

EAST LYME BOARD OF EDUCATION
East Lyme, Connecticut

ACADEMICS, ATHLETICS AND ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES

Monday, February 8, 2010
Room B101, East Lyme High School
6:30 P.M.

PRESENT: Mary Broderick, Jaime Ellis, Laura Greenstein, Al Littlefield

OTHERS PRESENT: James Lombardo (Superintendent), Wayne Sweeney (Interim Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Pupil Personnel, Karen Costello (Administrator for Program Improvement), Don Meltabarger (Business/Facilities Director)

AGENDA/PURPOSE

The meeting began at 7:38 p.m.

1. Elect Chair – By consensus, Mary Broderick and Laura Greenstein were named as committee co-chairs.
2. Reminder of Committee Charge – Committee shall discuss and make recommendations to the Board regarding issues and policy related to student program of studies, curriculum, athletics and activities. The committee shall consider policies included in Series 5000 and 6000 of the EL BOE Policy Manual, as well as policies related to student academics, athletics and activities in Series 1000 of the EL BOE Policy Manual.

Reading – Committee members were encouraged to read some books together as a way to work toward a common vision. Mary recommended Daniel Pink's *Drive* as a possible first book.

3. BOE Policy 5131.4 Students/Transportation for Off-Site Instruction - Dr. Lombardo explained that both the CABA legal team and the Board's attorney feel the current practice creates potential problems for the district even though there is no specific statute that advises us on the matter. Students cannot be restricted from taking a class because they cannot get private transportation to the activity. CT law does require that we transport students. Their suggestions included: 1) Change permission form to specify that students can only drive self, that students be required to provide evidence of insurance, and that parents indemnify the District from liability arising out of an accident on a way to a school-related activity. 2) Limit student driving to internships, off-campus work sites, or other individual activities that are a part of a class-related experience. Provide transportation to any student who is unable to get to the off-campus experience. 3) Provide transportation to any off-site class activity in which the entire class is traveling; i.e.,

Outdoor Pursuits class activities. This change will cause an increase in budget and may have to be considered in the future (approximately \$100 per trip). The health/wellness curriculum will be presented to the Board in March. 4) No longer limit access to certain courses to students who have own transportation.

Dr. Lombardo will draft a procedure manual for legal review. The Health/Wellness curriculum will be presented to the Board in March.

BOE Policy 3240 Business/Tuition – Dr. Lombardo explained that ECS funds do not change under the present formula if the district enrollment changes; therefore, the district does not receive more state financial support for the enrollment of non-resident pupils. He suggested a formula be proposed that determines tuition by taking approved prior year budget and dividing it by prior year's October 1 enrollment and to ensure that any additional cost related to student needs is added to the tuition costs. An alternative formula would be to take the prior year's approved budget minus transportation costs divided by the prior year's enrollment. The non-resident would provide own transportation. Dr. Lombardo did not recommend this reduction. Benefits and potential risks were discussed. Clarification of regular education versus special education non-resident tuition charges will be obtained.

4. Presentation on Recommended Change to HS Culinary Arts Program – Dr. Karen Costello and Culinary Arts teacher Pat Newton presented proposed modifications for a more comprehensive culinary arts program and asked for committee endorsement to bring the proposal forward to the Board. Additional costs associated with this proposal include funding for new textbooks and further teacher certification. The committee will review the request and will further discuss the request at the next meeting on March 15, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.
5. Next Meeting Date - The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.