

**"East Lyme Public Schools will inspire, engage and educate each student to become a contributing citizen and a responsible, independent, and critical thinker."**

5165

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

**Monday,  
September 28, 2015  
Room B101 (INTV Room), East Lyme High School**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Board Members Present:** Tim Hagen (Chair), Al Littlefield (Secretary), Joe Arcarese, Candice Carlson, Barbara Senges, Jaime Barr Shelburn

**Board Members Absent:** Jill Carini, Rob Kupis, Marlene Nickerson, Pam Rowe

**Administrators Present:** Jeffrey Newton (Superintendent), Donna Gittleman (Interim Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Pupil Personnel), Maria Whalen (Director of Business and Facilities), Mike Susi (East Lyme High School Principal), Dr. Judy DeLeeuw (East Lyme Middle School Principal), Linda Anania (Flanders Principal), Melissa DeLoreto (Niantic Center Principal), Dr. David Miko, (Lillie B. Haynes Principal), Pat Lannon (Technology Director)

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Tim Hagen.  
II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Led by Tim Hagen, Board Chair and Student Representative Lily Zhong.

A moment of silence was held for Ed Hernandez who passed away on September 16. Ed was a custodian for ELPS for 10 years and retired in June.

III. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. Lawry O'Connell, 81 East Pattagansett Rd - Niantic, voiced concerns regarding how the final recommendation to close Lillie B. Haynes came about, the size and safety of the Niantic Center School site, and project costs. She asked the Board to go back and review all the steering Committee Meeting minutes and suggested more detailed discussion take place as to why the change in recommendation from keeping Lillie B. Haynes to Niantic Center. She encouraged the Board to keep the community informed and to distribute forum flyers throughout town. (*See attached Public Comment Regarding Elementary School Project, September 28, 2015, Lawry O'Connell.*)

IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Jaime Barr Shelburn moved approval of minutes of the Board of Education September 14, 2015 Regular Meeting as presented; Candice Carlson seconded.

**VOTE PRO:** Tim Hagen (Chair), Al Littlefield (Secretary), Candice Carlson, Barbara Senges, Jaime Barr Shelburn

**VOTE CON:** None

**ABSTAIN:** Joe Arcarese

**MOTION CARRIED 5:0:1**

V. **SPECIAL REPORTS**

- A. Students' Representative** – Matt Spang and Lily Zhong  
- Morale is good, classes, and sports are underway.  
- Chinese student visitors are enjoying their stay at ELHS and are becoming more comfortable.

**B. Selectmen's Representative – Rose Ann Hardy**

- Flagpole in front of the town hall is in disrepair.

**C. Salem Board of Education – George Jackson**

- The Draft Salem/East Lyme Cooperative Agreement has been posted on the Salem website. No community comments have been received.

**D. Town Building Committee****VI. CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Jaime Barr Shelburn moved to approve the Consent Agenda (A. Proposed ELHS Out-of-Country Field Trip to Salamanca, Spain from July 17-30, 2016 and B. Proposed Donation to ELHS Drama Club from the Town of East Lyme in the amount of \$1,000 as presented; Candice Carlson seconded.

**VOTE:** Unanimous

**MOTION CARRIED**

**VII. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS****A. Finance/Facilities/Community****1. Discussion re: Elementary School Project Update**

- Chairman Tim Hagen and Superintendent Jeff Newton took the Board through a PowerPoint presentation outlining the elementary school design planning, timeline and implementation. In December 2014, the Board of Education adopted a proposal to renovate as new Niantic Center School and build new Flanders School.
- The factors considered in selecting the two elementary school sites were reviewed, as well as the reimbursement rates for eligible square feet and opportunities possible with new or renovate as new elementary school facilities.
- Final cost estimates for both buildings will be completed by mid-October. Discussions with town officials are ongoing regarding the town's future use of the Lillie B. Haynes building.
- Community forums and meetings will take place during late October, November, and December.
- Chair Tim Hagen said the project has many components that will need to be presented to the community, so the public can consider "the whole picture" and make a decision.
- The target date for referendum is March 3, 2016. Information and meeting minutes remain readily accessible on our website at [www.eastlymeschools.org](http://www.eastlymeschools.org).

**B. Instruction****C. Personnel****D. Policy****1. Discussion re: Proposed First Reading BOE Policy 4218.51 Personnel – Social Networking – New Policy**

The suggested new BOE Policy 4218.51 Personnel – Social Networking was presented by the Policy Review Committee for a first reading. Board members were encouraged to contact Chair Tim Hagen or Supt Jeff Newton with concerns or issues. The second reading is scheduled for October 27, 2015.

