

Not official until approved by the East Lyme Board of Education on February 12, 2018

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

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

Monday, January 22, 2018

REGULAR MEETING

7:00 PM

Room B101, East Lyme High School

MINUTES

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

Board Members Absent: Jill Carini

Administrators Present: Jeffrey Newton (Superintendent), Amy Drowne (Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment), Kim Davis (Director of Student Services), Linda Anania (Principal, Flanders Elementary School), Melissa DeLoreto (Principal, Lillie B. Haynes Elementary School), Jeff Provost (Principal, Niantic Center Elementary School), Jason Bitgood (Principal, ELMS), Mike Susi (Principal, East Lyme High School), Maryanna Stevens (Director of Finance, Marketing and Growth Management), Pat Lannon (Technology Director)

I. **CALL TO ORDER** – 7:08 p.m. by Chair Tim Hagen

II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Led by Chair Tim Hagen

III. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. Jonathan French (3 Oriole, East Lyme), encouraged the Board to have conversation on the important topic of ELHS Grade Point Average (GPA) and noted the proposal will provide an incentive for students to take higher level classes than they may have otherwise considered.

IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION: Jaime Barr Shelburn moved approval of minutes of the Board of Education Regular Meeting of January 8, 2018 as presented; Candice Carlson seconded.

VOTE PRO: Tim Hagen (Chair), Jaime Barr Shelburn, Eric Bauman, Candice Carlson, Bill Derry, Leigh Gianakos, Barbara Senges

VOTE CON: None

ABSTAIN: John Kleinhans, Al Littlefield (Secretary)

MOTION CARRIED 7:0:1

V. **SPECIAL REPORTS**

- A. **Student Representative** – ELHS Junior Sumeet Kadian and Senior Conrad French
 - Mid-term Exams will run from Wed, 01/24 thru Tues, 01/30/18 and breakfast will be available on Wednesday thru Friday.
 - Sports updates were detailed.
 - Junior Class Planning Night is 01/25/18 (College & Career)
 - ELHS Winter Ball is 02/03/18
 - East Lyme District-wide Choir Concert on 02/8/18 at Mary Broderick Auditorium, ELHS

- B. Salem Board of Education Representative** – George Jackson was not present.
- C. East Lyme Selectman Representative** – Selectman Kevin Seery
Town Meeting Approvals on 01/17/18 as follows:
- Cini Park bathrooms, dinghy dock and kayak/canoe launch site, and reallocation of funds for public park at 224 Main Street
 - Lights for HS crosswalk – Held up by State
 - Niantic Rotary Gala will be held on 05/6/18
- D. Other Representatives** – 37th District State Representative Holly Cheeseman
- Priority A List meeting, Tuesday, 01/23/18, 1:00 p.m., Hartford (Elem Projects)
 - Next session begins 02/07/18
 - State Supreme Court overruled ECS funding – CT was in fact providing educational requirements for all school systems in CT

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Barbara Senges moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented (Proposed Donation to Flanders School from the Pow Family (In Memory of Laura Hartzell) in the Amount of \$1,000.00; Jaime Barr Shelburn seconded.

VOTE PRO: Tim Hagen (Chair), Eric Bauman, Candice Carlson, Bill Derry, Leigh Gianakos, John Kleinhans, Al Littlefield (Secretary), Barbara Senges

VOTE CON: None

ABSTAIN: Jaime Barr Shelburn

MOTION CARRIED 8:0:1

VII. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Instruction

1. Discussion re: ELHS Grade Point Average (GPA) Calculations

- Board member Eric Bauman provided a PowerPoint presentation entitled *ELHS Weighted Grade Point (GPA) Average Discussion*. (The presentation is attached to the Minutes.) In June, Eric brought concerns to the Academics, Athletics and Activities AAA) Committee that the current weighting system at ELHS does not reflect differential for Advanced Placement (AP), Honors and A Level courses, resulting in competitively disadvantaging our students. The committee recommended his concern be brought forward to the full Board for discussion.
- Eric Bauman stated the proposed plan will provide students with a level playing field for college and scholarship applications by rewarding them appropriately for challenging themselves. He recommended back calculating for freshmen, sophomores, and juniors to better align ELHS GPA with other schools. ELHS Principal Mike Susi defended the current system, implemented in 2015, and reviewed the two-year process used in getting there. He stated ELHS is a Blue Ribbon, top performing school and students are being accepted into very competitive schools and continue to be successful. He stated data shows we did not drop our standards, and we continue to challenge and support students for right schools and interests.
- ELHS Student Representative Conrad French said the proposed system would reward students who choose to challenge themselves, and GPA serves as a benchmark of high school accomplishments and a summation of high school experiences.
- Eric Bauman encouraged further discussion with school professionals, parents, and the Board, but encouraged the Board to move along in a timely manner until a decision is made.

