

EAST LYME BOARD OF EDUCATION
East Lyme, Connecticut

Board of Education Special Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 1, 2010
Room B101 (INTV Room), East Lyme High School

Board Members Present: Tim Hagen (Chair), Elizabeth Groeber (Secretary), Jaime Ellis, Melissa Ford, Laura Greenstein, Al Littlefield, Marlene Nickerson, Kevin Seery

Board Members Absent: Mary Broderick, Rich Steel

Administrators Present: Dr. James Lombardo (Superintendent), Dr. Karen Costello (Administrator for Program Improvement), Jeff Provost (HS Assistant Principal, Laurie Zaneski (HS Assistant Principal), Judy DeLeeuw (MS Principal), Rich Chocolate (MS Assistant Principal), Linda Anania (FL Principal), Melissa Deloreto (NCS Principal), Don Meltabarger (Business/Facilities Director) and Nancy Burdick (Business Manager)

Convened at 6:03 p.m. in the ELHS Main Office conference room.

MOTION: Kevin Seery moved to enter into executive session for the purpose of conducting the special education coordinator candidate interview; Al Littlefield seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION CARRIED

I. RECONVENED - Moved from the Main Office conference room to Room B101 (INTV Room) and reconvened at 7:30 p.m.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike Schultz, Lovers Lane, thanked former Chair Kevin Seery for his many years of service to the Board. He also thanked all Board members for their unselfish service and offered his congratulations to Board Chair Tim Hagen. He welcomed Dr. Lombardo as Superintendent of Schools and applauded him for bringing cost saving plans to the district and holding administrator and teacher salaries for the upcoming year. He asked Dr. Lombardo and the Board to terminate donations earmarked for special programs and to appropriate the donations into a general fund to be used at the superintendent's discretion. Mr. Schultz asked the Board to implement a 100% "pay for play" policy in athletics and the same for participation in the Advanced Placement (AP) program at the high school. He requested reassessment of the policy regarding payment to administrators who opt out of health insurance and asked that the Board not provide health insurance for spouses who are insurable by their own employer.

Tim Hagen welcomed Mark Nickerson as the Selectman's Representative to the Board for the month of February.

III. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Discussion re: 2010/2011 Superintendent's Proposed Budget

In response to the Board's request to reduce the 2010/2011 budget from 3.5% to 2.0%, Dr. Lombardo outlined his proposal to reduce the previously proposed budget by \$601,166 to reach 1.97% with an additional \$250K in reductions still to be identified. The four areas primarily driving the budget include rising costs in both health benefits and special education, loss of Title I funding, and staffing (savings from breakage which were overestimated last year). Staff reductions will occur in the areas of paraprofessionals (10) and certified teaching staff (3). Adding back the three teaching positions would increase the budget to 2.38%. In response to Board questions, administrators provided information regarding the effectiveness of the High School Virtual Learning Academy, cost saving predictions for in-house student evaluations and the necessity of providing professional development opportunities for teachers. Noted was an expected drop in student enrollment at the high school. Tim Hagen expressed his appreciation to administrators, faculty and paraprofessionals for their cooperation in holding salaries for the upcoming year. Dr. Lombardo has received information from staff members to identify areas which would significantly reduce the budget and provide future cost savings to the district. Questions and concerns should be forwarded to Dr. Lombardo or Don Meltabarger. The Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee will meet at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, February 8 to examine options for adopting the budget. The regular meeting will follow.

B. Discussion/action re: Proposed Appointment of 1.0 Special Education Coordinator

The Board held interviews prior to the meeting.

MOTION: Kevin Seery moved to authorize the superintendent to negotiate a contract with Gina Olearczyk for the position of 1.0 Special Education Coordinator for East Lyme Public Schools; Al Littlefield seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION CARRIED

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Mike Schultz, Lovers Lane, asked if the district has an alumni program and offered to provide the Board with an example plan. He also sited a Sunday, January 31 *Day* article purporting the consolidation of town services.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Kevin Seery moved for the Board to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m.; Al Littlefield seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Groeber, Secretary
East Lyme Board of Education