

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

**REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, January 19, 2016
6:00 p.m.
Room B101, East Lyme High School**

MINUTES

Board Members Present: Tim Hagen (Chair), Jaime Barr Shelburn (Acting Secretary), Eric Bauman (left at 7:00), 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 Elementary), Melissa DeLoreto (Principal, Niantic Center School), Dr. Judy DeLeeuw (Principal, East Lyme Middle School), Mike Susi (Principal, East Lyme High 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** – 6:02 p.m. by Chair Tim Hagen
- II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Led by Chair Tim Hagen
- III. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. Rebecca Stebbins, 17 Lantern Lane, stated that she passionately feels the BOE approved plan for the elementary school projects is not the right plan. She would like the option of building one school at a time and stated the NCS value is high enough to sell and offset project costs. She question whether enough bids for the architect firm had been considered.
2. Jennifer Murray, 7 Tabernacle Drive, Niantic, supports having two elementary schools on opposing sides of town, keeping neighborhood schools, and turning in HA for town use.
3. Christine Naktensis, 3 Champlin Hill Court, Niantic, stated she was told by the First Selectman that projects were off the table for referendum and asked the Board to clarify.

Chair Tim Hagen asked for further public comment and explained, in detail, the agendas for the regular meeting and the Committee of the Whole meeting that follows.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Jaime Barr Shelburn moved approval of minutes of the Board of Education January 11, 2016 Regular Meeting as presented; Candice Carlson seconded.

VOTE PRO: Tim Hagen (Chair), Jaime Barr Shelburn (Acting Secretary), Eric Bauman, Candice Carlson, Bill Derry, John Kleinhans, Barbara Senges

VOTE CON: None

ABSTAIN: Jill Carini, Marlene Nickerson

MOTION CARRIED 7:0:2

V. **SPECIAL REPORTS**

A. **Students' Representative** – Lily Zhong

- Last day for midterms, counseling office is very busy with schedule changes
- SAT results have arrived and counselors will hold a student assembly to explain.
- Ithacapella Concert was a great success.
- Peers Reaching Out Club (PRO) will host the 8th grade tour of ELHS.
- Winter Ball will be held on January 30 and hosted by the Jr. class.
- Discussion is taking place regarding student exemption from final exams in addition to Sr. class.

B. **Selectmen's Representative** – Selectman Holly Cheeseman

- Public Hearing – Moved forward w/ordinance change regarding fees on projects for building and demo permits that exceed \$2 million.
- First Selectman was authorized to apply for a grant to purchase large equipment with neighboring towns – Grapple truck with New London
- Approved recommendation for two lifesaving awards
- Action to fill vacancies on boards and commissions

C. **Salem Board of Education** – George Jackson was not present

D. **Other Reporters** – None.

VI. **CONSENT AGENDA** – None.

VII. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

A. **Finance/Facilities/Community**

1. **Discussion re: Proposed Salem/East Lyme Cooperative Agreement**

The Board reviewed the final draft of the proposed Salem/East Lyme Cooperative Agreement to be presented for approval at the Salem/East Lyme Cooperative Board Meeting on January 25, 2016. The agreement assures Salem students will continue to attend ELHS through June 30, 2039. The current agreement remains in effect until June 30, 2019.

2. **Discussion re: Superintendent's Proposed ELPS Budget for 2016-2017**

Superintendent Newton reiterated that of the proposed ELPS Budget for 2016-2017, 2.45% of the 4.56% increase over this year's budget is due to fixed costs in salaries and insurance. A five year history of gains/losses in full time equivalency (FTE) of elementary certified reflected a -2.0 FTE overall elementary level teacher reduction between 2011-2016, but would have been -7.0 FTE without the implementation of full-day Kindergarten in 2013-2014 when +5.0 teachers were added. During this five year period, K-4 enrollment decreased by -110 students. Conversation continued regarding the importance of keeping small class sizes. Finance and Facilities Director Maria Whalen walked the Board through "Other Expenditures" totaling \$3,194,610.

