

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

**SPECIAL MEETING
Thursday, April 14, 2016 -- 6:45 p.m.
Room B101, East Lyme High School**

MINUTES

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

Board Members Absent: Jill Carini, John Kleinhans

Administrators Present: Jeffrey Newton (Superintendent), Donna Gittleman (Interim Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Pupil Personnel), Dr. Karen Costello (Administrator for Program Improvement), Maria Whalen (Director of Finance and Facilities), Linda Anania (Principal, FL), Dr. Judy DeLeeuw (Principal, MS), Mike Susi (Principal, HS), Pat Lannon (Director of Technology)

I. CALL TO ORDER – 6:45 p.m. by Chair Tim Hagen

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board took a short recess at 6:46 p.m. (Moving to Room B100, East Lyme High School)

MOTION: Al Littlefield moved to enter into executive session at 6:46 p.m. and to include Jeffrey Newton (Superintendent), Donna Gittleman (Interim Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Pupil Personnel), and Maria Whalen (Director of Finance and Facilities) for the purpose of contract negotiations (Facilitator, District's Long Range Plan); Jaime Barr Shelburn seconded.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

MOTION CARRIED

Meeting reconvened at 7:00 p.m. (Room B101, East Lyme High School)

III. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Discussion re: Elementary School Building Project Update

Architect Al Jacunski and consultant Ken Biega presented a conceptual space function floor plan and site plan for Lillie B. Haynes School. The floor plan is a square-foot analysis based on programming that shows that adequate square foot space is available and confirms the school is viable for the PK-4 project.

The following points were covered by Jacunski and Biega:

- Lillie B. Haynes provides an 110,000 square-foot, renovated-as-new building
- Capacity for 500 students (Kindergarten to Grade 4) to include five classrooms per grade (approximately 800 square feet each)
- Three pre-kindergarten classrooms
- Swing space is available during construction, but lengthens project timeline
- Parking spaces increased from 114 to 218 spaces
- Bus traffic separated from car traffic
- Playground area total increased from 23,600 to 27,267 square feet
- Project cost is \$45 million dollars, cost to East Lyme is \$34 million dollars (based on 43.21% State reimbursement rate if filed with the State by 06/30/16)
- Duration: 32-month project (if project is finished sooner, would save approximately \$60,000 per month)

Project details will be refined for the phasing plan and input from the Board and the community will be needed for transitioning. Information will be posted to the district website.

B. Discussion re: FY 2016-2017 Budget Reduction of \$115,000 as Directed by the Board of Finance

- Chair Hagen notified the Board members of the Board of Finance directed budget reduction of \$115,000. Additionally, the district may receive a -\$271,000 hit under the governor's new budget proposal as it relates to Education Cost Sharing (ECS). Also discussed was the tuition that the district pays for East Lyme students to attend magnet schools which may be substantially increased as a result of state budget reductions.
- Board members expressed concern regarding the timetable of the town referendum and the State's decision for budget cuts. Discussion ensued regarding the \$115,000 budget reduction.
- Dr. Judy DeLeeuw presented a Middle School proposal showing two options for next year's grade 5 classes (anticipating 191 students):
 - 1) Elimination of one teacher (class sizes at 21 students); keeping multiage, one looping team of four teachers, and one looping team of three teachers.
 - 2) Elimination of two teachers (class sizes at 24 students); with no multiage and two looping teams of four teachers OR keeping multiage with two looping teams of three teachers.
- Some Board members expressed concern in regard to the importance of grade 5 class sizes as students' transition from elementary school and the risk of unanticipated increased enrollment.
- Other possible cost-saving options were discussed; including Project Oceanology membership, extra-curricular activities, late buses, and the relocation of the Coastal Connections program.
- Also discussed was the importance of parent support of the 2016-2017 budget and maintaining academic excellence and the school culture of the District.
- A timeline and plan for the short- and long-term efficiencies and savings will be developed.
- Further budget discussion will occur at the April 26 Board meeting.

C. Discussion/Action re: Authorization for Superintendent to Enter into an Agreement with Jonathan Costa of Education Connection to Facilitate the Board's Work on the District's Long Range Plan

MOTION: Marlene Nickerson moved to authorize the Superintendent to enter into an agreement with Jonathan Costa of Education Connection to facilitate the Board's work on the District's long-range plan as presented; Candice Carlson seconded.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

MOTION CARRIED

I. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Jaime Barr Shelburn moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.; Candice Carlson seconded.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

MOTION CARRIED

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