

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

**REGULAR MEETING
Monday, March 28, 2016 - 7:00 p.m.
Room B101, East Lyme High School**

MINUTES

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

Board Members Absent: None

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 School), Melissa DeLoreto (Principal, Niantic Center School), Dr. Judy DeLeeuw (Principal, East Lyme Middle School), Maria Whalen (Director of Business and Facilities)

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – 7:03 p.m. by Chair Tim Hagen
- II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Led by Chair Tim Hagen and ELPS Elementary Students
There was no objection to moving the First Selectmen’s report forward on the agenda as he was expected downtown for another meeting.

Board of Education Appreciation Month

Presentations by Students of East Lyme Public Schools

REPORTS– Not objection

1. First Selectmen Mark Nickerson (ex-officio report), publicly thanked Superintendent Newton for pulling back the Board of Education approved elementary school building project and discussing it fully with town officials. He stated the current Board of Education approved project would double the town’s debt and was not the most ideal plan in the long range planning of the town. He also stated that the town has no plan yet for the Niantic Center School site although it is the most marketable property and provides the most reuse. He said that the town cannot carve out and sell Lillie B. Haynes and must be used for the purpose of education.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Jen Murray (7 Tabernacle Avenue, Niantic) asked the town’s consideration when scheduling a Board of Finance meeting on the same night as the Board of Education meeting and provided copies of town meetings and deeds related to the Lillie B. Haynes property. She questioned why the Board did not conduct a public forum and asked that they pull back and find a better plan that is least disruptive for kids and is not a “band aid” fix for Flanders School.

2. Christine Naktanis (3 Champlin Hill Court, Niantic) asked how many classrooms at Lillie B. Haynes, and how students would be housed in the interim, cost of portable classrooms and why aren't the kids at Niantic Center School while construction is going on.
3. Mykel Bridget Czaja (6 Pleasant Drive, Niantic) stated it is unfounded to have students attend school under construction and expressed concerns regarding the effects of noise and environment on learning and academic achievement. She stated that portable classrooms are unacceptable and have a negative impact on learning. She encouraged the Board to do what's best for our children and not settle for something that is "just good enough."
4. Peter Naktanis (3 Champlin Hill Court, Niantic) voiced concerns about noise, security and environmental issues for kids while construction is taking place at Lillie B. Haynes and that portable classrooms are not a good environmental setting for learning. She encouraged use of Niantic Center School while construction is taking place at Lillie B. Haynes and suggested parent representatives from each school be included on a committee during planning and transitioning process.
5. Kim Mazzarelli (8 Darrows Ridge Road, East Lyme) spoke of equity concerns with Lillie B. Haynes and deviation from the previous Flanders School Plan and noted that Flanders School parents are interested in having a better understanding of the plan.
6. Tina Carrico (50 Edge Hill Road, Niantic) opposes closing any elementary school and stated the decision should go to town referendum for public vote.
7. Lisa Benever (12 West Lane, Niantic) commented on the favorable location of Niantic Center School and asked the Board to consider an alternate plan for students in school during renovation.
8. Alisha Brothers (149 Roxbury Road, Niantic) asked to have equitable distribution at all schools.
9. Lauren McKee (59 Black Point Road, Niantic) shared letters written by Niantic Center School in support of keeping Niantic Center School open and expressed concern regarding transition anxieties.
10. Carol Russell (4 Bramble Bush Drive, Niantic) supports keeping Niantic Center School open and asked if the Board if Finance has cut the school budget for next year. She stated the Niantic Center School experience should be expanded and not dismantled and the decision to close a school should not be made in a rush. She expressed concerns regarding enrollment and urged the Board to think carefully before making a decision to close Niantic Center School.
11. Bridgett White (1 Sunrise Avenue, Niantic) asked the Board to keep all three schools open and to prioritize what needs to be fixed.
12. Jayme Keefe (6 Mohawk Drive, Niantic) noted that great things are going on at all schools. She asked the Board to consider in its plan possible mandated preschool, encouraged the Board to consider other building options, asked the Board to think carefully and slowly keeping politics out of it, and to consider all stakeholders.
13. Heather Treptow (179 Bridebrook Road, Niantic) said that teachers, staff, students made schools great and asked the Board to put personal interests aside and make a decision as to what makes the most financial sense for town. She discouraged negativity on the part of parents, and noted that children are resilient and the project will be an exciting time for them.
14. Rebecca Karun (78 Arbor Crossing, Niantic) echoed Heather Treptow's remarks and encouraged the Board to move forward showing parents the positive aspects of the project to pass onto kids.

