

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

**Board of Education Minutes
Tuesday, April 24, 2012
Regular Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.
INTV Room B101
East Lyme High School**

REGULAR MEETING

Board Members Present: Tim Hagen (Chair), Rich Steel (Secretary), Jaime Barr, Jill Carini, Melissa Ford, Al Littlefield, Marlene Nickerson Pam Rowe, Christopher 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), Dr. Judy DeLeeuw (MS Principal), Melissa DeLoreto (NC Principal), David Miko (HA Principal), Michael Susi (HS Principal), Linda Anania (FL Principal), Don Meltabarger (Business/Facilities Director)

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chair Tim Hagen called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by Tim Hagen and Ray Hart

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Sarbari Rayi, 52 Webster Road, raised concerns that she and other high school parents have about eliminating class rankings.
2. Ray Hart, Board of Finance Chair, reported on the April 23 Public Hearing and hopes the Board of Education can work with the numbers presented.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION Jaime Barr moved approval of minutes of the Board of Education April 2, 2012 Regular Meeting, as presented; Pam Rowe seconded.

VOTE PRO: Tim Hagen (Chair), Jaime Barr, Melissa Ford, Al Littlefield, Marlene Nickerson, Pam Rowe, Chris Sandford

ABSTAIN: Jill Carini, Rich Steel

MOTION CARRIED

V. SPECIAL REPORTS

- A. Students' Representative – Kaley Roberts
- Benefit Concert for CT Children's Medical Center
 - Successful Spring Blood Drive on April 23
 - French Honor Society Induction on April 25, 6:30 p.m.
 - Student Senate Vikeathon on April 28, 4:00 – 9:00 p.m. to benefit the CT Children's Medical Center
 - Dr. Lombardo noted that Kaley Roberts is featured on the introduction to the district website live stream

- B. Selectmen's Representative – Not present
- C. Salem Board of Education Representative – George Jackson
 - Salem Town Meeting is May 2
- D. Town Building Committee Representative
- E. Other Reporters

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Chris Sandford moved to approve the consent agenda as presented (A. Donations to the ELMS to fund the Student Spaceflight Experiments Program (SSEP) as follows: 1) \$6,500 on behalf of the CT Space Grant Consortium; 2) \$2,500 from Dominion; 3) \$1,000 from Pfizer on behalf of Anne Seibel; 4) \$1,000 from Pfizer on behalf of Lori Rhodig; 5) \$1,000 from Pfizer on behalf of Cecilia Fosser; 6) \$1,000 from Pfizer on behalf of Christine Kobryn; 7) \$1,000 from Pfizer on behalf of Gretchen Dean; and 8) \$500 from John Ernst. B. Donation of stained glass pieces to the ELMS Art Department from the Vasiloff Stained Glass Gallery and Gifts valued at \$3,300); Al Littlefield seconded.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

MOTION CARRIED

VII. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Instruction

1. Discussion re: Proposed Recalculation of Grade Point Average (GPA) and the Elimination of Class Rank for ELHS Students Beginning with the Class of 2016

The Board discussed the high school's recommendation to modify the Grade Point Average (GPA) calculation and eliminate class rank, beginning with the class of 2016. Principal Mike Susi explained that a committee of over 25 faculty members has worked over a one-year period reviewing BEST practices of highly performing schools and researching how to best present our students to colleges and universities. The recalibrated GPA calculations will provide a more equitable system with the district reporting both a "simple" GPA, where grades in all classes are worth the same, and a weighted GPA. The simple GPA would include grades in elective courses that are not factored into the weighted GPA. The proposal has been presented to Curriculum Council, the BOE Academics, Athletics and Activities (AAA) Committee, the Salem Board of Education, the ELMS PTA and the parents of current grade 8 students in East Lyme and Salem. An informational letter was sent to parents of elementary and middle school students. Some Board members suggested the district explore the possibility of implementing the proposal beginning with the class of 2015, and the also the potential to bring electives into the weighted system. Principal Susi will brief the parents of the current freshmen class and collect feedback prior to the Board meeting scheduled for May 15.

B. Finance/Facilities/Community

1. Discussion re: Board of Education's 2012-2013 Budget Reduction of \$350,000 Directed by the Board of Finance

Dr. Lombardo presented his initial thoughts on areas that he may be able to reduce to reach the \$350,000 budget reduction directed by the Board of Finance. An additional cut of \$90,800 was made by the Board of Finance at the April 23 public hearing, bringing the 2012-2013 budget to a 1.78% increase over the current year's budget. Reevaluation of the budget will occur over the next few weeks to determine the final recommended reductions based on the most accurate end-of-the year financial information.

2. Discussion re: Announcement of Board of Education Vacancy

Tim Hagen formally announced the resignation of Board member Laura Greenstein. The Democratic Town Committee will recommend a replacement candidate and the Board is expected to appoint her replacement at the next regular Board meeting on May 15. The Board passed along its thanks to Laura for her service and dedication to the Board.

C. Policy

1. Discussion/action re: Second Reading of BOE Policy 5118 – Students – Nonresident Students (Revision)
The first reading was held on March 12, 2012.

MOTION: Jaime Barr moved to revise EL BOE Policy 118 – Students – Nonresident Students as presented: Jill Carini seconded.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

MOTION CARRIED

2. Discussion/action re: Second Reading of BOE Policy 5131.9 – Students – Bullying (Revision)
The first reading was held on March 12, 2012.

