

East Lyme Board of Education  
**East Lyme Elementary Schools Design Steering Committee Meeting**

October 2, 2014

4:00 p.m.

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Dr. James Lombardo, Dr. Him Hagen, John Arnold, Candice Carlson, Rob Kupis, Don Meltabarger, Dr. David Miko, Ray O'Connor, John Rhodes, Al Jacunski from Jacunski Humes Architects, LLC

**Members Absent:** Linda Anania, Gil Gallant, Melissa DeLoreto, Dr. John Whritner

**Community Members Present:** George Jackson, Salem BOE Member

The meeting began at 4:00 p.m. in the Superintendent's Office

**Review of Community Forums:** Tim Hagen thanked the Design Steering Committee for attending the three community forums. Dr. Lombardo updated the committee on the latest enrollment numbers. Compared to last year, kindergarten is down 37 students district-wide. Current enrollment for Flanders is 360 students, Lillie B. Haynes is 314, and Niantic Center is 197. Dr. Lombardo distributed and reviewed the data results and comments from the community who attended the three community forums. Statistically, there is not enough data to make a conclusion of what option the town as a whole desires, but with the data received, it is evident that Option 3 (one large school on one site) is not popular with parents and that Option 2 (discontinuing one building and renovate two as new) or Option 4 (renovate all three existing buildings) are most favored. The rating did indicate that quality of education should come first and that the schools should be built or renovated to enhance education, be green and cost efficient.

**Planning for Next Steps:** The Design Committee's next step is to consider all factors and to make a recommendation to the Board of Education. Some factor's discussed included:

- Research pre-k options and make sure any design selected has the capability of expanding if pre-k is implemented in the future. Al Jacunski reminded the committee that pre-k classrooms require larger square footage and the State will not reimburse for that additional square footage, but that he will look into any State funding for adding pre-k space. He will also research if any reimburse would have to be returned to the State if we include pre-k space at this time but do not implement the program due to budget concerns.
- The next presentation to the community will include pro's and con's for each option, the net cost difference to the town and the cost to the taxpayer. The two school concept is a net cost to the town of \$63 million and the net cost to renovate three schools is \$80 million.
- Deciding factions should also include adequate parking space, road access and traffic patterns, and surrounding grounds for buffer and playground space.
- Concerns for the three school option include increased net cost to the town, low enrollment numbers for each school, yearly operating expenses for three building vs. two buildings.
- The Design Committee will meet with the First Selectman and Board of Finance to discuss their 20/20 vision and what their ideas are for town building usage.
- If the two school option is selected, enough gym space is a priority for community usage.
- Al Jacunski will provide the committee with updated comprehensive site plans for the two school option for all three locations.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held on October 21, 2014 in the Central Office Conference Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Dr. Timothy Hagen*  
Timothy Hagen, Ph.D.  
BOE Chair

*Dr. James Lombardo*  
James D. Lombardo, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of School