

EAST LYME BOARD OF EDUCATION
East Lyme, Connecticut

**MINUTES OF
FINANCE, FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING**

Monday, May 10, 2011
Central Office, Office of the Superintendent
7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Marlene Nickerson (Chair), Beth Groeber (Vice), Rich Steel, Tim Hagen,
Kevin Seery (7:25)

Members Absent: None

Administrators Present: Dr. James Lombardo (Superintendent), Don Meltabarger (Business/Facilities
Services Director), Mike Susi (HS Principal), Nancy Burdick (Business Manager)

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. LBH PTA Playground Equipment Project

Becky Miller and Sonya Mazzulli (LBH PTA President) presented a proposal to use fundraising money for purchase of a playscape for the LBH playground area. It is identical to that already placed at Flanders and is very popular with the students. At \$9,614, the cost is affordable and the total funds are already raised. The equipment is appropriate for ages 5-12 and is Phase I of a two phase plan for revamping the play area. Board approval will be requested at the next Board of Education meeting, May 23rd.

2. Capital Plan Discussion Following May 9 Town Meeting

Several school related items have been included in the long range town capital plan. Following approval by the town boards, bonding of the 2011/12 items will be submitted for town vote this year (June timeframe anticipated).

The 2011/12 plan includes: capitalization of several technology items, as proposed by the BOF during budget review; tennis court resurfacing for \$300k (a committee will be formed to prepare and submit plans), \$400 for the culinary arts lab (see item 7 below), \$225 for the ELHS music wing wall repair, and \$150 from CNRE (capital non-recurring) town funds + \$150k in bonding for the Learn Wing roof repair.

The \$2.2M included in the 2012/13 year for the Athletic Complex was discussed. Steve Harney (Board of Finance) reiterated the funding rates as opportune for doing this project now. The option to contract Gayle Associates to formally draft the architectural plans for \$50k was discussed. This would allow more detailed planning, including costs and fundraising efforts. The drafting cost, however, has not been allocated in the 2011/12 fiscal budget. A risk exists that despite the pre-spend to draft the plans, the town may not approve the project. Concerns over public opinion regarding this project, including questions of the BOE and town's commitment to this project were expressed. The board will consider inviting First Selectman Formica to a future board meeting to discuss his ideas regarding this project.

3. Capitalization of Technology Needs as Recommended by the Board of Finance

See item 6 below.

4. **FY11 Budget Update as of 4/30/2011**

The current fiscal year budget was presented as of 4/30/2011. A freeze on discretionary accounts totaling approximately \$213k remains in effect and the projected surplus is currently \$91,875 which includes a town return of \$250k, as requested, to replenish the Town fund balance account. Some additional expenses for overtime and legal fees are possible this year. The frozen discretionary accounts are not seen as having serious negative impact on students or quality of education.

5. **Update on Revenue Accounts**

Revenue accounts from 07/01/2010 through 04/30/2011 were reviewed. The total balance of all accounts as of May 1st was \$644,842.18. Of this, \$309,141.64 is attributed to the pool account. Each group maintains and manages their own funds/accounts although they are audited annually. The discrepancies in before/after school care accounts were noted and is part of the rationale for a future meeting request to increase these rates (discussed at a prior FFO meeting).

Overall, the board discussed wanting to encourage creativity in raising, managing, and use of these funds, however, the rationale for such (in some cases substantial) balances was questioned. Further discussion is needed regarding policy around these accounts.

6. **FY12 Budget Reductions**

Dr. Lombardo presented a first draft plan for reducing the 2011/12 budget by \$460,000. Several areas of savings have been identified, including health insurance and workers comp; reduce 2 paraprofessionals and one teacher, and capitalize two items (technology and HS paving for 185,000). FFO members by consensus rejected two items, namely, co-curricular participation and diverting the Ed Jobs funding for paying for full time permanent salary. A full board discussion will follow on the draft plan.

7. **HS Culinary Lab Update**

Working with TLB Architecture and A/Z Corp., the final estimated costs for the project are \$315k. There were no new additions to the plan but rather a detailed cost list was presented for review. The project is expected to begin immediately following graduation and will be completed within the summer. Full board approval will be requested at the next meeting, May 23rd.

Public Comment

None

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Groeber

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Vice-Chair