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

**Monday, March 22, 2010
Regular Meeting: 7:30 P.M.
INTV Room (B101)
East Lyme High School**

REGULAR MEETING

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

Members Excused: None

Administrators Present: Dr. James Lombardo (Superintendent) Wayne Sweeney (Interim Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Pupil Personnel), Dr. Karen Costello (Administrator for Program Improvement), Don Meltabarger (Business/Facilities Director), Dr. John Sullivan (Interim HS Principal), Laurie Zaneski (HS Assistant Principal), Judy DeLeeuw (MS Principal), Dr. David Miko (HA Principal), Linda Anania (FL Principal), Melissa DeLoreto (NC Principal), Gina Olearczyk (Special Education Coordinator), Jeff Provost (HS Assistant Principal), Rod Mosier (MS Assistant Principal), Rich Chocolate (MS Assistant Principal)

- I. CALL TO ORDER - 7:31 p.m.**
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by Tim Hagen**
- III. PUBLIC COMMENT**
1. Janice Tagney, 11 Cavasin Drive, asked the Board's support for housing of the Sensation's Celebration Foundation 2-week summer program.
 2. Bruce Cohen, 41 Cardinal Road, as President of the EL Lacrosse Association, spoke in support of the artificial turf field and advised the Board to "plan for success" and "to invest in the future of our children."
 3. Gigi Begin, 27 Jeremy Drive, former lacrosse coach, encouraged the Board to support the artificial turf field and expressed safety concerns with the present facility.
 4. John McDermott, 33 Spring Rock Road, spoke in support of the artificial turf field and noted a potential savings in maintenance and busing costs. He expressed safety and liability concerns related to the current facility and noted that the bleachers are not ADA compliant.
 5. Patricia Bauman, 15 Harvest Glen Road, as treasurer of the EL Soccer Club spoke in support of the proposed athletic facility renovation project and the important affect it will have on the deserving student athletes.
 6. Brent Jennings, 57 Spring Rock Road, spoke in support of the artificial turf field from an economic perspective.

Student Recognition Ceremony

Voice of Democracy National Finalist
“Does America Still Have Heroes?”

Rose Carver

Grade 12

Rose Carver recently competed with other state finalists in the four-day national competition in Washington, D.C. where she ranked 22nd and received a \$2,000 scholarship. She thanked her teacher, RoseAnn Hardy, and the VFW for their support. Rose is the daughter of Chris and Marybeth Carver.

American Legion Oratorical Competition
Local and Regional Winner and 3rd Place in the State

Anthony Arias

Grade 12

Participants were required to speak for 8-10 minutes on some aspect of the Constitution, without notes or resources, integrating citizen duties and responsibilities. Anthony Arias' speech on the 8th Amendment (death penalty) followed by a 5-minute impromptu speech, placed him 3rd in the State. He thanked teachers RoseAnn Hardy and Marcie Cunningham for their encouragement and support.

Liaisons of the VFW and American Legion, George Cirillo and Art Tuttle, respectively,
were thanked for their cooperation and support.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Marlene Nickerson moved approval of the minutes of the Board of Education Regular Meeting on Monday, February 22, 2010; Beth Groeber seconded.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: Melissa Ford moved approval of the minutes of the Board of Education Special Meeting on March 15, 2010 as presented; Beth Groeber seconded.

VOTE: Tim Hagen, Beth Groeber, Mary Broderick, Jaime Ellis, Melissa Ford, Laura Greenstein, Marlene Nickerson, Kevin Seery, Rich Steel

ABSTAIN: Al Littlefield

MOTION CARRIED

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

A. Students' Representative – Tasmia Khan and Jen Cordero

- Spring sports are underway!
- Upcoming French National Honor Society Induction
- Upcoming Earth Day Concert
- Newly formed Cancer Action Club
- Drama production was extremely successfully, especially children's matinee

- Some teachers participated in the Concert Band performance last week
- District Orchestra Concert is March 30
- Many Haiti fundraisers
- Argentina trip during April break

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- Empty Bowl Fundraiser Project to benefit EL Care and Share March 26
- EL Spectacular Talent Show is April 30 at 7:00 p.m.

- B. Selectmen's Representative – Selectwoman RoseAnn Hardy
- The creation of an agricultural division was voted down but may possibly be instituted as a subcommittee
- C. Building Committee Representative – Gerard Burkhardt was not present.
- D. Salem Board of Education Representative – Steve Buck
- MS Principal Jim Moran is onboard
- E. Other Reporters – None

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Marlene Nickerson moved to approve the consent agenda as presented (donation to ELHS from Stop & Shop in the amount of \$1,000.00); Al Littlefield seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION CARRIED

The Board thanked Stop & Shop for their generous donation.

