

*Not official until approved by the East Lyme Board of Education on May 26, 2009*

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

**Tuesday, May 12, 2009  
Regular Meeting: 7:00 P.M.  
Media Center  
Lillie B. Haynes School**

**Regular Meeting**

Board Members Present: Kevin Seery (Chair), Beth Groeber (Secretary), Mary Broderick, Jaime Ellis, Melissa Ford, Laura Greenstein, Tim Hagen, Al Littlefield (left at 8:35 p.m.), Marlene Nickerson

Board Members Absent: Richard Steel

Administrators Present: Paul Smotas, Paul Freeman, Karen Costello, Judy DeLeeuw, John Sullivan, David Miko, Lucy Schuman, Don Meltabarger

**I. CALL TO ORDER - 7:00 p.m.**

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by Dr. David Miko, Lillie B. Haynes Principal**

**MOTION:** Jaime Ellis moved to add agenda item VII.A.2. Discussion/action re: Remandation of Flanders and High School Fields Renovation to Buildings and Grounds Committee; Melissa Ford seconded.

**VOTE:** Unanimous

**MOTION CARRIED**

Agenda item moved without objection: VII.D.5. Discussion/action re: Proposed Advertising in the ELHS Viking Saga for May and June 2009, moved ahead of D.1.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT – None at this time**

LILLIE B. HAYNES  
PROGRAM PRESENTATION  
***SNEAK PEEK INTO THE LILLIE B. HAYNES 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE***

Fourth grade students Hailey Gordon, Ashley Toback, Ryan Grant, Lily Zhong, Anna Coelho, Alden White, and Jocelyn McCormack took the audience through a “Day in the Life of Lillie B. Haynes 4<sup>th</sup> Graders.” Students demonstrated fun and exciting ways of learning. Board members thanked the students, their teachers Terry Hoblin, Lynn Locarno, and Grace DeGrooth and Computer Consultant Melissa Chiappone for an enjoyable, informative, and entertaining presentation.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Al Littlefield moved approval of the minutes of the Board of Education Regular Meeting on April 28, 2009; Jaime Ellis seconded.

**VOTE PRO:** Kevin Seery, Mary Broderick, Jaime Ellis, Melissa Ford, Laura Greenstein, Tim Hagen, Al Littlefield, Marlene Nickerson

**ABSTAIN:** Beth Groeber

**MOTION CARRIED**

**V. SPECIAL REPORTS: STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVES, SELECTMEN'S REPRESENTATIVE, and OTHER REPORTERS**

A. Students' Representative – Sara Schwartz

- Dr. Smotas will participate in the Dunking Booth Sr. Class Fundraiser on Wednesday, May 13
- The Junior Prom is on Saturday at Mystic Marriott
- AP exams are almost over
- Crew will participate in the State Regatta this weekend
- Golf has tied for the ECC Large Division
- Dr. Smotas commented that the ELHS Spectacular was indeed “spectacular”