**E. Other****1. Discussion re: Draft Board of Education Goals for 2015-2016**

Chair Tim Hagen presented the following draft Board Goals for 2015-2016:

**1. Superintendent**

- Provide support, advocacy and open communication for our superintendent as he leads
  - Completion of ongoing tasks from the district's past Long-Range Plan
  - Building of a new Long-Range Plan for the ELPS
  - Modification of the current financial systems to align with required State mandated chart of accounts

- Building a budget for 2016-2017 with greater transparency and earlier collaborative engagement with the Board of Finance
  - Construction of a smooth transition for the Central Office organization in 2015-2016.
2. Cooperative Agreement
    - Complete the work to address the upcoming expiration and renewal of the Cooperative Agreement between Salem and East Lyme, including drawing in community involvement and participation.
  3. Advanced the Elementary Facilities Program in coordination with town governance, community engagement and strong communication and transparency to all stakeholders.
  4. Improve the Board's ability to monitor progress toward district goals using data as the basis for assessment indicators in areas of student achievement and student success.
  5. Communication – The Board will work towards further communication and transparency, ensuring all stakeholders continue to be kept informed regarding District initiatives and Board of Education actions and decisions.

Further discussion will take place at the next regular Board meeting.

### **VIII. ADMINISTRATION REPORTS**

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

- Chinese BOE Ad hoc Committee will meet prior to the next regular Board meeting.
- Regional calendar for school year 2016-2017 is being discussed regionally and locally
- BOE Budget Workshop to be set.
- Dr. Judy DeLeeuw recently returned from a trip to Washington, D.C. where she was honored as the CT Middle School Principal of the Year.
- ELHS student Anneliese Lapides was recently recognized as a recipient of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship.

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

- Recently met with the Salem Special Education Director
- Administrators' Evaluation Plan has been approved by the State and will be presented to the Board for approval on October 13.
- Currently comparing prices and services of outplacements

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

- Moving forward with planning for FY17 Budget
- New form has been published for ELPS facilities usage

### **IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **A. AAA Committee**

#### **B. FFO Committee – Oral report of 09/28/15 (Al Littlefield, Co-Chair)**

#### **C. Policy Review Committee**

### **X. COMMUNICATIONS**

1. The Viking Saga, Volume 49, Edition 2, September 17, 2015

### **XI. NOTICES**

#### **A. Notice of the following 2015/2016 staffing changes:**

##### **1. Appointments:**

- Bryan Adams, 1.0 FTE Instructional Aide (1:1), DW @ MS, 08/31/15
- Breanna Bedard, 0.5 FTE After School Program Facilitator, HA, 08/26/15
- Margaret Elkins, 0.5 FTE Instructional Aide, HS, 09/8/15 (for 2015-2016 only)
- Therese Hoffer, 1.0 FTE Instructional Aide (1:1), DW @ FL, 09/8/15
- Nicholas Kasprzak, 1.0 FTE Special Education Teacher, HA, 08/24/15
- William Lesinski, 1.0 FTE Custodian, MS, 09/21/15
- Heidi, Macri, 1.0 Instructional Aide, HA, 09/16/15

- John McShane, 1.0 FTE Music Teacher, HA, 08/27/15
  - Megan Shaw, 0.4 FTE Before School Aide, MS, 08/26/15
2. Reassignments:
- James Goode from 1.0 FTE Custodian to 1.0 FTE Head Custodian, HA, 09/09/15
  - Reshma Haridas-Manohar, 0.20 FTE Aide, Youngers Program, FL, 09/09/15
  - John Sigler from 0.5 FTE Custodian, FL to 1.0 FTE Custodian, MS, 09/14/15
  - Kimberly Wojcik from 0.66 FTE Youngers Aide to 1.0 FTE Youngers Facilitator, 08/26/15
3. Increases/Decreases in FTE:
- JoAnne Basso decreased from 1.15 to 1.0 FTE Instructional Aide, FL, 09/21/15
4. Resignations:
5. Supplementals (2015-2016):
- Carolyn Ascioia, Girls Basketball Advisor, MS
  - Sean Ashburner, Math Counts Advisor, MS
  - Jennifer Berchielli, Lego Robotics Club Assistant Advisor, MS
  - David Casco, Fishing Club Advisor, MS
  - Melissa Chiappone, AV Coordinator, FL (corrected)
  - Melissa Chiappone, Early Morning Show Coordinator, FL (corrected)
  - Karen Ciccone, Jazz Band Club Advisor, MS
  - Lance Coderre, Intramural Basketball Advisor, MS
  - David Costa, Guitar Club Advisor, MS
  - David Costa, Mind Craft Club Advisor, MS
  - James Cunningham, Club Coordinator, MS
  - James Cunningham, Intramural Basketball Advisor, MS
  - John Donohue, Jr. Math Counts Advisor, MS
  - Chris Faulkner, Science Coordinator, HA (corrected)
  - Michelle Jeff, Science Club Advisor, MS
  - Lisa Kriger, Jr. Leaders Club Advisor, MS
  - Lisa Kriger, Leaders Club Advisor, MS
  - Kathleen Kupalanka, Service Club Advisor, MS (corrected)
  - Joan Love, Cross Country Advisor, MS
  - Cathy Lovell, Art Club Advisor, MS
  - John McShane, Choral Director, HA
  - John McShane, Instrumental Coordinator, Elementary
  - John McShane, Orchestra Director, Elementary
  - David Miner, Digital Productions Advisor, MS
  - David Miner, Video Journalism Club Advisor, MS
  - Linda Natri, Lego Robotics Club Advisor, MS
  - Glenn Penkofflidbeck, Jr. Science Club Advisor, MS
  - Nan Rigdon, Drama Club Advisor, MS
  - Joshua Sheppard, Cross Country Advisor, MS
  - Joshua Sheppard, Wellness Club Advisor, MS
  - Mike Spellman, Boys Basketball Advisor, MS\*
  - Kim Winkler, Lego Club Advisor, MS\*
  - Carla Woitivich, Yearbook Advisor, MS