There were no objections to moving B.1. (Discussion re: Presentation by ELPS Special Education Task Force re: Futures Report) to the first discussion/action item. The minutes reflect the original order of business as listed in the agenda.

VII. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Finance/Facilities/Community

1. Discussion/action re: Proposed 2009-2010 Budget Transfer in the amount of \$43,354.00
This budget transfer was reviewed and recommended for approval by the FFO Committee.

MOTION: Kevin Seery moved to approve the proposed 2009-2010 budget transfer in the amount of \$43,354.00 as presented; Marlene Nickerson seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION CARRIED

2. Discussion/action re: Proposed 2009-2010 Budget Transfer in the amount of \$14,990.00
This budget transfer was reviewed and recommended for approval by the FFO Committee.

MOTION: Jaime Ellis moved to approve the proposed 2009-2010 budget transfer in the amount of \$14,990.00 as presented; Marlene Nickerson seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION CARRIED

3. Discussion/action re: Proposed 2009-2010 Budget Transfer in the amount of \$6,000.00
This budget transfer was reviewed and recommended for approval by the FFO Committee.

MOTION: Kevin Seery moved to approve the proposed 2009-2010 budget transfer in the amount of \$6,000.00 as presented; Marlene Nickerson seconded.

4. Discussion/action re: Endorsement to Seek Funds to Conduct a Feasibility/Architectural Design Study Regarding a Possible Future HS Artificial Turf Field, Track and Bleacher Renovation Project

A PowerPoint presentation was given outlining the rationale and benefits of the proposed ELHS athletic complex renovation project as determined by the Investigatory Committee consisting of Board members Jaime Ellis and Kevin Seery, ELPS Business/Facilities Director Don Meltabarger, John Rhodes of the Town Building Committee, David Putnam of EL Parks and Recreation and Carl Reichard, HS Track Coach. The estimated \$1.5 million project is included in the town's capital improvement plan and consists of the installation of a synthetic turf field, replacement/renovation of bleachers, and replacement/possible expansion of track. Kevin Seery stated he has received commitments from several youth sports programs, booster clubs and private donations to help finance the architectural design plan which is estimated to be between \$12,000 and \$15,000. Board members recognized the tremendous opportunity for students and the community while remaining sensitive to economic conditions. The consideration of a more comprehensive scope process of athletic and community needs was also discussed. Partnership with the Town Building Committee will be continued.

MOTION: Kevin Seery moved to authorize the Superintendent to seek funds to conduct a feasibility/architectural design study regarding a possible high school artificial turf field, track and bleacher renovation project as presented; Marlene Nickerson seconded.

AMENDED MOTION: Kevin Seery amended the motion to authorize the Superintendent to seek an architectural company to design a proposal for an artificial turf field at the high school; Marlene Nickerson seconded.

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

VOTE CON: Rich Steel

MOTION CARRIED 9:1

B. Instruction

1. Discussion re: Presentation by ELPS Special Education Task Force re: Futures Report
FL School Principal Linda Anania and HA Special Education Teacher Kim Davis presented the ELPS Special Education Task Force's recommendations, based on analysis of the Futures Inc. report. The task force was charged with analyzing the report and providing to the Superintendent recommendations to improve both the effectiveness and the efficiency of the district's special education program and practices. Recommendations included:

1. District Special Education Procedures Manual – This will improve philosophical and procedural consistency in the District, PreK-12+, provide staff with consistent procedures and best practice; equalize opportunities across the District, and facilitate the PPT process to ensure compliance with Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), state guidelines, regulations and procedures, thereby reducing errors and omissions.
2. Professional Development – The ELPS will develop, within the District professional development plan, a specialized strand focused on educating children with special needs. The strand should include a common base of knowledge and skills in special education, the curriculum, and best practice.
3. Bring our Children Home – In accordance with IDEA and the least restrictive environment (LRE) requirements, ELPS will review all out-placed students' Individual Education Programs (IEP's) to determine if the placement meets those requirements. If determined that needs can be met in the ELPS District, and it is fiscally responsible, then students should be educated in their home district of East Lyme.
4. Transition Programs for 15-21+ year olds – Create and/or expand in-district transition programs for these students. Examine current services being provided at community-based sites and employment

programs. Develop and implement a 1-5 year plan based on a needs assessment that will identify the potential range of student/client population and needed services.

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5. Related Services – Determine the scope of related services needed to provide equal access to EL educational curriculum. Develop recommend practices for related services: including eligibility for service, entry/exit criteria, and how and where the services will be delivered. Develop guidelines to determine the need/use of contracted (outside) services.
6. Special Education Steering Committee – Establish a steering committee of District stakeholders to review and make recommendations regarding present District special education programs, practices, and policies. The committee will contribute to ongoing strategic planning for students receiving special education services in EL. Suggested committee stakeholders could be, but not limited to: teachers from every school, related services, building level administration, district level administration and Salem representation.