15. Kelly Strief (Brook Road, Niantic) encouraged the Board to table the vote on the elementary project and suggested uses for Lillie B. Haynes property (athletic fields).
16. Maura Ament (72 Mostowy Road, East Lyme) said the process needs to be transparent and seems rushed. She stated there is no guarantee that in 5 to 7 years the construction of a new Flanders School will pass and a band aid fix is not acceptable.
17. Tara Dowling (19 Pleasant Drive Extension, Niantic) stated the way the process has happened has caused anxiety and fear among the community, and people have not been informed of the revised plan. She asked the Board to consider the feedback heard tonight and to come up with a plan that is reasonable and safe.
18. Bonnie Dombrowski (103 Walnut Hill Road, East Lyme) stated that she moved to East Lyme nine years ago for the education for future children and is happy to pay more for taxes for education purposes, but is not getting information regarding the project.
19. Maia Vargas (18 Pontiac Drive, Niantic) asked the Board to meet further with the Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen to work out a feasible project and that it is only fair to parents before moving forward with a vote.
20. Alex Argeris (17 South Beechwood Road, Niantic) questioned long-range plan and bonding issues in town and stated the building needs to be part of that long-range plan. He cautioned the Board to take the information heard tonight and delay the vote and expressed his lack of trust in elected officials in general.
21. Randee Siegel (65 Old Black Point Road, Niantic) stated she respects the Board of Education and Superintendent for doing the best they can with the limitations set. She supports two schools and asked the project be brought to referendum for the community to decide.
22. Carla Cirone (236 Upper Pattagansett Road) East Lyme, stated she moved here because of the reputation of the schools and has no complaint about an increase of the mill rate for educational purposes, although she is not clear on the elementary project.
23. Jen Murray (7 Tabernacle Avenue, Niantic) stated the community is looking for clarification of the relationship between the Board of Education, Board of Selectmen, and Board of Finance and stated there is so little transparency.
24. Liz Banezer (12 West Lane, Niantic) stated she just received a text from Mark Nickerson stating he hopes to keep Niantic Center School open.
25. Kyle Douton (5 Rockwell Avenue, Niantic) attended the Board of Education Meeting of the Whole on March 24 and is disappointed that the project has taken six years. He stated he is also disappointed in the town's lack of transparency.
26. Marc Murray (7 Tabernacle Avenue, Niantic) could not be in attendance and submitted a letter addressed to the Board dated 03/28/16 that was read by Jaime Barr-Shelburn. The letter included questions regarding the elementary project and is included as an attachment to these minutes.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Jaime Barr Shelburn moved approval of minutes of the Board of Education March 14, 2016 Regular Meeting as presented; Candice Carlson seconded.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: Jaime Barr Shelburn moved approval of minutes of the Board of Education March 23, 2016 Committee of the Whole Meeting as amended (inclusion of the 02/25/16 Conceptual Budget Cost Estimate (Replace Existing Flanders School with New Pre-K -4 Facility) as provided by Al Jacunski); Candice Carlson seconded.

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

ABSTAIN: Marlene Nickerson

MOTION CARRIED 9:1

V. SPECIAL REPORTS

A. Students' Representative – Lily Zhong and Matt Spang

1. Wished the Board a Happy Board Appreciation Month on behalf of the ELHS students and thanked the Board for their service.
2. Volleyball fundraiser with students and staff
3. 04/01 is the ELHS Hypnotist Show
4. 04/06 Red Cross Blood Drive at ELHS
5. 04/29 is the Annual ELHS Spectacular (talent show)
6. Congratulations to the Math League members for their recent accomplishment
7. CAPT Science test
8. ELHS Fencing took first place
9. Last week's district-wide music concert was a great success!

B. Selectmen's Representative – First Selectman Mark Nickerson (see page 5256)

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

D. Other Reporters

VI. CONSENT AGENDA - None

VII. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Finance/Facilities/Community

1. Discussion/Action re: **Discussion and possible action concerning a proposed rescission of the vote taken by the Board on November 9, 2015 which provided for the following:**

Moved to approve total conceptual cost estimate of \$82,755,855 to replace the existing Flanders School with a new facility and renovate as new Niantic Center School; advancing the project to the Board of Selectmen for their review and action as presented.

There was no objection to a modification of the agenda to discuss to VII.A.2. before taking action on this agenda item.