- Board consensus was to continue discussion with high school professionals (administrators, guidance counselors, teachers) and parents and not to the discredit work done for the current grading system. Eric Bauman was thanked for bringing item forward and further discussion will take place at the February 8 Board meeting. Meanwhile, the high school will contact six or seven college admissions' offices to provide more information.

B. Finance/Facilities/Community

1. Discussion re: Budget Deliberations of Superintendent's Proposed Budget for 2018-2019

Discussion ensued regarding the status of ECS cuts, staff reductions absorbed through attrition, and what affect State cuts will have on next year's budget. Superintendent Newton will make minor changes to the proposed budget presentation prior to the Public Hearing on Monday, January 29, 2018, 7:00 p.m. in Room B101, ELHS. A BOE Special Meeting is scheduled to follow to continue deliberations and possible budget adoption.

2. Discussion re: Board of Education Representation at Upcoming Board of Finance Meetings

BOE members volunteered to serve as representatives for the upcoming Board of Finance meetings as follows:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|--------------|---------------------|
| ▪ Wednesday, February 14 | 7:00 P.M. | EL Town Hall | Barbara Senges |
| ▪ Wednesday, March 14 | 7:00 P.M. | EL Town Hall | Jaime Barr-Shelburn |
| ▪ Wednesday, April 11 | 7:00 P.M. | EL Town Hall | Eric Bauman |
| ▪ Wednesday, May 9 | 7:00 P.M. | EL Town Hall | Al Littlefield |
| ▪ Wednesday, June 13 | 7:00 P.M. | EL Town Hall | Candice Carlson |

3. Discussion re: ELPS Elementary Redistricting Update

Superintendent Newton reported Mike Zumba of Milone and MacBroom has received floor plan schematics for the three elementary alteration projects and class size guidelines. His recommendations will be brought to the Board on March 12, 2018.

4. Discussion re: Elementary Alteration Projects' Update

Town Building Committee Meeting was held on January 18, 2018. The final State review w/Superintendent, Architect and O&G representative in Hartford, CT on Tuesday, 01/23/18 for approval to move projects forward. Packing, moving, and phasing meetings are taking place.

C. Personnel

D. Policy

1. Discussion re: First Reading – Recommended Revision of BOE Policy 5118.1 Students: Homeless Students

The proposed revision of BOE Policy 5118.1 Students: Homeless Students was presented by the Policy Review Committee for a first reading. Board members were asked to email suggestions and comments to Superintendent Newton. A second reading is scheduled for 02/26/18.

2. Discussion re: First Reading – Recommended Revision of BOE Policy 5123 Students: Promotion/Retention

The proposed revision of BOE Policy 5123 Students: Promotion/Retention was presented by the Policy Review Committee for a first reading. Board members were asked to email suggestions and comments to Superintendent Newton. A second reading is scheduled for 02/26/18.

3. **Discussion re: First Reading – Recommended Revision of BOE Policy 6153**

Instruction: Field Trips

The proposed revision of BOE Policy 6153 Instruction: Field Trips was presented by the Policy Review Committee for a first reading. Board members were asked to email suggestions and comments to Superintendent Newton. A second reading is scheduled for 02/26/18.

E. Other

VIII. ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

A. Superintendent of Schools – Mr. Jeffrey Newton

- Superintendent Newton, Chair Tim Hagen, and Lynn Bodnar attended a Board Doc webinar (electronic Board packets and policy software package) with the Waterford Superintendent last week. Additional research and Board discussion will follow.