Task force members were thanked for their work. The Board encouraged the District to involve parents early in the process. The AAA Committee will reexamine Board policies related to special education.

2. Discussion re: Proposed Adoption of Draft 2010-2011 ELPS Calendar
The draft 2010-2011 ELPS Calendar, developed by the Superintendent's appointed Calendar Committee and endorsed by the AAA Committee, was presented to the Board. Discussion took place regarding child care concerns on half and shortened days, low instructional hours at the elementary and middle school levels and the lack of snow days built into the calendar. Further discussion and possible action will take place at the next meeting.

C. Personnel

D. Policy

1. Discussion re: 1st Reading of Board of Education Policy 4131.4 – Students/Transportation for Off-Site Instruction
The second reading will occur at the next regular meeting.
2. Discussion re: 1st Reading of Board of Education Regulation 5131.4 – Students/Transportation for Off-Site Instruction
The second reading will occur at the next regular meeting.

E. Other

VIII. ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

A. Superintendent of Schools – Dr. James Lombardo

- Gina Olearczyk, Special Education Coordinator, was introduced.
- MS Computer Consultant Robyn McKenney and Science Teacher Linda Natri were recognized for Having their Topography Video Podcasts accepted for demonstration at the CECA Tech Expo on April 28, 2010 at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford.
- Dr. Marie Shaw, HS Head Librarian, was recognized for receiving her doctorate from UCONN.

B. Business Manager - Mr. Don Meltabarger

- Copies of the Essential School Board Book are available at CO

C. Other

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Academics, Athletics and Activities (AAA) Committee – Reviewed the minutes of the 3/15/10 meeting

X. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. CABE Journal, Vol. 15, No. 3 dated March 2010, article entitled *Broderick nomination for NSBA president-elect*

XI. NOTICES

- A. Notice of the following 2009/2010 staffing changes:

1. Appointments:

- Tiffany Bucko, 1.0 Grade 1 Long-term Substitute Teacher, NC, 3/11/10 through on or about 6/1/10
- Joyce Lichtenfels, School Aide (5 hrs per wk), HA, 1/18/10 – 4/2/10
- Tracey Lizza, School Aide (3 hrs per wk), HA, 1/18/10 – 4/2/10
- Cynthia Olson, .6 Instructional Aide (DW 1:1), HA, 1/5/10 – 6/18/10
- Jennifer Salerno, .6 Spanish Teacher, HS, on or about 4/8/10
- Carol Parker Sprinkle, 1.0 Special Education teacher, FL, 4/8/10

2. Reassignments:

- Stephanie Carli, from 1.0 Instructional Aide (DW 1:1) to 1.0 Teaching Assistant, MS, 2/22/10

3. Increases:

- Amy Fabry, from .6 to 1.0 FTE Health/PE Teacher, HS, 3/16/10 – 6/18/10
- Robin Shabunia, from .25 to .40 FTE Health/PE Teacher, MS, 3/15/10 (Recalled from 09/10 RIF)
- Robin Shabunia, from .4 to .65 FTE Health/PE Teacher, MS, 3/16/10 – 6/18/10

4. Resignations/Terminations:

- Patricia Lick, 1.0 Long-term Substitute Teacher, FL, 3/12/10
- Robin Minevich, .5 Instructional Aide (1:1 DW), FL, 3/19/10
- James Moran, 1.0 Health/PE Teacher, HS/MS, 3/15/10

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

1. ELHS student athletes to Boston, MA on March 5, 2010 to participate in the New England Indoor Track Championships
2. ELHS student athletes to NYC, NY from March 12-14, 2010 to participate in the National Scholastic Indoor Track Championships
3. ELHS students to Columbia University, NYC, NY on March 19, 2010 to participate in the Columbia Scholastic Press Association Journalism Conference

XII. BOARD COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Board Comments

1. Congratulations to Mary Broderick for her recent nomination as NSBA president-elect

- B. Future Agenda Items

1. Draft ELPS 2010-2011 Calendar
2. Policy Updates related to Special Education

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Bob Gadbois, 358 Boston Post Road, voiced concerns that capital items have not been discussed.

A short break was held at 10:32 p.m.

XIV. 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: Jaime Ellis moved to enter into executive session at 10:38 p.m., and to include Superintendent of Schools Dr. James Lombardo, for the purpose of discussing personnel issues; Al Littlefield seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION CARRIED

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Exited executive session at 10:48 p.m.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Al Littlefield moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:48 p.m.; Jaime Ellis seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Groeber/lb
Elizabeth Groeber, Secretary
East Lyme Board of Education