

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

**Monday, April 6, 2015  
Regular Meeting: 7:00 p.m.  
Room B101 (INTV Room) - East Lyme High School**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Board Members Present:** Tim Hagen (Chair), Al Littlefield (Secretary), Jill Carini, Candice Carlson, Rob Kupis, Marlene Nickerson, Pam Rowe, Barbara Senges

**Board Members Absent:** Joe Arcarese, Jaime Barr Shelburn

**Administrators Present:** Jeffrey Newton (Superintendent), Donna Gittleman (Interim Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Pupil Personnel), Dr. Karen Costello (Administrator for Program Improvement), Kim Davis (Special Education Coordinators), Linda Anania (Flanders Elementary Principal), Melissa DeLoreto (Niantic Center Principal), Dr. Judy DeLeeuw (East Lyme Middle School Principal), Pat Lannon (Technology Director)

**I. CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chair Tim Hagen.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Led by Superintendent Jeff Newton

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. Lisa Opsahl, 7 Wilbur Lane - Niantic, President of the Drug and Alcohol Free Committee, spoke in support of a June 18, 2015 ELHS graduation date for the class of 2015.
2. David Tretter, 21 Brainard Road - Niantic, expressed concerns regarding unacceptable ELHS baseball field conditions, transportation costs to Dodd Stadium, inconvenience parents and disappointed players and asked Superintendent Newton to rectify the situation.
3. Rocco Tricarico, 17 Rose Lane - Niantic, articulated concerns regarding ongoing neglect of the East Lyme High School baseball field and noted that kids and the taxpayers of East Lyme deserve better. He urged the Board to do the right thing and turn the field over to the town. He also expressed concerns that miscommunication exists regarding elementary global language funding.
4. Karen Delesdernier, 254 Giants Neck Road - Niantic, expressed concerns regarding neglect of the High School baseball field and feels kids and parents deserve more. She encouraged Superintendent Newton to look into the situation.
5. Laurie Barry, CIL Global Language - East Lyme High School, encouraged approval of the Elementary Global Language Program.
6. Kathryn Tretter, 21 Brainard Road - Niantic, encouraged the Board to look into asking the East Lyme Parks and Recreation Department to maintain the HS baseball field.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Pam Rowe moved approval of minutes of the Board of Education March 23, 2015 Regular Meeting as presented; Candice Carlson seconded.

**VOTE PRO:** Tim Hagen, Al Littlefield, Marlene Nickerson, Rob Kupis, Pam Rowe, Barbara Senges

**VOTE CON:** None

**ABSTAIN:** Candice Carlson, Jill Carini

**MOTION CARRIED 6:02**

**V. SPECIAL REPORTS**

- A. Students' Representative – None.
- B. Selectmen's Representative – First Selectman Mark Nickerson
- Expressed disappointment and concern regarding the East Lyme High School baseball field and dugout conditions and requested meeting with Superintendent, East Lyme Parks and Recreation and Public Works to come up with an arrangement to ensure the field is taken care of and ready for student use
  - Supports the East Lyme High School Drug and Alcohol Free Graduation Party Committee
  - The Boardwalk is expected to be fully ready by Labor Day
  - Celebrate East Lyme plans are underway
  - Budget deliberations are underway
- C. Salem Board of Education – None.
- D. Town Building Committee – None.

**VI. CONSENT AGENDA****VII. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS****A. Finance/Facilities/Community****1. Discussion re: Board of Education Budget Presentation to the Board of Finance**

- Discussion continued regarding the content of the presentation of the Board of Education's budget for 2015-2016 to the Board of Finance on March 30, 2015.
- The Board awaits feedback from the Board of Finance on Wednesday, April 8.

**2. Discussion re: Update on Elementary Schools Renovation Planning**

Tim Hagen reviewed the minutes of the March 26, 2015 Elementary Schools' Design Steering Committee meeting. Schematic drawings for the Flanders School and Niantic Center School were provided. A traffic study of NCS is being conducted. Tim Hagen and Superintendent Newton will craft a letter to update parents on the timeline adjustment of the project and provide them with a better understanding of the direction the Board has opted.

**B. Instruction****1. Discussion/action re: Proposed ELHS Graduation Date for the Class of 2015**

Mr. Newton requested the Board set the ELHS graduation date for the class of 2015 as Thursday, June 18, 2015, the 182<sup>nd</sup> day of the 2014-2015 school year.