\*Not a member of the ELPS professional staff

- B. Notice of the following out of state field trips:
1. ELHS students to Jaffrey, NH on Thursday, October 8, 2015 to hike Mt. Monadnock
  2. ELMS students to Boston, MA on Thursday, October 15, 2015 to visit the Freedom Trail and Boston sites
  3. ELMS students to Boston, MA on Friday, October 30, 2015, to visit the Freedom Trail and Boston sites
  4. ELHS students to NYC, NY on Friday, November 6, 2015 to visit the Museum of Modern Art

5. ELMS students to Boston, MA on Wednesday, November 18, 2015 to visit the Boston Museum of Science
6. ELHS students to NYC, NY on Wednesday, March 30, 2016 to attend a Broadway musical

**XII. BOARD COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

A. Board Comments

B. Future Agenda Items:

1. Progress on Implementation of Teacher and Administrator Evaluation and Development Plan – J. Arcarese – *October 2015*
2. Redistricting Discussion – Jill Carini – *To be scheduled*
3. Summer School Program/Camp – Candice Carlson – *To be scheduled*
4. Proposed Pool Renovation at ELHS – *To be scheduled*
5. Draft East Lyme/Salem Cooperative Agreement – *January 2016*
6. SBAC to SAT Discussion – *October 2015*
7. East Lyme / Chinese Program Update – *Monthly*
8. Food Service Program Discussion – *FFO Committee October 26, 2015*
9. Field Trip Discussion – *To be scheduled*
10. Student Activity Fund for Class of 2010 – *FFO Committee September 28, 2015*
11. Odyssey of the Mind Program – *AAA Committee October 13, 2015*
12. Inside Look of the Chinese Program at ELHS – *October 2015*

**XIII. PUBLIC COMMENT** - None

**XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION** – There was no Executive Session.

**XV. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Jaime Barr Shelburn moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m.; Barbara Senges seconded.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS**

**MOTION CARRIED**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
PROJECT  
SEPTEMBER 28, 2015**

**I am here tonight to talk about the elementary school project. I will try to break my discussion down to 4 areas.**

- 1. My concerns with how the final recommendation to close LBH came about**
- 2. My concerns with the Niantic Center School site**
- 3. Suggestions for moving forward with the community forums**
- 4. Conclusion**

**So to start with I am very uncomfortable with what appears to be a rushed decision to close LBH instead of NCS. From the beginning, starting the Feasibility study, Vision Committee recommendation and the June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013 presentation to the BOE the option of choice was to renovate as new both LBH and Flanders. This was then followed by the June 4<sup>th</sup> 2014 meeting when the architect made his recommendation for the most cost effective option. Renovating Flanders and NCS was 4<sup>th</sup> on the list with two recommendations for LBH and Flanders being his 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> choice. Supporting the Vision Committees recommendation. So at this point I am feeling confident that NCS will go off Line. I was unable to attend the school forums in September but did not hear that anything had changed and NCS was still to go off line. Summer comes and goes and school starts.**

