

East Lyme Board of Education  
**East Lyme Elementary Schools Design Steering Committee Meeting**  
September 20, 2016  
5:00 p.m.

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Dr. Tim Hagen, Mr. Jeffrey Newton, Linda Anania, Eric Bauman, Melissa DeLoreto, Gil Gallant, Linda Johansen, Ray O'Connor, Lisa Picarazzi, Jeffrey Provost, John Rhodes, Marc Salerno, Dr. John Whritner

**Others Present:** Al Jacunski from Jacunski Humes Architects, LLC, Ken Biega from O & G Construction

**Members Absent:** John Arnold, Bill Derry, First Selectman Mark Nickerson, Maria Whalen

**Community Members Present:** Philip Russell, Jennifer Murray

The meeting began at 5:00 p.m.

**Update on Elementary Schools Design Project**

Superintendent Jeffrey Newton distributed the updated draft enrollment projections from NESDEC dated September 20, 2016 which projects 245 more students by the 2022-2023 school year than originally predicted. NESDEC is currently researching the reasons for the projected increase and will provide an updated report in October 2016.

The committee members discussed the options of (1) proceeding with the current recommendation of refurbishing both Lillie B. Haynes School and Flanders School and closing Niantic Center School or (2) systematically make improvements to Lillie B. Haynes and Flanders until the projected enrollment figures are more concrete, leaving Niantic Center available to use if necessary. The committee also discussed the importance of keeping the individual elementary school enrollment below 450 students for a quality of learning environment.

Al Jacunski informed the committee that if the increased 2022-2023 enrollment figures are correct, grades K-1 grades would need six sections and grades 2-4 would need five sections but with the core structure (gym, cafeteria, offices, etc.) would remain the same. Mr. Jacunski noted that it would be more costly to make improvements in phases versus proceeding as one complete project. Mr. Jacunski will provide the committee with (1) updated layouts of Lillie B. Haynes and Flanders Schools, with equal student population for each, based on the increased projected enrollments and (2) a comparison of cost differentials for alteration costs between Niantic Center and Flanders Schools.

If the elementary schools are refurbished in phases, the committee discussed the importance of having only one referendum for a total cap to bond of \$30 million, clearly informing the community what the \$30 million would be designated for in case it is necessary to request additional bonding. Any additional referendums would be requested for a specific project.

The committee also discussed the possibility of using the LEARN classrooms at Lillie B. Haynes School versus adding additional classroom onto Flanders School along with what improvements are immediately necessary for Niantic Center School if it remains in use.

**Next Steps**

Dr. Timothy Hagen and Superintendent Jeffrey Newton will update the Board of Education at their Committee of the Whole Meeting on September 27, 2016.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Dr. Timothy Hagen*  
Timothy Hagen, Ph.D.  
Steering Committee Chair

*Mr. Jeffrey Newton*  
Mr. Jeffrey R. Newton  
Superintendent of Schools