Laura Greenstein (Co-Chair), Jaime Ellis,
Melissa Ford

Members Excused: Al Littlefield

Administrators Present: Dr. James Lombardo (Superintendent), Mr. Wayne Sweeney (Assistant
Superintendent for Special Education and Pupil Personnel), Dr. Karen
Costello (Administrator for Program Improvement), Jeff Provost (Interim
High School Principal)

The meeting began at 7:32 p.m.

1. Race to the Top (RTTT) Update and Possible Reconsideration (moved from item 3 to item 1 without objection) - Dr. Lombardo explained that the CT Department of Education has revised its financial commitment to school districts by allocating more of the projected grant pool to schools. As a result, if CT succeeds in securing a RTTT grant from the US Department of Education, East Lyme is estimated to receive \$188,000 during the 4-year grant period, rather than the original \$48,000 allocation. Fifteen districts have given tentative commitment to pooling funds and working together with LEARN to provide professional development for our district administrators and staff; however, the consortium will not be available to us without the district's formal involvement. The state legislature has passed new bills that will require CT school districts to develop and implement many of the federally mandated goals of the RTTT grant to include revised teacher and principal evaluation systems, adoption of federal standards, and participation in all data collection and analysis processes. Dr. Lombardo and Wayne Sweeney expressed their strong belief that reform is coming whether or not East Lyme chooses to participate, and signing on will provide the district with a voice at the table. If East Lyme chooses to participate, we will have 90 days to work with our LEARN partners to develop our plan, maintaining the option to withdraw from the federal plan during this time. Dr. Lombardo asked the committee to support his signature on the MOU which will allow him to explore the possibilities of a consortium for the district's benefit while keeping the Board informed of his progress. The MOU signing deadline is May 19. Much discussion ensued and concerns were voiced regarding the philosophy and direction of both No Child Left Behind (NCLB) and RTTT. The committee's consensus was to support Dr. Lombardo's signature on the Phase II RTTT MOU based on the information they have at this time, presenting it to the full Board for further discussion/action.
2. U-Drive Solution – Dr. Lombardo explained that while the network firm has continued to work to restore high school information to the new drive, we have realized that hundreds of documents for which no hard copies exist, were lost. These documents include teacher unit and lesson plans, presentations, worksheets, learning packets for students, and letters of recommendation. Many documents prepared and revised by

teachers over the years are permanently lost and irretrievable. After meeting with teacher representatives at the high school and discussing it with Acting Principal Jeff Provost, the following plan is proposed to assist our teachers with the enormous task of reconstructing lost learning tools.

The plan calls for the teachers to be provided with four (4) days of time to accomplish some of the task. For many, the time is not enough, but these four (4) days will at least provide a “good faith” beginning for the task at hand. The plan is as follows:

1. Start the final exam week one day earlier, June 10, instead of June 11.
2. Cancel the last two school days for high school students, June 17 and June 18. Normally, June 17 was a make-up day for exams, and June 18 was a half day for locker clean-up, etc. This action will require a formal board vote on May 24. It still permits the legally required 180 school days and the required hours of instruction.
3. Schedule two of the August in-service days as “work days” for high school teachers, rather than the usual one day of professional development and one day of preparation time.
4. Modify next year’s calendar to allow high school teachers to have their 1.5 professional development time on November 3 and April 28 and 29. Currently these are scheduled as half days for elementary and middle school parent conferences, and as full days for high school students and staff. The change will create half days for all staff and students on those three days, and will allow high school teachers the opportunity to receive professional development for three half-days.

Dr. Lombardo explained that while having to make these changes is regrettable, the plan represents a reasonable effort to recognize the enormous loss of learning tools that the U-Drive failure has created and asked for the committee’s support.

The plan will be presented to the full Board at an upcoming Special Meeting on Monday, May 17.

3. Review EL BOE Policy 3240 Business/Tuition (moved from item 1 to item 3 without objection) – Dr. Lombardo provided two calculation formulas (Option 1 - inclusive of debt services and Option 2 present formula) as requested by the committee during the April 20 meeting. The committee agreed to support Option 1 which will be presented to the Board on May 24.
4. Board Professional Planning (Book Discussion “Drive” by Author Daniel Pink)
Tabled until the next committee meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Broderick
Mary Broderick
Co-Chair

Laura Greenstein
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Co-Chair