

East Lyme Public Schools  
**District Goals for 2014-2015**

BOE Adopted 9/8/14

**Theme #1: Ensure an Engaging and Challenging Program for All Students**

**1. Continue the review and full implementation of the revised teacher evaluation system.**

This year principals will evaluate 100% of their professional staff members. In anticipation of this challenge, the Teacher Evaluation Design Committee made several revisions to the expectations for the new system in line with CSDE changes. We anticipate the increased demands of the system will have an impact on the work life of our principals

**2. Implement the fourth year of our technology purchase and instruction plan, and begin the process of revising our technology plan for the future.**

Following approval by the Town of East Lyme, we have purchased replacement hardware for 20% of our District work stations. In anticipation of completing our five-year plan next year, we will begin to review and revise our technology plan for the next half decade.

**3. Continue our Common Core Curriculum alignment.**

While we have completed much of our vertical alignment of curriculum with the CCS Standards, we have much work remaining to develop classroom units and lesson plans to implement the new standards. Teachers will continue next year to revise their classroom plans accordingly.

**4. Evaluate the full-day kindergarten.**

Prior to the end of the coming school year, we will evaluate the effectiveness of our full day program to meet the expectations outlined in our original proposal.

**5. Propose an improved K-4 world language program.**

While financial and time constraints have prevented us from introducing an improved elementary world language program, we plan to further explore ways to re-introduce a program in 2015-2016. This effort may require exploring ways to add time to the elementary school academic day.

**6. Ensure that each student develops a sense of global connectedness**

Our East Lyme Public Schools Long Range Plan calls for expansion of our world language and cultural awareness opportunities for students. As part of that effort, we have established an educational relationship with XiangJiang High School in Guangzhou, China in preparation for acceptance of several tuition paying students in the 2015-2016 school year. This year we will continue our

mentoring, curricular development and educational travel opportunities with our partner school. In addition, we will explore ways to expand the program to include a Middle School collaborative.

### **Theme #2: Ensure that Each Child in the ELPS is Supported by Caring Adults**

#### **1. Revise our annual parent surveys to ensure improved feedback to guide school improvement efforts.**

While our surveys helped to identify some areas of parental concern, the limited pool of responses left us with an incomplete data source for school improvement efforts. We will explore alternate ways of securing feedback from parents about our schools and programs.

#### **2. Evaluate our success in fulfilling this aspect of our Long Range Plan.**

In the four years since we developed the ELPS Long Range Plan, we have made significant gains in this area: school advisory councils; a Judicial Review Board; more educationally sound responses to student disciplinary issues; implementation of policies re: bullying and harassment; improved strategies to reduce student drug and alcohol use. Nonetheless, we are certain that we still need to improve our efforts in this important area. We intend to evaluate our progress and set targeted goals for future school and community efforts to make our community a more supportive place for our children to live and learn.

### **Theme #3: Ensure that All Children Learn in a Safe and Healthy School Environment and Acquire the Sensibilities to Live a Safe and Healthy Life**

#### **1. Implement security plan changes, and provide required training for all staff.**

This summer and fall we will be implementing the state grant we received for security upgrades. In addition, we will prepare new staff hires for their roles in addressing safety and security in our schools.

#### **2. Complete a facilities plan to address elementary school facility needs.**

Last year the Board appointed a committee and hired an architectural firm to develop a proposal to meet the facilities needs of our aging elementary schools. The committee will work with the staff and community in developing the plan.

#### **3. Work with the Town to address student misuse of drugs and alcohol.**

Student misuse of drugs and alcohol continues to need attention in our community. We will work with the Town to identify concrete steps to reflect the ideas generated at “summit meetings” in 2013 and 2014. Part of that effort will include the funding of a community alcohol and drug evaluation counselor.

#### **4. Implement procedures to reduce the incidence of disciplinary problems on bus runs.**

Parents report on surveys that they perceive that buses and playgrounds are the least safe areas of schools. While the number of survey responders is relatively low, we recognize a need to improve bus discipline, particularly on some middle school bus runs. We will improve training for drivers, emphasize good behavior to students, and pilot additional adult supervision on some bus runs.

#### **5. Evaluate the effectiveness of the Judicial Review Board.**

It has been two years since we implemented a Judicial Review Board in conjunction with the Town of East Lyme. We need to evaluate its effectiveness in meeting our original goals for its creation.

#### **6. Develop a plan to correct deficiencies in the ELPS tennis courts.**

Following a successful community bonding vote, we will complete the construction of six new tennis courts, fencing and lighting in the early fall.

### **Theme #4: Ensure that our Students Are Supported by the Best Leadership and Workplace Practices**

#### **1. Nurture the professional growth of all staff members.**

Last year we implemented concrete professional development workshops and programs for all employee groups. We intend to continue this effort in 2014-2015. Included in that effort will be the staging of a Health and Wellness Fair for all employees in conjunction with the transition to a new health insurance carrier and a fund for wellness activities.

#### **2. Implement the new Administrator Evaluation System.**

We will implement the evaluation system according to the guidelines and timelines articulated in the revised plan.

#### **3. Ensure that our schools foster innovation and creativity.**

The administrative team has determined that in a world of state and federal mandates, we need to ensure that East Lyme Public Schools retain their reputation for excellence and innovation. Each school will identify concrete activities to foster creativity and innovation in 2014-2015. Examples of such activities include: Middle School Lego Robotics; Coastal Connections Aquaponics; Odyssey of the Mind at LBH; educational use of GoPro cameras; a high school contest to encourage student and faculty innovation; etc. In addition, our administrative leadership team will explore practices that foster creative and innovative problem solving.

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