

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

**East Lyme Board of Education Minutes
Monday, February 14, 2011
Regular Board Meeting: 7:00 p.m.
Room B101 (INTV Room)
East Lyme High School**

Board Members Present: Tim Hagen (Chair), Beth Groeber (Secretary), Jaime Barr, Mary Broderick, Melissa Ford, Laura Greenstein Al Littlefield, Marlene Nickerson, Kevin Seery, Rich Steel

Administrators Present: Dr. James Lombardo (Superintendent), Brian Reas (Assistant Superintendent), Dr. Karen Costello (Administrator for Program Improvement), Linda Anania (FL Principal), David Miko (HA Principal), Judy DeLeeuw (MS Principal), Rod Mosier (MS Asst. Principal), Rich Chocolate (MS Asst. Principal), Michael Susi (HS Principal), Jason Bitgood (HS Alt. Ed. Asst. Principal), Kim Davis (Special Education Coordinator), Gina Olearczyk (Special Education Coordinator), Melissa DeLoreto (NC Principal), Don Meltabarger (Business/Facilities Director), Nancy Burdick (Business Manager)

I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:00 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by Judy Engel and Tim Hagen

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Alison Woods, 4 Ferro Court, encouraged the Board to move forward in a timely way with the East Lyme Athletic Complex Project.
2. Judy Engel, Spring Rock Road, encouraged the Board to move forward in a timely way with the East Lyme Athletic Complex Project and noted that she and other community members are ready and willing to help.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Al Littlefield moved approval of the minutes of the Board of Education Regular Meeting on January 24, 2011 as presented; Marlene Nickerson seconded.

VOTE PRO: Tim Hagen, Jaime Barr, Mary Broderick, Melissa Ford, Laura Greenstein, Al Littlefield, Marlene Nickerson, Kevin Seery, Rich Steel

ABSTAIN: Beth Groeber

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: Al Littlefield moved approval of the minutes of the Board of Education Public Hearing on January 31, 2011 as presented; Laura Greenstein seconded.

VOTE PRO: Tim Hagen, Jaime Barr, Mary Broderick, Laura Greenstein, Al Littlefield, Marlene Nickerson, Kevin Seery, Rich Steel

ABSTAIN: Melissa Ford, Beth Groeber

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: Al Littlefield moved approval of the minutes of the Board of Education Special Meeting on January 31, 2011 as presented; Jaime Barr seconded.

VOTE PRO: Tim Hagen, Jaime Barr, Mary Broderick, Laura Greenstein, Al Littlefield, Marlene Nickerson, Kevin Seery, Rich Steel

ABSTAIN: Melissa Ford, Beth Groeber

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: Al Littlefield moved approval of the minutes of the Board of Education Special Meeting on February 7, 2011 as presented; Marlene Nickerson seconded.

VOTE PRO: Tim Hagen, Beth Groeber, Jaime Barr, Melissa Ford, Al Littlefield, Marlene Nickerson, Rich Steel

ABSTAIN: Mary Broderick, Laura Greenstein, Kevin Seery

MOTION CARRIED

V. SPECIAL REPORTS: STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVES, SELECTMEN'S REPRESENTATIVE, and OTHER REPORTERS

A. Students' Representative – Jen Cordero and Sara Kukich

- Winter Ball was successful
- Sports update
- National Honor Society's HS Valentine's Day Carnation Sale Fundraiser for Scholarship was successful
- National Honor Society will have a Relay for Life Team on May 14-15 and for donations contact Jen or Mr. Kydd
- Eric DeLea continues to be in the running for the Sons' of American Revolution Contest
- Amy Whitehouse was the first place winner of the Veterans of Foreign Wars *Voice of Democracy* contest with second place awarded to Sarah Cunningham and third place awarded to Nicholas Kovalanka, all ELHS seniors
- French Honor Society Mardi Gras Dinner Fundraiser to the Haitian Health Foundation
- Senior dues are due
- The dates for the next drama production, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, are March 4&5 and 11&12

Mary Broderick commended students for the high school advanced placement results. Dr. Lombardo reported significant improvement, noting that 88% of the tests taken received a score of 3 or higher and East Lyme was among the top few high schools in CT.

B. Selectman's Representative – First Selectman Paul Formica

- Budgets are being compiled
- Shoveling roofs
- Negotiations have ceased on Mobil station, in best interest of Town of East Lyme
- Board was commended on feasibility study, important step in process as part of 20/20 Town study
- Acknowledged receipt of Dr. Lombardo's letter to move the EL Athletic Complex Project forward and fully expect to analyze the request at one of the next meetings
- Working on developing bonding process to repair, etc. facilities without effecting taxes
- Outlined process for developing 5, 10, 15, 20 year capital plan and stressed the importance of putting together a plan to evaluate and bond those items with immediate needs
- Determine needs and fold school needs into the capital plan
- Accomplish many or all projects in a thoughtful, comprehensive and prudent fashion
- Asked that a Board representative work with the 20/20 Committee to fold the feasibility study into the capital plan
- Emphasized the importance of getting the community onboard and buying into these projects

- C. Town Building Committee Representative – Gerard Burkhardt was not present
- D. Salem Board of Education Representative – Stephen Buck was not present.
- E. Other Reporters - None

VI. CONSENT AGENDA - None

VII. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Finance/Facilities/Community

1. Discussion re: Presentation of Proposed East Lyme Athletic Complex Fund Raising Plan

Judy Engel and Alison Woods were publicly thanked for their time, effort and energy with the EL Athletic Complex Fund Raising Project. Judy presented the committee's outline of guiding principles for the fundraising structure, goals, timeline and donor recognition. Alison Woods spoke on behalf of the Community Foundation of Eastern CT and the role it would play in the proposed fundraising plan. The Board acknowledged the huge opportunity of interface with such a well established organization and agreed the project is well positioned to move forward. The plan was referred to the FFO Committee and will return for further discussion at an upcoming Board meeting.

