

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

**Board of Education Special Meeting Minutes
Public Hearing
Monday, January 30, 2012
7:00 p.m.
East Lyme High School Auditorium**

Board Members Present: Tim Hagen (Chair), Rich Steel (Secretary), Jaime Barr, Jill Carini, Melissa Ford, Laura Greenstein, Al Littlefield, Marlene Nickerson, Pam Rowe, Chris Sandford

Board Members Absent: None

Administrators Present: Dr. James Lombardo (Superintendent), Brian Reas (Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Pupil Personnel), Dr. Karen Costello (Administrator for Program Improvement), Kim Davis (Special Education Coordinator), Heather Mileski (Special Education Coordinator), Don Meltabarger (Business/Facilities Director), Linda Anania (FL Principal), Dr. David Miko (HA Principal), Melissa DeLoreto (NC Principal), Judy DeLeeuw (MS Principal), Jason Bitgood (MS Asst. Principal), Jeff Provost (HS Asst. Principal), Nancy Burdick (Business Manager)

I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:03 p.m. by Chair Tim Hagen

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by Tim Hagen and Dr. Lombardo

III. ITEM ITEMS

A. Presentation on the 2012/2013 Board of Education Draft Budget

Dr. Lombardo gave a PowerPoint presentation of the draft 2012/2013 Board of Education budget. The total budget of \$42,041,219 is a 3.82% increase over the current budget. Salary and benefit changes represent 3.2 of the 3.8% budget increase. The reduction of 4.0 teachers is due to a decline in enrollment and is expected to be absorbed through retirements. Some reallocation of funding is necessary to cover staffing positions funded by a two-year federal jobs grant which is no longer available. Major increases include salaries, custodial overtime, and unemployment. The increase in supplemental salaries is due to under budgeting in 2011-2012. Cost control and program modifications include reduction in special education tuition due to program changes, reduction in fuel costs due to natural gas conversion at HA, MS and HS, reduction in projects to reflect shift to service contracts and 2011-2012 work, and reduction in legal fees. Initiatives deferred include full day kindergarten pilot, new World Languages, and the development of funds/resources for the Capstone Project. The district has realized a steady cost savings in special education tuition by bringing students back from outside placements and providing successful programs in district. Dr. Lombardo noted the average increase in budget growth over the past four years is 1.69%. The Board will continue discussion and deliberations and has until February 27 to adopt a final budget proposal to forward to the Board of Finance. Dr. Lombardo and Tim Hagen invited the public to submit

questions and comments to elps.budget@eastlymeschools.org. The PowerPoint presentation, budget questions, clarifications and replies will continue to be posted to the website.

B. Receive public comment relative to the 2012-2013 school district budget

1. Mike Schultz, Lover's Lane, thanked Dr. Lombardo for the budget presentation and Board members for their voluntary services. He commended the Board for negotiations of the administrators' contract, but noted a concern regarding the health benefit option. He asked the Board to consider a potential savings in longevity payments as other contracts are negotiated and to hold the line on supplemental salaries for extracurricular activities. He noted his appreciation of the 0% increase in salaries for 2010-2011 and the positive direction in salary changes. He thanked all involved for a "reasonable budget."

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Jaime Barr moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m.; Pam Rowe seconded.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Steel
Richard Steel, Secretary
East Lyme Board of Education