

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

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
Tuesday, January 19, 2016  
8:00 p.m.**

Upstairs Conference Room, East Lyme Board of Education Central Office

**MINUTES**

Board Members Present: Tim Hagen (Chair), Jaime Barr Shelburn (Acting Secretary), Eric Bauman, Jill Carini, Candice Carlson, Bill Derry, John Kleinhans, Marlene Nickerson, Barbara Senges

Board Members Absent: Al Littlefield

Administrators Present: Jeffrey Newton (Superintendent), Donna Gittleman (Interim Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Pupil Personnel), Dr. Karen Costello (Administrator for Program Improvement), Linda Anania (Principal, Flanders School), Dr. David Miko (Principal, Lillie B. Haynes), Melissa DeLoreto (Principal, Niantic Center School), Kim Davis (Special Education Coordinator), Maria Whalen (Director of Business and Facilities), Nancy Burdick (Business Supervisor), Pat Lannon (Technology Director)

I. **CALL TO ORDER** – 8:16 p.m. by Chair Tim Hagen

II. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A. **Discussion re: Follow-up on Elementary School Building Projects**

Chair Tim Hagen explained that at this public meeting the Board will have the opportunity to meet as a committee and have open discussion on the elementary school building project. No public comment will be received and no action will be taken.

Superintendent Newton stated the proposed plan adopted by the Board of Education, has not changed – Renovate as new NC and new Flanders School. The plan has not been moved forward to the Board of Selectmen because of costs. Superintendent Newton and Chair Tim Hagen met with a unified group of representatives from the BOS, BOF, BOE, Design Steering Committee and the elementary building principals to discuss strategies as to what we will move forward that the town will support. Chair Tim Hagen reported that no option presented is affordable to the town and further work needs to be done by looking forward and moving forward.

Discussion Points:

- A \$58 million dollar building project will double the town debt
- Scaling down of project has been done
- Town finance director will conduct a further analysis of the mill rate increase
- Suggestion to have the mill rate projections reviewed by a second party
- BOF will look at various scenarios next week
- Unified group will meet regularly and come back to BOE with options more educationally and financially doable

- Some board members expressed frustration with the project delay
- United in finding the best option to move forward for education
- Board goal to move forward with referendum before November
- No commitment from BOF and BOS that project will go to referendum, although willingness to work together and move forward with aggressive timeline
- All options on the table, work on option that is affordable, may not be plan BOE approved – change would require BOE approval
- Key point is for town to give the BOE an affordable figure to move forward
- Plan that is least disruptive to children and families
- Provide opportunity for taxpayers to weigh in on what they think is an acceptable cost
- Move forward – collaborative effort
- Project cannot go to referendum without BOF approval
- Consider new building projects in town, ie. traffic, etc.
- One member prefers three school option – consider revenue for rental of space
- Need parent and community support
- EL graduates are moving back to town to raise families

Chair Tim Hagen and Superintendent Newton will send a letter to ELPS parents on January 20 to update them on the project status.

### III. **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Tim Hagen adjourned the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Jaimie Barr Shelburn*  
Jamie Barr Shelburn, Acting Secretary  
East Lyme Board of Education