2. Discussion re: Presentation of ELPS Feasibility Study

Kaestle Boos was contracted to conduct a feasibility study of the ELPS facilities with the purpose of providing the Board with a clear picture for the next decade and to see how it fits into the capital plan. Kaestle Boos representatives Brian Solywoda and Ben Monroe gave a PowerPoint presentation that outlined major findings, existing facilities upgrades and options on how to address the needs. An area of urgency not previously noted in the five year capital plan was the replacement of a brick wall in the music wing at the high school with an estimated cost of \$153,000. State funding, reimbursement, consolidated services and facilities, and green options were discussed. First Selectman Formica requested that a similar presentation be made to the EL 20/20 Committee. The study is available at the Central Office. The study was referred to the FFO Committee for further discussion on March 14.

3. Discussion re: Proposed ELPS 2010-2011 Budget Update

Dr. Lombardo and Don Meltabarger reported that several discretionary spending accounts have been frozen in the current budget until costs for implementing new special education programs have been finalized.

4. Discussion/action re: Proposed ELPS Budget for 2011-2012

Dr. Lombardo presented a revised list of proposed reductions bringing the proposed 2011-2012 budget to reflect a 2.93% increase over the current year. Staffing reductions included two teaching positions and three paraprofessional positions which are expected to be absorbed through attrition. Further reductions included instructional equipment, technology support and other contracted services. Approximately \$10,000 less will be spent on maintenance projects and \$30,000 less on special education transportation costs. Health insurance costs remained unchanged resulting in a \$275,000 savings. Special education questions were raised regarding staffing and caseloads and internal and external evaluation costs. The proposed budget will be presented to the Board of Selectmen on March 2 at 6:30 p.m. and to the Board of Finance on March 30.

MOTION: Kevin Seery moved adoption of the ELPS 2011-2012 Budget in the amount of \$41,089,104, a 2.93 percent increase over the current year, as presented; Al Littlefield seconded.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

MOTION CARRIED

B. Instruction

C. Personnel

1. Discussion/action re: Recommendation of Personnel Policy Committee (Certified Staff) re: Early Retirement Incentive Plan Option of ELPS Certified Staff

The Personnel Policy Committee (Certified Staff) explored various early retirement incentive plans and options for teachers and administrators. Given the retirement demographics, the committee elected not to

recommend an early retirement plan this year. The Board thanked the committee for a thorough analysis. No action was taken.

- D. Policy
- E. Other

VIII. ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

- A. Superintendent of Schools – Dr. James Lombardo
 - Requested an unscheduled executive session of the Board to discuss a pupil personnel issue
 - Thanked the custodial and maintenance staff for snow removal
- B. Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Pupil Personnel – Mr. Brian Reas
 - Looking forward to reading to students at the FL Starry Story Night on February 15
 - Appreciated the Chinese New Year Parade of Flanders students
 - Special Education Steering Committee update
- C. Business/Facilities Director – Mr. Don Meltabarger had no report.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS - None

X. COMMUNICATIONS - None

XI. NOTICES

- A. Notice of the following 2010/2011 staffing changes:
 1. Appointments
 - Laura Frausini, 1.0 Family and Consumer Sciences Teacher, HS, 2/28/11
 - Christine Greeley, 1.0 Instructional Aide, HS, 1/31/11
 - Justin Miele, .6 Instructional Aide (Alt Ed Program), HS, 1/11/11
 - Michelle Mulcrone, .5 After School Aide, MS, 2/7/11
 - Laura Tiffany, 1.0 Long Term Substitute Teacher (Medically Fragile Program), DW @ MS, 2/7/11 – end of the 2010-2011 SY
 2. Increases (FTE)/Reassignments
 3. Retirements
 4. Resignations
 - Javier Hernandez, .45 School Aide, FL, 1/19/11
 - Laura Tiffany, 1.0 Instructional Aide, HA, 2/4/11
- B. Notice of the following out of state field trips/athletic competitions
 1. ELHS students to Six Flags New England, Agawam, MA on Friday, May 13, 2011

XII. BOARD COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Board Comments
 1. Jaime Barr reminded the Board of the Niantic Center School Winter Carnival, March 5th
- B. Future Agenda Items
 2. Proposed ELPS 2011-2012 Calendar – Feb 28

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Alison Woods, 4 Ferro Court, spoke in support of centralized facilities and noted the importance of the 20/20 Town Vision Committee working with the education department. Although she thinks 1, 5, 10, 20 year plans are great, she voiced concerns regarding the length of time it takes to move things forward and suggested a timeline be set. She encouraged the Board to keep committee members and the Board well informed of EL Athletic Complex progress.
2. Bob Gadbois, 358 Boston Post Road, voiced concerns regarding the justification of a budget increase at a time when there is a decrease in student enrollment, building maintenance practices, and artificial turf concerns.

The Board took a short recess at 9:35 p.m.

IVX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Al Littlefield moved enter into executive session at 9:40 p.m., to include the Superintendent, to discuss student personnel issues; Jaime Barr seconded.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

MOTION CARRIED

The Board exited executive session at 9:48 p.m.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Al Littlefield moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:48 p.m.; Kevin Seery seconded.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully Submitted,
Beth Groeber
Beth Groeber, Secretary
East Lyme Board of Education