B. Assistant Superintendent Curriculum, Assessment, & Instruction – Mrs. Amy Drowne

- Dealing with frozen budget
 - Close to having sequenced curriculum in Social Studies, Science and World Language
 - Elementary Schedule Ad hoc Committee will meet in March to discuss possible revisions
 - Visiting all schools with Kim Davis to review mid-year District Improvement Plan, Q&A, and reviewing School Improvement Plans – BOE update 2/26/18

C. Director of Finance, Marketing and Growth Management – Mrs. Maryanna Stevens

- Implemented new accounts receivable module – roll out 7/1/18

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. AAA Committee – Minutes of 1/8/18

B. FFO Committee – Oral report of 01/22/18

C. Policy Review Committee – Minutes of 01/8/18

D. ELPS Chinese Program ad Hoc Committee

E. Board of Education Liaison to Board of Finance

F. Capital Improvement Plan/10-Year Maintenance Plan Ad hoc Committee

X. COMMUNICATIONS

A. The Viking Saga, Volume 50, Edition 9 dated 01/18/18

XI. NOTICES

A. Notice of the following staffing changes for 2017/2018:

1. Appointments:

- Deb Dwyer, 0.20 FTE School Aide, FL, 01/06/18

- Kelly Ferman, 1.0 FTE Teaching Assistant, HA, 01/02/18

- Lili Goldberg, 0.45 FTE Computer Technician (temporary position), DW, 01/02/18-06/30/18

- Kathryn Volarich, 0.45 FTE Computer Technician (temporary position), DW, 08/25/17-06/30/18

2. Increases/Reductions in FTEs:

- Loralyn Burdick, increase from 0.30 to 0.40 FTE School Aide, FL 01/16/18

- Susan Greenman, reduction from 0.40 to 0.30 FTE School Aide, FL, 01/02/18

- Cody Waites, increase from 0.30 to 0.40 FTE School Aide, FL, 01/16/18

3. Retirements:

- Susan Fletcher, 1.0 Administrative Assistant, ELHS, end of 2017/2018 school year

4. Supplemental Assignments:

-Daniel Bohman, Art Club Advisor, 2nd semester, MS

B. Out-of-State Field Trips:

1. HA Field Trip on Friday, May 4, 2018 to Roger Williams Zoo in Providence, RI

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

1. Jaime Barr Shelburn:
 - Thrilled with Food Service Program and numbers it is producing
 - Miracle League Meeting, Thursday, 1/25/18, EL Youth Services, 7:00 p.m., volunteers needed in all capacities
 - Dave Putnam was nominated by the Lions Club and honored for a Humanitarian Award
2. Bill Derry:
 - Inquired about an update on the High School Planetarium. (Planned for late February/early March)
3. Candice Carlson:
 - Wellness Committee is working on Wellness Fair and Mentor Program with EL Parks and Recreation Director Dave Putnam
 - ELMS Drama Club production of Music Man Jr. on 02/02, 02/03 and 02/04/18

B. Future Agenda Items:

1. BOE Public Hearing re: Superintendent's Proposed Budget for 2018-2019 – 01/29/18, 6:00 p.m., Room B101, ELHS
2. Budget discussion, deliberations and possible adoption of ELPS Proposed Budget for FY 2018-2019 – BOE Special Meeting, Monday, January 29, 2018 immediately following Public Hearing
3. ELHS Grade Point Average Continued Discussion – Monday, 03/12/18
4. Mid-year District Improvement Plan Review – 2/26/18
5. Discussion on Coastal Connections Program (including success, student outcomes, analysis of program data separate from high school data) and action on tuition rates for the 2017/2018 school year – Eric Bauman – FFO conducted a financial overview on 11/20/17 (Jan/Feb 2018)
6. Future Use of LEARN space at Lillie B. Haynes – Bill Derry - (TBD)
7. Mid-year check on Elementary schedule - 09/25/17 Jaime Barr Shelburn to BOE 02/12/18
8. BOE Meeting Date Calendar Review – Fall 2018
9. Redistricting – Mike Zuba, Milone and MacBroom, 03/12/18 (recommendations)
10. Elementary Alteration Project Update – Standing agenda item

XIV. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Tina Goodwin (3 Mallard Circle, East Lyme), voiced a concern that the ELHS Winter Ball is scheduled for the same day as the ECC Championship. The concern was addressed by Principal Susi. She also encouraged the Board to review and address the GPA proposal in a timely fashion.
2. Laura Healy (10 Mohawk Drive, Niantic) voiced concerns regarding the current GPA calculation system and encouraged the Board to address it in a timely fashion. She stated students don't receive their GPA until their junior year and doesn't see how this will hurt any students.

XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Not needed**XVI. ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: Jaime Barr Shelburn moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:27 p.m.; Leigh Gianakos seconded.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Al Littlefield

Al Littlefield, Secretary

East Lyme Board of Education