Superintendent Newton took the Board through an updated presentation of the elementary school building projects as dated March 28, 2016 (see item A.2.) and the Board reviewed the rationale for the revised plan.

- Based on the town's financial analysis of the Board of Education approved project and as a result of several conversations with town officials, Superintendent Newton was asked to present a revised project plan that the town could financially support.
- The proposal made by the Board of Education must be approved by the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance before it can go to referendum. The approved project could not be supported.
- The newly proposed plan calls to renovate as new Lillie B. Haynes School, close Niantic Center School, and provide some renovations to Flanders School, but postpone the rebuilding of Flanders Elementary School in 5 to 7 years.

MOTION: Jill Carini moved to rescind the vote by the Board of Education on November 9, 2015 to approve total conceptual cost estimate of \$82,755,855 to replace the existing Flanders School with a new facility and renovate as new Niantic Center School; advancing the project to the Board of Selectmen for their review and action as presented; John Kleinhans seconded.

VOTE PRO: Tim Hagen (Chair), Al Littlefield (Secretary), Eric Bauman, Jill Carini, Candice Carlson, John Kleinhans, Marlene Nickerson, Barbara Senges

VOTE CON: Bill Derry, Jaime Barr Shelburn

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED 8:0:2

2. Discussion/Action re: Proposed ELPS Elementary School Building Projects

East Lyme Public Schools Elementary School Projects Update

Presented to East Lyme Board of Education
March 20, 2016
Superintendent Jeffrey Newton and BOE Chair Tim Hagen

1

Elementary School Projects as of 3/28/16

Superintendent's Perspective:

1. Essential to ensure every child has an equal opportunity to learn in the best educational setting.
2. We must ensure that staff are provided the best opportunity to educate our children in the most positive environment.
3. We need to move forward in creating a finalized school construction plan.
4. We must remain focused on educational needs and fiscal responsibility with our elementary school projects.

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Elementary School Projects as of 3/28/16

Perspective Continued:

- All school options have been thoroughly vetted, discussed, and reviewed during the duration of project development.
- Committee members spent countless hours investigating all school options thoroughly over the years.
- Design Steering Committee has reviewed and discussed the most recent revised plan.
- BOE has reviewed and discussed the revised plan.

Elementary School Projects as of 3/28/16

LBH and FL School:

- We will not have exact equity in elementary school populations.
- One building structure will be larger than the other.
- Options are present to move specific programs between schools.
- Responsible in considering future enrollment shifts
- Future options are still present when a new Flanders School is constructed.
- Brand new LBH structure! Needed refurbishments at FLI

Elementary School Projects as of 3/28/16

ELPS Elementary (K-4) Class Size/Student Enrollment
2015-2016 3/23/16

School	Enrollment	Kindergarten Sections and Class Size	Grade 1 Sections and Class Size	Grade 2 Sections and Class Size	Grade 3 Sections and Class Size	Grade 4 Sections and Class Size
FL	350	4 15,15,15,17	3 19,19,19	4 19,20,21,21	4 17,16,17,17	4 21,22,23,23
LBH NCS	291 172	5 13,14,15 15,15	6 14,15,15,15 15,16	6 17,15,16,16 18,18	6 16,14,16,16 17,17	5 21,21,20 20,21

Other Elementary Programs In-District
2015-2016

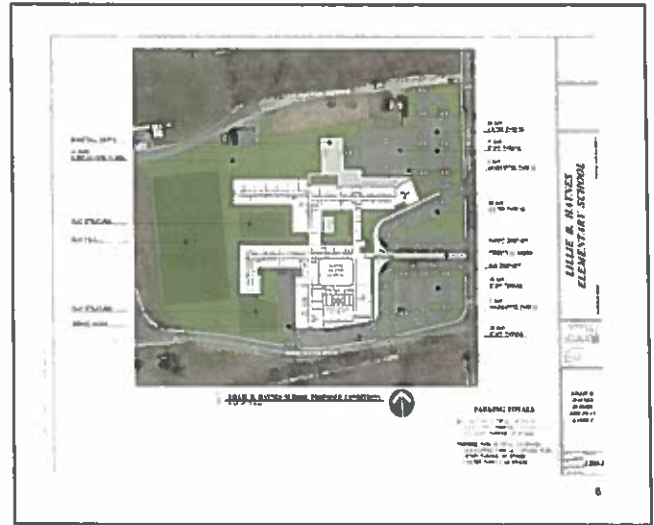
Elementary Program	Student Enrollment	Current Location	Notes
ELPS Integrated Preschool	01	HA	Food service space
ELPS ABA Program	5	FL	
ELPS Therapeutic Program	4	FL	
Creative FL Preschool	76	HA	
LEARN	16	HA	