B. Selectmen's Representative – Pamela Rowe was not present

C. Building Committee Representative – Gerard Burkhardt – was not present

D. Other Reporters - None

**VI. CONSENT AGENDA - None****VII. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

A. Finance/Facilities/Community

1. Discussion re: 2009-2010 Budget Update

Budget Subcommittee Chair Tim Hagen summarized the committee events over the past three weeks. Additional savings of \$300,000 have been identified leaving a shortfall of \$146,431 to reach the full reduction of \$446,431 for the 2009/2010 Budget. Bus transportation is being assessed for possible reductions. As a result of Adstaff deliberations, the original reduction of 7 teaching positions has been redistributed to 4.0 FTE at the high school, 2.65 FTE at the middle school, and .35 - .5 at the elementary level. If further staffing reductions are necessary, Adstaff recommends reducing elementary specials in the following priority; 1.0 FTE Global Language, 1.0 Elementary Music, and 1.0 Kindergarten Specials. This was based upon an alternative of increasing elementary class sizes, however serious unease in reducing elementary school specials was expressed. The lower number of hours of instruction per year at the elementary level, as compared with our DRG and the State, was also of concern. It was clarified that although the adjustment will allow for more daily time in core curriculum courses, the proposed course reductions will not result in increases in our instructional hours. Board members stressed the importance of maintaining Global Language, Elementary Music and Kindergarten Specials for educating the whole child. Dr. Smotas raised concern for the 2010/2011 Budget. He noted that difficult choices will be imperative, and he emphasized the importance of engaging the community in preparation for the next budget. The Board discussed ways to ensure better involvement in the capital budget process to include early identification of district needs, better communication with the Town, and becoming more proactive. Dr. Smotas recommended the Board request a seat on the Capital Budget Committee. The Referendum Vote is scheduled for Friday, May 22, 2009.

2. Discussion/action re: Renovation of Flanders and the High School Fields

Dr. Smotas and Kevin Seery will frame a letter to the staff clarifying the operating budget versus the capital budget.

**MOTION:** Al Littlefield moved to remand the renovation of the Flanders and High School fields to the Buildings and Grounds Committee; Melissa Ford seconded.

**VOTE:** Unanimous

**MOTION CARRIED**

- B. Instruction
- C. Personnel
- D. Policy

1. Discussion/action re: Proposed Revision to BOE Regulation 1330, Appendix C – Buildings and Grounds Rate Schedule

**MOTION:** Mary Broderick moved approval of the revisions to BOE Regulation 1330, Appendix C – Buildings and Grounds Rate Schedule, effective July 1, 2009, as presented; Jaime Ellis seconded.

**VOTE:** Unanimous

**MOTION CARRIED**

2. Discussion re: First Reading – BOE Policy 1220 Community Relations/Citizen Advisory Committees  
The Policy Subcommittee has reviewed Policy 1220 and recommends readoption with no changes. The second reading is scheduled for June 22, 2009.
3. Discussion re: First Reading – BOE Policy 1360 Community Relations/Naming Schools and School Facilities  
The Policy Subcommittee has reviewed Policy 1360 and recommends readoption with no changes. The second reading is scheduled for June 22, 2009.
4. Discussion re: First Reading – BOE Policy 2234 Administration/Treatment of Outside Reports  
The Policy Subcommittee has reviewed Policy 2234 and recommends readoption with no changes. The second reading is scheduled for June 22, 2009.
5. Discussion/action re: Proposed Advertising in the ELHS Viking Saga for May and June 2009  
Dr. Sullivan requested a one-time exception to Board Policy 1325 to permit advertising in the ELHS Viking Saga for the months of May and June. The exception would allow for advertising in the publication and would thus follow recommendations put forward for two consecutive years by the Columbia Scholastic Press Association Gold Circle Award. Journalism students and their advisor Jeff Beale asked the Policy Subcommittee to consider revising Policy 1325 to allow advertising to further enhance the business portion of the Journalism program and to permit advertising revenue to offset budget issues. The Board considered options and further discussion will follow.

**MOTION:** Mary Broderick moved approval of a one-time exception to Board of Education Policy 1325 to permit advertising in the ELHS Viking Saga for the months of May and June 2009 as presented; Jaime Ellis seconded.

**VOTE:** Unanimous

**MOTION CARRIED**

- E. Other

## **VIII. ADMINISTRATION REPORTS**

- A. Superintendent of Schools – Dr. Paul Smotas
  - Last week the Middle School and Lillie B. Haynes went into “lock down” due to suspicious activity near the bus lot. Everyone was safe and the schools resumed normal activity within the hour. Staff, students, Jim Barnes, EL Police and the bus staff were commended for their efforts.
- B. Assistant Superintendent of Schools Mr. Paul Freeman
  - Recognition was given to district staff regarding the Swine Flu episode last week. The administration was in constant contact with School Physician Dr. Vijay Sikand and the CT State Department of Education and Department of Public Health.
  - The following ELHS Fine Arts students were selected to enter an art piece in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District Art Show at Old Lyme Art College: Cole Dubord, Anna Natoli, Megan Disch, Jessica Perkins, Taylor Hubbs, Rebecca Lillquist, Trevor Willilams, William Dowd, Victoria Dye, Chloe Duprey, and Amy Gonsalves.
  - Flanders 2<sup>nd</sup> grader Amanda Forrestt recently served as “Superintendent for the Day.”
  - Congratulations to Alexander Kopchik, grade 10, who recently attained the rank of Eagle Scout.

