

**East Lyme Board of Education - East Lyme, Connecticut
Chinese Program ad Hoc Committee
Meeting Minutes**

MEETING DATE: Monday, January, 30, 2017, 5:15^{PM}

LOCATION: Main Conference Room, East Lyme High School

ATTENDEES: Al Littlefield, Jill Carini, Candice Carlson, Jeff Newton (Superintendent), Dr. Judy DeLeeuw (Principal, East Lyme Middle School), Lisa Ramaccia (East Lyme High School Guidance Counselor), Jennifer Carney-Brush (East Lyme High School Teacher)

Call to Order - The meeting was called to order at 5:15 p.m..

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Review of Program Progress for the ELPS Chinese Program for the Current School Year

- With only Freshmen in this year's Chinese student program, there is no "College Piece" this year.
- Chinese students are adapting well but the "Assimilation Piece" is not there.
- It was thought that perhaps the incoming Chinese student need to know more about East Lyme (as much as we know about China).
- Parents of Chinese students feel that the students are coming here to study so the "Social Piece" is not as important. Dr. DeLeeuw told the subcommittee about what a "typical" school day in China would look like.
- We need to quantify the East Lyme expectations and include extra-curricular as a part of that expectation.
- There are other schools in the United States now hosting Chinese students so we are not necessarily "the only game in town."
- East Lyme teachers are spending more time with the Chinese students (especially in the areas of ELL teachers) that offer extra and after-class time for Chinese students.
 - High School has one (1) ELL teacher that devotes more than .5 to the Chinese Students
 - Additional ELL assistance is provided by a .5 teacher from the Middle School
- Going Forward Suggestions:
 - For next year, perhaps a mix of Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors as incoming students will move students outside of the current comfort zone of sticking together almost exclusively.
 - Perhaps we should include mentoring/pairing Chinese students with our own East Lyme Students.
 - It was suggested that we develop a guidebook for the Chinese host families.
 - One drawback is the arrival of Chinese students is too close to the start of school.

- We should endeavor to provide the prospective Chinese students with information on the High School as soon as they are selected.

2. Review of Budget for the ELPS Chinese Program for the Current School Year

- Mr. Newton told the ad Hoc committee that all of the funding for the current year is in place. The funds received will provide the District with funding to keep the Elementary School Foreign Language program for another year (if we decide to discontinue the Chinese Program).

3. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Albert L. Littlefield, Candice Carlson, and Jill Carini