**December 16<sup>th</sup> 2015 I hear that the BOE has endorsed the Steering Committees recommendation to close LBH and renovate NCS as new. Needless to say I am shocked along with many other people. I then go back and read the steering committees minutes. I find that at the June 17<sup>th</sup> meeting there is a mention of looking into NCS as a viable location. On Oct 21<sup>st</sup> Paul Formica attends a meeting suggesting his preference regarding what school would benefit the town the most. LBH being his first choice. October 28<sup>th</sup> discussion is in full force regarding NCS and it is noted that LBH will be 1 million dollars less than NCS to renovate. November 12<sup>th</sup> the Steering committee votes to close LBH and renovate as new NCS.**

**Up until June 17<sup>th</sup> it has been clear that NCS will be closed. Then within 1 months time after two years of work and research by the vision committee that supported LBH to be renovated, NCS is chosen. I am uncomfortable with how quickly it took the committee to make this decision knowing what all the recommendations were. It just doesn't feel right. From 1012 to June of 2014 everything was supporting LBH to be renovated. Nor was the LBH community given any notice that a change was being considered. They were not afforded the same opportunity as NCS to voice their thoughts before a vote made.**

**2. OK enough of that and I will outline my concerns with the traffic flow and safety issues regarding NCS.**

**1. I have live on E. Pattagansett Rd. and have been there for 29 years. My son attended NCS so I feel I am well versed with the traffic issues in this area.**

**2. I know that a traffic study was completed regarding NCS after the decision to keep NCS was made. This study should have been done before the vote and study of LBH conducted also so a thorough understanding of both sites could have been compared. The study indicates that it will work with minimal impact. I disagree.**

**3. Currently at dismissal time there is very often a traffic jam as busses are trying to exit the school and turning left. At times it is difficult for them to complete their left turn without blocking traffic due to a back up at the light.**

**3. The intersection can be challenging as cars waiting to turn onto E Pattagansett and Black Point Rd. are at a stop and cars are passing them in the emergency lanes. This occurs daily and often produces some very close calls that could result in accidents. I have called the State in the past regarding these issues and have been told that there have not been any serious accidents reported so a review is not warranted.**

**4. The stop signs on E. Pattagansett rd at Hope street are often missed and driven through.**

**5. The proposed parking lot for NCS on E. Pattagansett has its exit and entrance along the property boarding the cemetery. This is a blind corner and has the potential for many accidents. There is no safe place on E. Pattagansett for an entrance or exit for that proposed parking lot. This should be looked into again.**

**6. With NCS on the corner of two very busy roads and the anticipated increase of approximately 200 students I am not sure that this is the safest site. All of the issues I just spoke about will only be magnifies with the addition of 200 students. LBH is not on a busy road or on a corner lot. The traffic flow for its approximately 300 plus students is already established and presents no dangerous situations. The LBH site can already handle 400 students without any issues. Again a traffic study of both sites would have been helpful before a site decision was made.**

**3. Those are my site concerns. As you move forward to present this to the community may I suggest that you include a detailed discussion regarding why the**

**change of sites as indicated in the steering committees September 9<sup>th</sup> minutes.**

**I would also be more specific than the steering committee had planed regarding the future of LBH. In many ways this should be part of the school project. It is part of the selling point that the school will be returned to the town for town use. As tax payers I need to know what the anticipated cost to the town will be to renovate this school. Without this number it will be difficult to vote for a new school project. They go hand in hand.**

**As with the Middle school project it was helpful to have flyers and posters posted regarding any and all community forums at as many places as possible, town hall, community center, Youth services, library, parks and rec, all schools, preschools, child care facilities and religious establishments. Basically flood the area. Plenty of notices and articles in the local paper and school newsletters.**

**I would be prepared for all possible questions. Remember that when the Middle School project was passed the economy was slightly better than now and it passed by less than 18 votes.**

**In conclusion I ask that you go back and review all the steering committees meetings and see if you can understand the switch. Spend some time at both LBH and NCS during arrival and dismissal times. Then compare the two sites for safety and traffic flow. The decision to use NCS or LBH should not be subject to what building the Town wants for its use but by what is the best choice for towns educational system, safety of the students, teaching staff and support staff. This is what the Vision Committee did and the architect did. Both taking NCS off Line. And remember that when the Middle School project was proposed to the Town part of that proposal was that should our student population decline NCS would be taken off line and LBH remain. This would keep with the educational campus of two schools, ELYS, Library, Senior center and parks and rec. So again please review all information you can and ask the hard questions. We don't want a new school on a site that can "just work" but be on site that is appropriate on all levels. It is not too late for a change if need be.**

**Just a small foot note...I did attend the Presentation to the BOS and then met with Dr. Lombardo to express all of the above. My meeting was not received well and ended on a somewhat sour note. I was told that "the decision has been made and won't change". This left me very discouraged and angry , I should have come before you all sooner. For that I apologize.**

**Thank you**

**Lawry O'Connell**