

*Not official until approved by the East Lyme Board of Education on January 25, 2010*

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

**Monday, January 11, 2010  
Executive Session: 7:00 P.M.  
Regular Meeting: 7:30 P.M.  
INTV Room (B101)  
East Lyme High School**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Board Members Present: Tim Hagen (Chair), Elizabeth Groeber (Secretary), Mary Broderick, Jaime Ellis, Melissa Ford, Laura Greenstein, Al Littlefield, Marlene Nickerson, Kevin Seery, Richard Steel

**MOTION:** Al Littlefield moved to enter into executive session at 7:11 p.m., and to include Superintendent of Schools Dr. James Lombardo, for the purpose of personnel discussion; Laura Greenstein seconded.

**VOTE:** Unanimous

**MOTION CARRIED**

Exited executive session at 7:43 p.m.

**Regular Meeting**

Board Members Present: Tim Hagen (Chair), Elizabeth Groeber (Secretary), Mary Broderick, Jaime Ellis, Melissa Ford, Laura Greenstein, Al Littlefield, Marlene Nickerson, Kevin Seery, Richard Steel

Administrators Present: James Lombardo (Superintendent), Wayne Sweeney (Administrative Consultant for Superintendent), Karen Costello (Administrator for Program Improvement), Don Meltabarger (Business/Facilities Director), Jeff Provost (HS Assistant Principal), Laurie Zaneski (HS Assistant Principal), Judy DeLeeuw (MS Principal), Rod Mosier and Rich Chocolate (MS Assistant Principals), David Miko (HA Principal), Linda Anania (FL Principal), Melissa DeLoretto (NCS Principal)

I. **CALL TO ORDER** - 7:45 p.m.

II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Led by Tim Hagen

III. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. RoseAnn Hardy, 6 Overbrook Road, noted the cancellation of “Study with a Buddy” on Martin Luther King Day due to budget restrictions. She questioned the ELHS track request to practice on Martin Luther King Day and not observing the holiday as it was intended.

IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Al Littlefield moved approval of the minutes of the Board of Education Regular Meeting on December 15, 2009; Beth Groeber seconded.

**VOTE:** Tim Hagen, Beth Groeber, Mary Broderick, Melissa Ford, Al Littlefield, Marlene Nickerson, Rich Steel

**ABSTAIN:** Jaime Ellis, Laura Greenstein, Kevin Seery

**MOTION CARRIED**

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

- A. Students' Representative – Tasmia Khan and Jennifer Cordero
- Breakfast with Santa Senior Class fundraiser raised \$1,500
  - Holiday Concert – all ELHS musical groups and other individuals performed
  - Fencing tournament at North Haven and three of the boys placed 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> and one girl paced 15th
  - Fencing meet with Old Lyme for novice, JV and Varsity on January 13
  - Student Senate has become more active and will form subcommittees after midterms
  - The Med Club delivered baked goods and holiday cards to the local health rehabilitation center
  - Elizabeth Maddux Benefit is January 29 at 6:00 p.m. at HS
  - Midterms begin January 15/Midterm schedule
  - Study with a Buddy schedule
  - Winter Ball at ELHS - Saturday, January 30
  - The ELHS Boat Race will be held January 12 at 9:00 a.m. in the pool
  - Acapella Concert with Ithaca College was January 4 and many alumni returned for the event
  - Last Friday track meet at URI
  - Boys Basketball won against Woodstock last weekend
  - Boys Swim Team won against Ledyard last Friday
  - Eastern Regionals last weekend with a great number of EL students participating
  - Students are unhappy with the possibility of a change in the off-site instruction student transportation policy
- B. Selectmen's Representative – John Birmingham (Selectmen will attend on a rotating basis)
- C. Building Committee Representative – Gerard Burkhardt was not present.
- D. Salem Board of Education Representative – Steve Buck referred to the earlier Salem/EL Cooperative Meeting. Agenda items included tuition rates, budget, and future vision.
- E. Other Reporters

## VI. CONSENT AGENDA

**MOTION:** Kevin Seery moved approval of the Consent Agenda (A) Proposed Pfizer Foundation Volunteer Program Donation to the ELHS Women's Volleyball Team in the amount of \$1,000 on behalf of Francis Swenson; (B) Proposed Pfizer Foundation Volunteer Program Donation to the ELHS Men's Basketball Team in the amount of \$1,000 on behalf of Robert Oliver; and (C) Proposed Pfizer Foundation Volunteer Program Donation to the ELHS Women's Swimming and Diving Team in the amount of \$1,000 on behalf of Robert Mauthe; Marlene Nickerson seconded.

