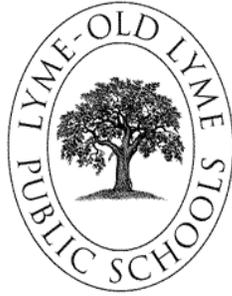


LYME-OLD LYME PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Small Schools, Big Ideas



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REGION #18

District Budget Meeting

Lyme-Old Lyme High School

May 2, 2016

Board Present: Michelle Roche, Chair; Jean Wilczynski, Treasurer; Rick Goulding, Secretary; Diane Linderman; Stacy Winchell

Absent by Previous Arrangement: Erick Cushman; Beth Jones; Nancy Lucas Edson; Mary Powell St. Louis

Administration Present: Ian Neviaser, Superintendent of Schools; Nancy Johnston, Director of Special Services; Holly McCalla, Business Manager; John Rhodes, Director of Facilities & Technology

Others Present: Marilyn Warren, Moderator; Bonnie Reemsnyder, Old Lyme First Selectwoman; Mary Jo Nosal, Old Lyme Selectwoman; Skip Sibley, Old Lyme Selectman; 6 Townsperson from LOL

The meeting was called to order at 7:36 p.m. by Chairwoman Michelle Roche. Rick Goulding read the call of the meeting as follows:

Notice is hereby given of the Annual Budget Meeting and Vote for the Regional School District No. 18 to be held at Regional School District No. 18, Lyme-Old Lyme High School Auditorium, 69 Lyme Street, Old Lyme, Connecticut at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, May 2, 2016 to act upon the following:

1. To adopt a budget of \$33,470,376 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017 as recommended by the Regional School Board.
2. To conduct such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

By vote of the Regional School District No. 18 Board of Education, the vote on item number 1 shall be by check off and paper ballots in the Town of Lyme and Old Lyme on May 3, 2016 between the hours of 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. pursuant to Section 7-7 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

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Voting will take place at the following locations: in the Town of Lyme, at the Hamburg Fire Station, Route 156, Lyme, Connecticut and in the Town of Old Lyme, at the Cross Lane Fire House, Cross Lane, Old Lyme, Connecticut.

Mrs. Wilczynski made a motion, which was seconded by Dr. Goulding, to nominate Marilyn Warren as the moderator of the meeting. There were no further nominations. The vote on the motion was unanimously in favor.

Ms. Warren explained the qualifications for voting at the referendum and the specifics relative to voting in each town. The meeting was opened up for comments and questions.

Bruce Andrews from Old Lyme asked about the sizeable increase for the line item “administrative technology.” Mr. Neviasher, Superintendent of Schools, explained that this was a shift in funds from a different line item (instructional technology) and did not reflect an increase.

Mr. Andrews asked about the increase in staff salaries. Mr. Neviasher explained the recent negotiations with teachers which reflected below the state average in percentage increase and the shift to a high deductible insurance plan for the unions.

Mr. Andrews inquired if the district was actively seeking international students. He cited a school district in Saco, Maine that was aggressively attracting international students to help offset educational costs. Mr. Neviasher described the current marketing initiative that the district is undertaking to attract out of district students (tuition based), Lyme-Old Lyme students who currently attend private or parochial schools, and international students. He noted that Lyme-Old Lyme is leading the charge in this area in the public school sector.

Mr. Andrews asked for an explanation for the increase in special education costs. Mr. Neviasher explained the increase from three to twelve special education students who are currently educated out of district and the associated costs for these outplacements. Mr. Neviasher further explained that the district may possibly get back some of these costs from the excess cost grant from the state but this is unknown at this time.

There was discussion on Governor Malloy’s budget cuts and the effect on local education costs. Mr. Neviasher explained that the district is proceeding with the budget as developed over the course of the year with the intention to make adjustments if there are state legislative cuts. Bonnie Reemsnyder, Old Lyme First Selectman, and Skip Sibley, Old Lyme Selectman, detailed their cooperative work with the school district on this issue and their various discussions about the possibility of not receiving excess costs funding from the state. Mr. Sibley also noted that the town of Old Lyme is prepared to utilize surplus funding to help mitigate a tax increase.

There being no further comments or questions, the District Budget Meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m. to referendum the following day at the respective firehouses in Lyme and Old Lyme from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. upon a motion by Mrs. Linderman and a second by Dr. Goulding.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Goulding, Secretary