**MOTION:** Al Littlefield moved to approve the proposed ELHS graduation date for the class of 2015 as Thursday, June 18, 2015, the 182<sup>nd</sup> day of the 2014-2015 school year as presented; Pam Rowe seconded.

**VOTE:** Unanimous

**MOTION CARRIED**

**2. Discussion/action re: Proposed 2015/2016 ELHS Music Course – Music Tech II**

The AAA Committee reviewed and recommended to add Music Tech II as an East Lyme High School music course effective the start of the 2015/2016 school year. On 3/23/15 the AAA Committee reviewed and recommended approval of the course. There will be no budgetary impact on existing staff.

**MOTION:** Al Littlefield moved to include Music Tech II as part of the East Lyme High School music curriculum effective the start of the 2015/2016 school year; Marlene Nickerson seconded.

**VOTE:** Unanimous

**MOTION CARRIED**

**3. Discussion/action re: Proposed 2015/2016 ELHS Music Course – Music Co-Op**

The AAA Committee reviewed and recommended to add Music Co-Op as an East Lyme High School music course effective the start of the 2015/2016 school year. On 3/23/15 the AAA

Committee reviewed and recommended approval of the course. A grant is being sought to cover the budgetary impact of \$2,000 for existing staff.

**MOTION:** Barbara Senges moved to include Music Co-Op as part of the East Lyme High School music curriculum effective the start of the 2015/2016 school year; Candice Carlson seconded.

**VOTE:** Unanimous

**MOTION CARRIED**

**4. Discussion/action re: Proposed Reinstatement of the Suspended Elementary Global Language Program and Extension of the Elementary School Day**

The Board continued discussion regarding the reinstatement of the suspended Elementary Global Language Program effective the start of the 2015-2016 school year. The improved elementary program will provide Grade 3 and 4 students with a minimum of 60 minutes a week of instruction in French and/or Spanish. An adjustment in elementary and middle schools times is required. Funds for the two instructors will be covered by revenue from the East Lyme–Xiangjiang Cooperative Agreement.

**MOTION:** Jill Carini moved to reinstate the suspended Elementary Global Language Program and the extension to the student school day as presented; Candice Carlson seconded.

**VOTE PRO:** Tim Hagen (Chair), Al Littlefield (Secretary), Jill Carini, Candice Carlson, Rob Kupis, Pam Rowe, Barbara Senges

**ABSTAIN:** None

**VOTE CON:** Marlene Nickerson

**MOTION CARRIED 7:0:1**

**C. Personnel**

**D. Policy**

**E. Other**

**VIII. ADMINISTRATION REPORTS**

**A. Superintendent of Schools – Mr. Jeffrey Newton**

- Continue visiting schools and meeting with staff.
- Thanked everyone, including Dr. Lombardo, for making it a smooth transition and looking forward to working with a great staff.
- Finalizing his Entry Plan and will share with the Board at an upcoming facilitated workshop.
- Scheduling meetings with individual Board members, 'office hours' with staff, school meetings.
- Town Audit Report will be discussed by the Board at a future meeting.
- Glad that the improved and safer East Lyme Middle School traffic pattern is working.

**B. Interim Assistant Superintendent of Schools – Donna Gittleman**

- Fabulous three days with Mr. Newton.

**C. Business/Facilities Director – Maria Whalen**

- Continuing work on budget.

**IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A. AAA Committee – Oral report of 4/6/15 meeting
- B. FFO Committee
- C. Policy Review Committee
- D. Alignment Research Ad hoc Committee
- E. East Lyme Elementary Schools Design Steering Committee

**X. COMMUNICATIONS**

1. ELPS and Salem School District Summer 2015 Reading List
2. EL Elementary Schools' Design Steering Committee Meeting Minutes of 3/26/15