**VOTE:** UNANIMOUS

**MOTION CARRIED**

The Board thanked the individuals for their generous contributions.

## VII. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

### A. Finance/Facilities/Community

#### 1. Discussion re: Presentation of Superintendent's Proposed Budget for 2010-2011

Dr. Lombardo presented his proposed budget for 2010-2011 which represents a 3.5% increase over the 2009-2010 budget which includes but does not designate an additional \$250,000 in reductions. The proposed budget supports all instructional and planning initiatives. Major increases are in property services, health benefits, tuition and instructional improvement, mostly in special education. Teachers and administrators have a zero-percent increase in salaries and instructional supplies have also been leveled. Staff changes include the addition of one K-12 Special Education Coordinator which will be funded by stimulus funds and paraprofessional reductions. The proposed budget is available on the district website at [www.eastlymeschools.org](http://www.eastlymeschools.org). A Public Hearing will be held on Tuesday, January 19, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. at East Lyme High School to receive public comment relative to the 2010-2011 proposed school district budget.

## B. Instruction

1. Discussion/action re: Proposed ELHS Track Practice on Martin Luther King Day, January 18, 2010

Due to the loss of practice days in December, Athletic Director Jack Biggs has requested a practice on January 18, 2010. If approved, custodial costs will be paid by the team.

**MOTION:** Jaime Ellis moved to approve the proposed voluntary ELHS track practice on Martin Luther King Day, January 18, 2010, as presented; Melissa Ford seconded.

Prior to the vote, the Board discussed the pros and cons of granting such requests, historical trends, reasons for granting and denying such requests, and the possibility of altering the existing policy.

**VOTE PRO:** Melissa Ford, Marlene Nickerson

**VOTE CON:** Tim Hagen, Beth Groeber, Mary Broderick, Jaime Ellis, Laura Greenstein, Al Littlefield, Kevin Seery, Richard Steel  
**MOTION DENIED**

2. Discussion/action re: Proposed ELHS Rescheduled NEASC Half Day for February 3, 2010

The BOE approved half day on December 9 was cancelled due to inclement weather.

**MOTION:** Al Littlefield moved to approve the proposed ELHS rescheduled NEASC half day from December 9, 2009 to February 3, 2010, as presented; Mary Broderick seconded.

**VOTE:** UNANIMOUS

**MOTION CARRIED**

## C. Personnel

1. Discussion/action re: Superintendent's Recommendation for Administrative Support for Special Education

Based on a number of recent changes, Dr. Lombardo has rethought his original proposal for leadership in the area of special education. In effect, when fully implemented after July 1, the district will have an Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Pupil/Personnel Services, supported by, at a minimum, one K-12 Special Education Coordinator. While the previous proposal had this position as a Teacher Leader (governed by the ELTA collective bargaining agreement). The new coordinator will be an administrator and will be governed by the ELAA collective bargaining agreement, which already identifies this 10-month position in their bargaining unit. Dr. Lombardo views the change as critical to securing the appropriate skills necessary to support the needs of the district, including reducing special education costs and providing children with more effective service. He explained that the plan is an important investment that will be more than covered by cost savings in the coming years. Additionally, the interim Director of Special Education Dr. Connie Berglund's services will end on January 31, 2010 and Dr. Lombardo requested that the services of Administrative Consultant to the Superintendent Mr. Wayne Sweeney be extended until a replacement is found.

**MOTION:** Mary Broderick moved to approve extending the contractual agreement with Mr. Wayne Sweeney, Administrative Consultant to the Superintendent of Schools, for up to the remainder of the 2009-2010 school year, i.e. June 30<sup>th</sup>, with the same terms as approved by the Board of Education for the first 90 days of the agreement; Kevin Seery seconded.