ELPS Student Enrollment

School	Actual 9/30/15	Actual 3/31/16	NESDEC Projected 2015-2016	NESDEC Projected 2020-2021	NESDEC Projected 2025-2026
FL	342	350 (+8)			
HA	288	291 (+3)			
NC	168	172 (+4)			
Total Elem	799	813 (+14)	Projected 801 (Actual 813)	758	771
MS	848	854 (+6)	Projected 848 (Actual 854)	682	703
HS	1080	1080 (0)	Projected 1063 (Actual 1080)	1008	831

Total Cost of Renovate as New Lillie B. Haynes

Total Project Cost	\$45,060,609
Estimated State Reimbursement	10,809,124
Estimated Net Cost to East Lyme	\$34,251,485



Lillie B. Haynes School Map



Elementary School Projects as of 3/28/16

Flanders Refurbishment (1.5 million):

1. Construct a new main entrance with updated security (visitors enter through main office).
2. Improve technology (Wi-Fi, computers).
3. Improve quality of the environment (paint, ceiling tile replacements, refurbish bathroom tiles).
4. Add/Replace light fixtures (hallways), lens covers (classrooms).
5. Replace classroom furniture items (tables, chairs, desks).

Elementary School Projects as of 3/28/16

Referendum Proposal: Renovate as new LBH and refurbish FL with 1.5 million dollars

Failure at Referendum:

Plan B – Combine NCS into the LBH existing structure beginning 2017-2018 school year.

*Two schools with no renovations and increased costs for any future construction plans for LBH or FL.

Outstanding Considerations and Needs:

1. Finalize construction rendering of LBH structure
2. Identify construction logistics and transitions keeping in mind, first and foremost, the safety of all children:
 - Options**
 - Phased approach
 - Portables
 - Move kids between FL and NCS (Redistricting options)
3. Finalize FL developed list of required improvements (1.5 million)

Elementary School Projects as of 3/28/16

Rationale:

- There remains a need for 2 schools that represent a combined 160K Sq. Ft. of space.
- Can't do 2 schools at once – too expensive.
- Deferring one school project for 5 – 7 years allows for decreased upfront costs and additional time to monitor student enrollment.
- The established LBH structure is too large and not conducive for town use at any foreseeable time in the future.
- The property of LBH cannot be sold.
- The Flanders property is not a conducive sale site due to location.
- The NCS property provides options:
 - Sell Property
 - Lease Space
 - Repurpose the space for town use

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Elementary School Projects as of 3/28/16

Rationale Continued:

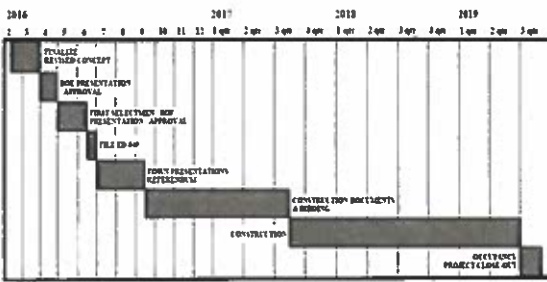
- We are supporting the largest number of children first (combined LBH and NCS).
- LBH is the least expensive stand alone option (to obtain 101K Sq. Ft. of space). In combination with the existing Flanders we meet the required 160 Sq. Ft. of needed space for all students.
- Maintain 43% reimbursement with the LBH project.
- Renovating our largest space allows for future options (adjusted size) with a new Flanders School.
- We maintain the same project construction timeline.
- Previous LBH renovations (windows) can be retained.
- Potential to use the operating cost savings of NCS to help with the overall budget and new initiatives.

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PROJECT TIMELINE

SCHOOL FACILITIES NEEDS & UTILIZATION STUDY
EAST LIME PUBLIC SCHOOLS
EAST LIME, CT
February 8, 2016

JACIUNSKI HUMES



15

Questions, Comments and Discussion

16

MOTION: Eric Bauman moved to approve the total conceptual cost estimate of \$45,060,609 to renovate as new Lillie B. Haynes School and adding refurbishment funds for Flanders School not to exceed \$1.5 million dollars; advancing the project to the Board of Selectmen for their review and action as presented; Barbara Senges seconded.