MOTION: Jaime Barr moved to revise EL BOE Policy 5131.9 – Students – Bullying as presented: Pam Rowe seconded.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

MOTION CARRIED

3. Discussion/action re: Second Reading of BOE Regulation 5131.9 – Students – Bullying (Revision)
The first reading was held on March 12, 2012.

MOTION: Jaime Barr moved to revise EL BOE Regulation 5131.9 – Students – Bullying as presented: Chris Sandford seconded.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

MOTION CARRIED

4. Discussion/action re: Second Reading of BOE Policy 5145.122 – Students – Search and Seizure – Use of Dogs to Search School Property (New)
The first reading was held on March 12, 2012.

MOTION: Jaime Barr moved to adopt EL BOE Policy 5145.122 – Students – Search and Seizure – Use of Dogs to Search School Property as presented: Al Littlefield seconded.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

MOTION CARRIED

5. Discussion re: First Reading of Board Policy 3542.43 – Business – Food Service – Charging Policy (New)
The new policy was discussed by the Policy Review Committee and was presented to the full Board for a first reading. The second reading is scheduled for May 29, 2012.

6. Discussion re: First Reading of Board Policy 3524.2 (a-b) – Business/Non-Instructional Operations – Hazardous Material in Schools – Green Cleaning Program (New)
The new policy was discussed by the Policy Review Committee and was presented to the full Board for a first reading. The second reading is scheduled for May 29, 2012. Upon approval of the policy, student/parent handbooks will be revised to align with the policy.

7. Discussion re: First Reading of Board Regulation 3524.2 (a-c) – Business/Non-Instructional Operations – Hazardous Material in Schools – Green Cleaning Program (New)
The new regulation was discussed by the Policy Review Committee and was presented to the full Board for a first reading. The second reading is scheduled for May 29, 2012.

8. Discussion re: Board Policy 1325 – Community Relations – Advertising and Promotion
Before proceeding with a change in Board Policy 1325, the Policy Committee asked the full Board to provide their thoughts and ideas on how to make school and athletic field space available to advertising by profit and non-profit organizations. Discussion ensued regarding advertising spaces and boundaries. Board members were asked to email their thoughts to Dr. Lombardo.

- D. Personnel
- E. Other

VIII. ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

- A. Superintendent of Schools – Dr. James Lombardo
 - Dr. Lombardo congratulated Dr. DeLeeuw, MS teachers, students, donators and the judging panel on the outstanding space program held at the MS on April 19th.
 - Tim Hagen and Dr. Lombardo attended the NSBA Annual Conference in Boston last weekend. ELPS Technology Director Robyn McKenney presented at the NSBA Conference
 - Referred to NSBA President Mary Broderick’s letter to President Obama dated April 17, 2012
 - Encouraged Board members to Google Khan Academy
 - Recognized that ELPS faculty and staff donated over \$3,200 to the Bourgeois Family
 - Mentioned his initial thinking of the possible expansion of the Coastal Connections Program – more info to follow
- B. Assistant Superintendent of Schools – Mr. Brian Reas
 - Ideal time to expand the Transitional Vocational Program (18-21 year olds) and house with Coastal Connections Program
 - The Full-Day Kindergarten Study Committee will meet on May 10 at 4:00 p.m. at CO
- C. Business/Facilities Director – Mr. Don Meltabarger
 - Facilities update
 - Possible food service program with EL Senior Center

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. AAA Committee – Next Committee Meeting is 5/15/12
- B. FFO Committee – Next Committee Meeting is 5/15/12
- C. Policy Committee

X. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Letter of Resignation from EL BOE member Laura Greenstein dated 4/12/12
- B. HA Retirement Party Flyer for Linda Bennett and Andrea Sadler on 5/21/12

XI. NOTICES

- A. Notices of the following staffing changes:
 1. Appointments
 - William Evenski, 0.6 English Long Term Substitute Teacher, HS, on or about 4/24/12 – 6/15/12
 2. Retirements
 - Edward Capazzi, 1.0 Science Teacher, HS, 6/30/12
 - Maureen Maiorana, 1.0 Library Assistant, MS, 6/26/12
 3. Resignations
 - Michelle Dean, 1.0 Counselor, HS, 6/30/12
 - David Morgan, 1.0 Special Education Teacher, MS, 6/30/12
- B. Notice of the following out of state field trips:
 1. ELHS students to Lincoln, RI on Saturday, 4/28/12 to visit the Sunset Stables
 2. ELHS students to Cambridge, MA on Thursday, 5/10/12 to tour the Harvard Art Museums
 3. ELMS students to NYC, NY on Tuesday, 6/12/12 to tour the Discover Museum, Bryant Park and the Madam Tussaud Museum

XII. BOARD COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Board Comments
- B. Future Agenda Items
 1. Proposed Recalculation of GPA and Elimination of Class Rank for ELHS Students Beginning with the Class of 2016 (possibility of class of 2015)
 2. ELPS Full Day Kindergarten Committee Presentation – May 29, 2012
 3. Next BOE Meeting is Tuesday, May 15, 2012, 7:00 p.m., Room B101, HS

4. Discussion re: Recess and lunch time – Requested by Melissa Ford
5. Program Report on Special Education – Requested by Melissa Ford

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

The Board took a short break at 10:10 p.m.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Chris Sandford moved to enter into Executive Session at 10:14 p.m. and to include Dr. Lombardo to discuss personnel issues; Jaime Barr seconded.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

The Board exited Executive Session at 10:40 p.m.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Al Littlefield moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:40 p.m.; Jaime Barr seconded.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

MOTION CARRIED

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