Comments/Information requested for next meeting:

- Similar breakdown of "Other Expenditures" totaling \$598,469 – Barbara Senges
- Categorical grants and revenues – Jaime Barr Shelburn
- Suggestion for page 6. Districtwide Overview of Each Category, add 3rd column to show dollar amount difference – Barbara Senges

- What areas are we looking at to move district forward and creative solutions to bring numbers down – balance – in order to make those tough decisions? – Eric Bauman
- Importance of investing in quality of district by investing in our teachers – improving teacher salaries – Teachers High Deductible Health Plan saved district \$207,318 – Barbara Senges
- 25% of certified staff has less than 5 years experience – Tim Hagen
- Why did MS maintenance double and HS and elementary are down? – Bill Derry
- 10% increase noted in property, liability and fire insurance – Barbara Senges

Tim Hagen reviewed the budget process and asked Board members to email questions to Superintendent Newton and to copy all Board members. The Board will continue deliberations on January 25. A Public Hearing will be held at 6:00 p.m. at ELHS. A regular Board of Education meeting will follow.

B. Instruction

C. Personnel

D. Policy

E. Other

VIII. ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

- A. Superintendent of Schools – Mr. Jeffrey Newton**
- The agenda for the Chinese teacher visitors will be distributed soon.
- B. Interim Assistant Superintendent of Schools – Ms. Donna Gittleman**
- Special education challenges
 - Complimented Board for recognizing staff by increasing professional development days and salary increases for certified staff
 - Seeing larger population of transgender students
- C. Business/Facilities Director – Ms. Maria Whalen had no report.**

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. AAA Committee**
- B. FFO Committee**
- C. Policy Review Committee**
- D. ELPS Chinese Program Ad hoc Committee – Minutes of 1/11/16 meeting**
- E. BOE Liaison to BOF Schedule**

X. COMMUNICATIONS

XI. NOTICES

- A. Notice of the following 2015/2016 staffing changes: None at this time.**
1. Appointments
 2. Increases/Decreases in FTE
 3. Reassignment
 4. Retirements
 5. Resignations
- B. Notice of out-of-state field trips: None**

XII. BOARD COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Board Comments**

B. Future Agenda Items:

1. Summer School Program/Camp – Candice Carlson – *To be scheduled*
2. East Lyme / Chinese Program Update – *Monthly*
3. Field Trip Discussion – *To be scheduled*

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Andy Jolly-Ballatine, 8 Greencliff Drive, Niantic, spoke of the importance of the educational environment in schools for learning; social spaces, diversity of LEARN program and preschool. He also spoke of the flexibility of the unique physical space at HA, to include sufficient parking and a safer traffic site. and he encouraged the Board to rethink options as what to do with the elementary schools.
2. Jennifer Murray, 7 Tabernacle Ave, Niantic, encouraged transparency in the elementary school building project process and asked why the Board is afraid to bring the plan to referendum and spoke of losing Creative Preschool and LEARN with combining NCS with Lillie B.
3. Kyle Douton, 5 Rockwell St. Niantic, expressed his frustration that the elementary project is taking way too long and encouraged the BOE, BOS and the BOF to get on the same page. He spoke in support of three elementary schools and expressed concern that the schools are pinned against each other. He also spoke of concerns regarding the increase in insurance costs for next year and asked that the Board keep the community informed of the budget.

The Board took a short break at 7:46 p.m.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Jaime Barr Shelburn moved to enter into executive session at 7:50 p.m. and to include the Superintendent to discuss personnel issues; Marlene Nickerson seconded.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

MOTION CARRIED

The Board exited Executive Session at 8:10p.m.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Jaime Barr Shelburn moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.; Candice Carlson seconded.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Jaime Barr Shelburn

Jamie Barr Shelburn, Acting Secretary
East Lyme Board of Education