C. Business Manager Mr. Don Meltabarger – None at this time.

## **IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A. Budget Committee
- B. Policy Committee
- C. Community Relations Committee
- D. Personnel Policy Committee
- E. Long Range Planning Committee
- F. Buildings & Grounds Committee
- G. Elementary/Middle School Enhancement Committee
- H. Substance Abuse Ad Hoc Committee (ASAP)
- I. School Calendar Ad Hoc Committee
- J. East Lyme Aquatic and Fitness Center Committee
- K. Early Childhood Ad Hoc Committee
- L. Other Committee Reports

## **X. COMMUNICATIONS**

- A. EL BOE invitations to the Retiring Teachers Reception on Tuesday, May 26, 2009, 6:30 p.m., HS
- B. Congratulations note from Dr. Smotas to ELHS Fine Arts students for being selected to participate in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District Art Show
- C. NSBA School Board News, Volume 29, Number 4, May 2009 re: Election of Mary Broderick to the position of secretary-treasurer
- D. CABA pamphlet re: Collective Bargaining in Today's Economy on May 20, 2009, Rocky Hill
- E. Letter from Board Chair to Bargaining Unit Leaders re: Invitation to Discuss Potential 2009-2010 Savings

## **XI. NOTICES**

- A. Notice of the following staffing changes:
  - 1. Appointments - None
  - 2. Increases/Decreases in FTE - None
  - 3. Reassignments - None
  - 4. Resignations - None
  - 5. Supplemental (08/09) - None
- B. Notice of the following out of state field trips:
  - 1. ELHS grade 12 students to Jaffrey, NH on Wednesday, May 13, 2009 to hike Mt. Monadnock
  - 2. ELHS grade 11-12 students to NYC, NY on Friday, May 29, 2009 to tour Capitale and the French Culinary Institute
  - 3. ELMS grade 5 students to Plymouth, MA on Monday, June 22, 2009 to visit the Plimouth Plantation and the Living Museum of the 17<sup>th</sup> Century

## **XII. BOARD COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- A. Board Comments
  - 1. The Board Chair appreciated the Capital Budget discussion.
- B. Future Agenda Items
  - 1. 5/18/09 – 6:00 p.m., East Lyme/Salem Cooperative Meeting, Salem School
  - 2. 5/26/09 – 6:30 p.m., Retiring Teachers Reception, Gerald M. Mistretta Commons, HS
  - 3. 5/26/09 – 7:30 p.m., Governor's Scholar and CABA Leadership Award Recognition Ceremony, INTV Room, HS, followed by the BOE Regular Meeting
  - 4. 6/8/09 - Futures Report

## **XIII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

- 1. Alyssa Bradley, 105 Bayview Ave., stated that proposed staff cuts will have an impact on students and expressed her disappointment in the options presented.

A 5-minute break took place at 8:55 p.m.

**XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION:** Jaime Ellis moved to enter into executive session at 9:00 p.m., to include the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent, for the purpose of personnel/collective bargaining discussion; Marlene Nickerson seconded.

**VOTE:** Unanimous

**MOTION CARRIED**

The Board exited executive session at 9:25 p.m.

**XV. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Jaime Ellis moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m.; Marlene Nickerson seconded.

**VOTE:** Unanimous

**MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully submitted,

*Elizabeth Groeber/lb*

Elizabeth Groeber, Secretary  
East Lyme Board of Education