**XI. NOTICES**

1. Notice of staffing changes:
    - Conner Scace, 1.0 FTE Science Long Term Substitute Teacher, on or about 4/20/15 – end of 14/15 school year
    - Tyler Johnson, 1.0 FTE Social Studies Long Term Sub Teacher, on or about 4/29/15 – end of 14/15 school year
  2. Increases/Decreases/Additional Appointment
    - Anna Montgomery, appointment of .30 FTE Successful Beginnings Coordinator in addition to 1.0 FTE Instructional Aide, HA, 3/13/15
    - Kim Wojcik, reduction from 1.0 FTE to 0.66 FTE Before/After School Program Coordinator, FL/HA/NC/MS, 3/9/15
    - Kim Wojcik, reassignment from 0.3 FTE Successful Beginnings Teacher, HA to 0.66 FTE Younger's Aide, FL, 3/9/15
  3. Resignations
    - Joshua Sheppard, Track Club Advisor, MS (14/15 Supplemental Appointment)
  4. Supplemental Appointments for 2014/2015
    - Michael Abate, Men's Tennis, Assistant Coach, HS\*
    - Alyssa Andres, Women's Lacrosse, Assistant Coach HS\*
    - Rudy Bagos, Golf, Head Coach, HS
    - Stephanie Bassham, Spring Fitness Center Advisor, HS
    - Sarah Bennett, Girls' Outdoor Track, Co-Assistant Coach, HS\*
    - Jack Biggs, Baseball, Head Coach, HS
    - Judy Deeb, Softball, Head Coach, HS
    - Ben Donatello, Boys' Outdoor Track, Assistant Coach, HS\*
    - Robert Durham, Girls' Crew, Volunteer Coach, HS\*
    - Roy Ebersole, Baseball, Assistant Coach, HS\*
    - Jeff Handler, Baseball, Assistant Coach, HS
    - Steve Hargis, Boys' Outdoor Track, Head Coach, HS
    - Mary Jennings, Girls' Crew, Assistant Coach, HS
    - Katie Lima, Girls' Outdoor Track, Co-Assistant Coach, HS
    - Joan Love, Track Club Advisor, MS
    - Scott Mahon, Girls' Crew, Head Coach, HS
    - Kristy McFadden, Women's Lacrosse, Volunteer Assistant Coach, HS\*
    - John Nazarko, Baseball, Volunteer Coach, HS\*
    - Matt O'Grady, Boys' Lacrosse, Volunteer Assistant Coach, HS
    - Alan Opsahl, Boys' Lacrosse, Volunteer Coach, HS\*
    - Laurie Privell, Women's Tennis, Head Coach, HS\*
    - Rachel Redding, Golf, Volunteer Coach, HS
    - Carl Reichard, Girls' Outdoor Track, Head Coach, HS
    - John Riley, Girls' Outdoor Track, Volunteer Coach, HS\*
    - John Rudker, Baseball, Volunteer Coach, HS\*
    - Phillip Schneider, Women's Lacrosse, Head Coach, HS\*
    - Peter Sepko, Boys' Outdoor Track, Assistant Coach, HS\*
    - Michael Shugrue, Boys' Crew, Head Coach, HS\*
    - Lizzie Simons, Boys' Crew, Assistant Coach, HS\*
    - Joe Siragusa, Baseball, Volunteer Coach, HS\*
    - Susan Welshock, Men's Tennis, Head Coach, HS\*
    - Warren Whitehouse, Softball, Assistant Coach, HS\*
    - Gary Wight, Boys' Lacrosse, Head Coach, HS
    - William Yuhas, Softball, Volunteer Coach, HS\*
- B. Notice of out of state field trips: None

**XII. BOARD COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS****A. Board Comments:**

1. Barbara Senges – Expressed her concerns regarding High School baseball field.
2. Candice Carlson – Validated parent concerns regarding High School baseball field. Recommending that we move forward with fix/
3. Tim Hagen – The Board supports putting heads together doing the best thing for kids in the short term, but long term we need a baseball field we can count on. An update to Board will follow.
4. Candice Carlson – Stressed importance of regular communication with Board and advised Superintendent Newton to be proactive.
5. Jill Carini – Expressed financial concerns regarding sports vs. academics and asked that the Board revisit redistricting.

**B. Future Agenda Items:**

1. Middle School Literacy – AAA 5/12/15
2. Progress on Implementation of Teacher and Administrator Evaluation and Development Plan –J. Arcarese - *To be scheduled*
3. Pre-K Program Discussion – *To be scheduled*
4. Redistricting Discussion – Jill Carini – *To be scheduled*

**XIII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. Chris Smith, Black Point Road - Niantic, spoke highly of the improved traffic pattern at East Lyme Middle School.

**XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION – No executive session****XV. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Pam Rowe moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m.; Marlene Nickerson seconded.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS**

**MOTION CARRIED**

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