

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

Special Meeting  
**PUBLIC HEARING**  
**Monday, February 23, 2015**  
**6:00 p.m.**

Mary Broderick Auditorium, East Lyme High School

**MINUTES**

Board Members Present: Tim Hagen (Chair), Al Littlefield (Secretary), Jill Carini, Rob Kupis, Al Littlefield, Marlene Nickerson, Barbara Senges, Jaime Barr Shelburn

Board Members Absent: Joe Arcarese, Pam Rowe

Administrators Present: Dr. James Lombardo (Superintendent), Donna Gittleman (Interim Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Pupil Personnel), Dr. Karen Costello (Administrator for Program Improvement), Kim Davis and Claudine Kelly (Special Education Coordinators), Linda Anania (Flandres Elementary Principal), Melissa DeLoreto (Niantic Center Principal), Dr. Judy DeLeeuw (East Lyme Middle School Principal), Jen Frost and Jason Bitgood (East Lyme Middle School Assistant Principals), Pat Lannon (Technology Director)

**I. CALL TO ORDER** – 6:00 p.m. by Chair Tim Hagen

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

**III. AGENDA ITEMS**

**A. Discussion re: Presentation on the Draft 2015/2016 Budget for East Lyme Public Schools**

Dr. Lombardo gave a PowerPoint presentation of the draft 2015/2016 Budget for East Lyme Public Schools.

A total budget of \$44,802,787; representing a 4.7% increase over the current-year budget was presented as follows:

- The budget priorities align with the district's long range plan.
- The average budget increase between FY 12 and FY 16 is 2.34%.
- The major increases in the budget are reflected in salaries, benefits and insurance, natural gas, heating oil, technology lease, non-instructional equipment, and transportation.
- Staff changes include the following:
  - 1.0 FTE Assistant Principal (part of Administrator's Bargaining Unit – Split between Flanders and Haynes Elementary Schools)
  - 1.0 FTE Teacher Leader (part of Teacher's Bargaining Unit - Middle School)
  - 2.0 FTE Reading Teachers (elementary and high school)
  - 1.0 FTE Secretarial position (#504 and SRBI)
- Enrollment reflects a projected overall district decrease of 88 students.

The Board will continue discussion and deliberations and is expected to adopt a budget no later than March 9. The adopted budget will then be forwarded to the Board of Finance.

B. Public Comment Received Relative to Draft 2015-2016 School District Budget

1. Maya Vargas, Pontiac Drive - Niantic, noted that 5-year old technology equipment is still too old. She spoke in support of the Data Manager position and the importance of supporting our teachers.
2. Gil Gallant, ELTA President, urged the Board to support the budget as presented and to do what is right for education.
3. Kylee Ewald and Vibhav Prakasam, Editor's in Chief of The Viking Saga, asked what the Board's role is in general regarding the budget process and whether there were previous versions of the budget. Vibhav stated that it seems the teachers "step it up" for evaluations and Kaylee asked how students can help with evaluations. Chair Tim Hagen responded by defining the Board's role as advocates for education and to do their best to ensure a quality education for children while being mindful of the cost to taxpayers. Dr. Lombardo noted that budget talks start at the teacher level. The original budget brought to Dr. Lombardo by the principals was almost 7%.
4. Cheryl Flynn, 14 Hillside Drive - Niantic, spoke in support of the budget as presented.
5. Rocco Tricarico, 17 Rose Lane - Niantic, asked for clarification regarding 1) the increased payout of severance pay, and 2) individual budget sheets for the last three years for the EL-XJ Chinese program. Dr. Lombardo response - Severance pay is up approximately \$180,000 this year due to the retirement of 13 teachers and 2 administrators and the terms of their contract agreements. With the exception of \$225 in teacher substitute coverage, there has been no cost to the district associated with the EL BOE approved 6-year agreement with the EL-XJ Chinese program. Three years of budget sheets will be available.

Chair Tim Hagen closed the Public Hearing at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Albert Littlefield*  
Albert Littlefield, Secretary  
East Lyme Board of Education