

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

**Board of Education Special Meeting Minutes  
Monday, January 31, 2011  
Approximately 8:00 p.m. (Immediately following Public Hearing)  
INTV Room (B101)  
East Lyme High School**

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

**Board Members Absent:** Melissa Ford, Beth Groeber

**Administrators Present:** Dr. James Lombardo (Superintendent), Brian Reas (Assistant Superintendent), Dr. Karen Costello (Administrator for Program Improvement), Gina Olearczyk (Special Services Coordinator), Kim Davis (Special Services Coordinator), Michael Susi (HS Principal), Judy Delceuw (MS Principal), Melissa Deloreto (NC Principal), Linda Anania (FL Principal), Dr. David Miko (HA Principal), Jason Bitgood (Asst. Principal HS Alternative Education Program), Don Melbarger (Finance and Facilities Director), Nancy Burdick (Business Manager)

**I. CALL TO ORDER – 8:25 p.m.**

**II. DISCUSSION**

**1. Presentation/Discussion re: Proposed Changes in the ELHS Alternative Education Program**

Assistant Principal Jason Bitgood presented the alternative education program improvement proposal recommended by the ELHS Alternative Education Task Force. In January 2010, the task force was charged with identifying the purposes and goals of the current program, researching best practices in alternative education services and exploring possible collaborative opportunities with other schools and agencies to find a program that provides a rich and exciting equitable learning experience to accommodate our students with different learning styles. The model that appeared to be the most appropriate for East Lyme was the Big Picture Program. The program is focused on establishing meaningful relationships with students, identifying students' interests and passions, and emerging them in work within the community, maximized potential and sustainable engagement for life-long learning. The suggested name of the East Lyme program is Coastal Connections High School. The average per student cost in the present ELHS program is \$22,000, and does not include additional high school services. The average per student model cost is \$14,000. The suggested name of the East Lyme program is Coastal Connections High School.

**2. Discussion re: Proposed ELPS Budget for 2011-2012**

Dr. Lombardo asked the Board to provide him with a modified bottom line budget percentage and states that a budget reduction of 4% or below will result in reduction in staff. The importance of keeping staff informed was noted. Six teacher retirements were acknowledged. A subcommittee of the Board is exploring possible retirement incentive plan options. Contractual obligations and rising costs in health benefits were discussed. Discussion ensued regarding the anticipated decrease in enrollment of approximately 88 students, revenue for facilities usage, and "pay for play."

acknowledging that parents currently contribute for extra curricular activities. More information was requested regarding the proposed social worker position and capital improvement projects. Dr. Lombardo noted that the feasibility study results may be delayed. On February 7, Dr. Lombardo will present the Board with budget proposals at just less than 4% and at approximately 3%.

### III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Dr. James D. Lombardo

- Publication of the first edition of the 2010-2011 East Lyme Public Schools Newsletter
- Possible make-up day – April 1, 2011

### IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Mike Schultz, Lovers Lane, posed questions regarding the status of the minimum budget requirement. He spoke in support of the advanced placement program and the potential cost savings by increasing the number of cyber course offerings for high school students. He asked the Board's consideration in fundraising in areas of necessity for the EL Athletic Complex.
2. Karen Rak, 27 Black Point Road, thanked the Board and Jason Bitgood for the Alternative Education presentation and for recognizing that students learn in different ways. She suggested that the program might be better off outside of the public school system.
3. Kevin Seery, BOE member, stated that the ELHS graduation date will be set at the Special BOE Meeting on April 4, 2011.

### V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

**MOTION:** Marlene Nickerson moved enter into executive session, to include the Superintendent, to discuss personnel issues; Al Littlefield seconded.

**VOTE:** UNANIMOUS

**MOTION CARRIED**

The Board exited executive session at 10:13 p.m.

### VI. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION:** Al Littlefield moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:13 p.m.; Jaime Barr seconded.

**VOTE:** UNANIMOUS

**MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully submitted,

*Jaime Barr/lls*

Jaime Barr, Acting Secretary  
East Lyme Board of Education