**VOTE:** UNANIMOUS

**MOTION CARRIED**

D. Policy

E. Other

**VIII. ADMINISTRATION REPORTS**

- A. Superintendent of Schools – Dr. James Lombardo
- NCS Principal Melissa DeLoretto was introduced and welcomed
  - Off-site instruction and student transportation policy
    - HS information has been secured regarding programs that may be affected in any way
    - Goal is to ensure no programs are negatively affected
    - Dr. Lombardo will meet with students on January 12
    - Policy Committee will meet on January 25, prior to the Board meeting
  - The Connecticut Economy (Winter 2010) article entitled “Getting More From Less – Measuring Efficiency in Connecticut High School Districts was addressed
  - Study Committees
    - Dr. Lombardo solicited Board membership for ELPS Vision Task Force, ELPS Global Education Task Force, Communications Task Force, and the ELHS Alternative Education Task Force (Contact Tim Hagen)
  - HS Principal Interview Committee
    - Interviews January 12 and 13
    - Narrow search to 3 candidates
    - Site visits late January and early February
    - Superintendent’s recommendation to the Board in February
  - Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Pupil/Personnel Services
    - Interview Committee meeting January 15 and 22
    - Interviews early February
    - Site visits late Feb
    - Superintendent’s recommend to the Board late Feb/early March
  - Race to the Top (RTTT)
    - Signed on with State w/stipulation that we can pull out
    - More information to be gathered
  - Chinese Visitor
    - Host family – Beth Groeber
    - Host school – Flanders (Principal Linda Anania)
- B. Business Manager - Mr. Don Meltabarger had no report.
- C. Other

**IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A. Budget Committee
- B. Community Relations Committee
- C. Policy 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
- 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. ELHS Viking Saga, Edition 9, Volume XLIII, dated December 23, 2009
- B. Hartford Courant article entitled *State Board of Education Discourages So-Called Tracking in Schools* dated January 7, 2010

**XI. NOTICES****A. Notice of the following 2009/2010 staffing changes:****1. Retirements:**

- Carolyn (Sue) Anglim, .5 Reading Recovery Teacher, NC, 6/30/10
- Diana Currier, 1.0 Elementary Teacher, HA, 6/30/10
- J. William Gibney, 1.0 Physical Education Teacher, MS, 6/30/10
- Edna (Smidgie) Macphail, .5 Assistant Principal/.5 Special Education Teacher, HS, 6/30/10
- Gail Ruhnke, 1.0 Elementary Teacher, HA, 6/30/10

**2. Resignation:**

- Lauren Oleynek, 1.0 Instructional Aide, 1/25/10

**B. Notice of the following out of state field trips/athletic competitions:**

1. ELMS field trip to Wachusett Ski Area, Princeton, MA, Saturday, January 9 and February 27, 2010

**XII. BOARD COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS****A. Board Comments**

1. Beth Groeber appreciated and thanked Student Senate members for attending the meeting and encouraged their input.
2. Mary Broderick recognized retiring teachers and thanked them for their service to the students of ELPS.

**B. Future Agenda Items**

1. Roles and Responsibilities of Board of Education Members (CABE workshop), Tuesday, January 19, 2010, 6:00 p.m. at Central Office
2. BOE Policy 5131.4 Students/Transportation for Off-Site Instruction

**XIII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. Karen Rak, 27 Black Point Road, asked the Board to entertain discussion regarding “pay to participate” and requested information regarding the overall percentage of the budget allocated for special education. She feels the Race to the Top (RTTT) sends the wrong message to teachers and students. She also recognized the efforts of Sue Anglim who will be retiring in June.

A short break took place at 9:30 p.m.

**XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Board Members Present: Tim Hagen, Beth Groeber, Mary Broderick, Jaime Ellis, Melissa Ford, Laura Greenstein, Al Littlefield, Marlene Nickerson, Kevin Seery, Richard Steel

**MOTION:** Al Littlefield moved to enter into executive session at 9:37 p.m., and to include Superintendent of Schools Dr. James Lombardo, for the purpose of personnel matters discussion; Melissa Ford seconded.

**VOTE:** Unanimous

**MOTION CARRIED**

Exited executive session at 10:00 p.m.

**XV. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Jamie Ellis moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 p.m.; Al Littlefield seconded.

**VOTE:** Unanimous

**MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully submitted,



Elizabeth Groeber, Secretary  
East Lyme Board of Education