Discussion ensued regarding equity among schools, transitioning options, follow through with Flanders construction in 5 to 7 years, and working collaboratively to make an amazing transition. Some Board members noted that by doing nothing, the district will patch buildings and may lose all opportunity for state reimbursement, and that the option presented is the best option to get through the BOS and BOF to move forward for a town referendum vote.

VOTE PRO: Tim Hagen (Chair), Al Littlefield (Secretary), Eric Bauman, Jill Carini, Candice Carlson, John Kleinhans, Marlene Nickerson, Barbara Senges

VOTE CON: Bill Derry, Jaime Barr Shelburn

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED 8:2:0

- B. Instruction
- C. Personnel
- D. Policy
- E. Other

VIII. ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

- A. Superintendent of Schools – Mr. Jeffrey Newton**
- 4/26/16 East Lyme Public Schools Long-Range Plan facilitator will meet with Board
 - Second round interviews were held for both the Assistant Superintendent and Director of Special Services positions.
- B. Interim Assistant Superintendent of Schools – Ms. Donna Gittleman**
- Proposed East Lyme Public Schools Reading and Math Enrichment Elementary Program for Summer 2016 survey was distributed to staff. Results will be provided at the next meeting.
- C. Business/Facilities Director – Ms. Maria Whalen**
- Meeting today with the ELTA regarding the High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP)

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. AAA Committee**
- B. FFO Committee - Oral report of 03/28/16 meeting**
- C. Policy Review Committee**
- D. ELPS Chinese Program ad Hoc Committee**
- E. Board of Education Liaison to Board of Finance Schedule**

X. COMMUNICATIONS**XI. NOTICES**

- A. Notice of the following 2015/2016 staffing changes:**
1. Appointments
 2. Reassignments
 3. Increases/Decreases in FTE
 4. Resignations
 - Kelly Devoe, 1.0 FTE Instructional Aide, 1:1 TLP, DW at MS, 3/25/16
 5. Supplemental Appointments
 - Michael Abate, Men's Tennis Assistant Coach, HS*
 - Rudy Bagos, Golf Head Coach, HS
 - Jeff Beale, Golf Assistant Coach, HS
 - Jack Biggs, Baseball Head Coach, HS
 - Richard Caldwell, Boys' LaCrosse Assistant 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 (JV), HS*
 - Maryann Foley, Women's Tennis Assistant Coach, HS*
 - Cashel Gaffey, Softball Assistant Coach (Frosh), HS*
 - Jeff Handler, Baseball Assistant Coach (Frosh), HS
 - Steve Hargis, Boys' Outdoor Track, Head Coach, HS
 - Mark Hill, Softball Volunteer Coach, HS*
 - Jason Knowlton, Baseball Volunteer Coach, HS*
 - Katie Lima, Girls' Outdoor Track Assistant Coach (.5), HS
 - Scott Mahon, Girls' Crew Head Coach, HS
 - Kristy McFadden, Women's Lacrosse Volunteer Coach, HS
 - Matt O'Grady, Boys' Lacrosse Assistant Coach, HS
 - Alan Opsahl, Boys' Lacrosse Assistant Coach, HS*
 - Grant Place, Fitness Center Advisor (Spring), HS
 - Rachel Redding, Golf Assistant 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, Girls' Outdoor Track Assistant Coach, HS*
- Michael Shugrue, Boys' Crew Head Coach, HS*
- Joe Siragusa, Baseball Volunteer Coach, HS*
- Janelle Soleau, Girls' Outdoor Track Assistant Coach (.5), HS*
- Susan Welschock, Men's Tennis Head Coach, HS*
- Warren Whitehouse, Softball Assistant Coach (JV), HS*
- Gary Wight, Boys' Lacrosse Head Coach, HS
- William Yuhas, Softball Volunteer Coach, HS*
- Laurie Zrenda, Women's Tennis Head Coach, HS*

*Not a member of the ELPS professional teaching staff

B. Notice of the following out of state field trips:

1. ELHS students to Boston, MA on Monday, April 11, 2016 to visit the Freedom Trail and Faneuil Hall Market Place with exchange students from Spain
2. ELHS students to Newport, RI on Thursday, April 14, 2016 to visit tour sites with exchange students from Spain
3. ELHS students to Boston, MA on Monday, May 2, 2016 to attend the Scholastic Press Association Journalism Conference at Boston University

XII. BOARD COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

A. Board Comments

1. Candice Carlson asked if students from the elementary and middle school would be updating the BOE at future meetings.
2. Board members thanked the elementary students district wide for the handmade thank you notes.
3. Superintendent Newton announced that student recognitions are forthcoming.

B. Future Agenda Items:

1. East Lyme Chinese Program Update – *Monthly*
2. Field Trip Discussion – *To be scheduled*
3. Elementary and Middle School Period Updates from Students – *To be scheduled*
4. Short/Long-Term Savings Ideas – *To be scheduled*
5. Using Technology to Advance Curriculum – Eric Bauman – *To be scheduled*
6. Revenue Account Review – Al Littlefield – Presented to FFO - *To be scheduled*
7. Comprehensive Review of Coastal Connections Program – Tim Hagen – *To be scheduled.*

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Lawry O'Connell (81 East Pattagansett Road, East Lyme) thanked the Board for moving ahead with an elementary school building plan and hopes it will get through the town and pass referendum.
2. Linda Johansen (East Lyme Teachers Association President) congratulated the Board on taking action regarding the elementary school building project. She stated that "*Schools are the people in the schools that make things work, and we are all about your kids as we move forward.*"
3. Jen Murray (7 Tabernacle Avenue, Niantic) stated that she is looking for equity around the district and is disappointed the brakes were not put on the project tonight. He/She said the plan is not acceptable and too little playground space.
4. Kyle Douton (5 Rockwell Avenue, Niantic) encouraged the Board to be tough with the town and hopes the proceeds from a closed school will be used to support the BOE education debt.

5. Heather Trepkow (179 Bridebrook Road) said there should be solidarity in moving forward and hopes class sizes will continue to be great. She thanked the Board for its work.
6. Mykel Bridget Czaja (6 Pleasant Drive, Niantic) asked the Board's consideration to let kids stay at Niantic Center School during the construction project.
7. Kyle Targerus (17 South Beechwood Road, Niantic) looks forward to understanding how the Board will engage the community to come up with answers to questions.
8. Rebecca Karun (78 Arbor Crossing, Niantic) said she will hold the Board responsible for moving the Flanders School project forward and that Flanders School parents want to be a cohesive unit with other schools.
9. Maura Ament (61 Mostoy Road, East Lyme) encouraged transparency and said the community needs to get behind the Board of Education, but is concerned regarding the Flanders School project.
10. Dave Rose (26 West Road, Niantic) asked the Board to keep kids at Niantic Center School during the project and stated there is no long term equity in the plan passed tonight.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION – No executive session was held.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Jaime Barr Shelburn moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:40 p.m.; Marlene Nickerson seconded.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Albert Littlefield

Albert Littlefield, Secretary
East Lyme Board of Education

fm Marc Murray

Marc L. Murray
7 Tabernacle Ave.
Niantic, CT 06357

March 28, 2016

East Lyme Board of Education
East Lyme, CT

To the Board of Education:

I was discharged from the hospital today, and as I am now recovering, I am unable to attend tonight's meeting. I respectfully request that my questions below be read into the public record in lieu of my appearance before the Board.

I am a resident and taxpayer of East Lyme. My son is a graduate of East Lyme High School and my daughter is a pupil at Niantic Center School.

I request you consider and address the following questions as you prepare to take action on your plans for the district.

1. What is the reason for the apparent and sudden accelerated pace of your planning? It took six years to arrive at this point, but now there seems to be a rush with a whole new approach. Will you present evidence to the town of your due diligence?
2. Who has ultimate responsibility for deciding how to dispose of school properties—the Board of Education or the Board of Finance? This is unclear.
3. How many additional classrooms will need to be constructed at Lillie B. Haynes to support our students at their current class sizes?
4. Do you plan to house children at Lillie B. Haynes in portable classrooms during construction? If portables are used, instead of NCS remaining open during construction, what provisions will be made for these children to travel between them in inclement weather multiple times a day? What security measures will be in place?
5. Given the increase in enrollment at Lillie B. Haynes, what impact does this have on support services such as art, technology, PE, and cafeteria? How will those classrooms, the gymnasium, and cafeteria handle twice the number of students?

6. What environmental studies have been done on hazardous materials at LBH?

We would like to see a printed copy of that report and how those hazardous materials are going to be mitigated. If there is friable asbestos we want to know the plans for containing it and the plans to ensure the students in the building won't be exposed.

7. How do you plan to properly vet all construction workers and delivery persons? Will they all undergo background checks and fingerprinting?


Marc Marray