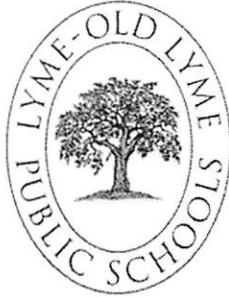


LYME-OLD LYME PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Small Schools, Big Ideas



*Challenging * Achieving * Excelling*

REGION #18

Regular Board of Education Meeting

Lyme-Old Lyme High School

January 6, 2016

Board Present: Michelle Roche, Chairwoman; Beth Jones, Vice Chair; Jean Wilczynski, Treasurer; Rick Goulding, Secretary; Erick Cushman; Diane Linderman; Nancy Lucas Edson; Mary Powell St. Louis; Stacy Winchell

Administration Present: Ian Neviaser, Superintendent of Schools; Elizabeth Borden, Director of Curriculum; James Cavalieri, Principal of Lyme School; Michelle Dean, Interim Principal of Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School; Patricia Downes, Principal of Mile Creek School; Heather Fitzgibbons, Interim Assistant Principal of Lyme-Old Lyme High School; Nancy Johnston, Director of Special Services; Holly McCalla, Business Manager; John Rhodes, Director of Facilities & Technology; James Wygonik, Principal of Lyme-Old Lyme High School

Others Present: Kinny Newman, RETA Co-President; Jennifer Harvill, AFT Representative; Silja Forstein, High School Student Representative; two community members

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by Chair Michelle Roche. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

II. Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Linderman made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Cushman, to approve the minutes of Regular Meeting of December 2, 2015 and Special Meeting of December 17, 2015. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Visitors

1. Report from Student Representatives

Silja Forstein reported on the following activities occurring at the schools:

49 Lyme Street, Old Lyme, Connecticut 06371

T: 860-434-7238 F: 860-434-9959 E: neviaseri@region18.org www.region18.org

At LOLHS: Mid-term exams begin next Thursday and will continue through Wednesday January 20. The student leaders will be sponsoring "Study with a Buddy" to support student success with exams. Freshman Mya Johnson was named the *New London Day's* player of the year in girls' soccer. The Lyme-Old Lyme Mock Trial team has won the regional competition and will advance to the state quarterfinals on January 28 in West Hartford. The level 2 chemistry classes recently participated in the U.S. Crystal Growing Competition sponsored by the National Science Board, The American Chemical Society, and the American Crystallographic Association and won second place nationally. Students were challenged to grow the biggest and clearest single crystal of alum in five weeks. These crystals form large, clear octahedral shapes when grown under controlled conditions. Students used their knowledge of solutions discussed in class to first grow a seed crystal, then suspend it in the solution to grow a large, single crystal. They monitored their seed growth and made adjustments to maximize size and clarity.

At Mile Creek School: The Mile Creek staff would like to thank the PTO and Irene DeBernardo for the annual cookie exchange on December 17. Mile Creek parents donated dozens of home-baked cookies. Seventy staff members took home 9 dozen cookies each. This treasured tradition speaks to the generosity of the school's families. Before leaving for vacation, Mile Creek School was treated to a performance of holiday music from around the globe. The students and staff would like to extend their thanks to Mrs. Pekar and the LOLHS Select Singers for this time-honored musical treat, and it was a great surprise to have Braiden Sunshine participate in the festivities. Additionally, the Mile Creek family celebrated the results of their *Heifer Project* campaign. In lieu of holiday gifts, students and their families donated to this worthy cause in their teachers' names. Organized by the school's Social Development Committee, families generously donated over \$3000 to buy a variety of farm animals, including one heifer; two water buffalo; 1 llama; and numerous goats, lambs, pigs, ducks, geese, chickens, and bee hives. Mile Creek staff, students, and their families participated in a community-wide mission to provide for those in need over the holidays. At Mile Creek, this effort is called "The Giving Tree." The generosity of the school family resulted in providing five local families with a bounty of gifts and gift cards.

At Lyme School: Students and staff returned from the winter break rested and ready to go. The next "Town Meeting" will be on the 15th of January. There will be two cultural performances in the month of January. Eshu Bumpus, an African storyteller, will be here on January 20, and the Florence Griswold Museum staff will be at Lyme School on the 25th and 26th. Kindergarten grades close on January 22, and report cards will be sent home on February 5. The third grade musical will be held on January 29.

At LOLMS: The school is ending the second quarter. In addition to the traditional report cards, parents will receive student reflection on the new Student Success Attribute rubric that provides feedback on student ownership for learning in and out of the classroom. The objective is to increase student self-awareness of how behaviors contribute to classroom success, thusly increasing student ownership for learning. This SSA rubric has a goal setting component that will also be part of student lead conferences in late spring. The National Geography Bee assembly is scheduled for January 25, while the opening night for the Lion King, Jr. is on February 5.

At the Preschool: After a very busy December, including the Heifer Project, the Gingerbread House Family Event, and the Book Fair, the month of January looks to be rather “uneventful” for the preschoolers at Center School. The themes for the month will be seasons, winter, and wild Animals.

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

IV. Administrative Reports

1. Superintendent’s Report

Mr. Neviasek reviewed the January personnel report which reflected the hiring of a school nurse at LOLHS (Beth Wheeler-Knapp); a custodian at LOLMS (Jennifer Sobolewski); and a new Athletic Director (Hilda Heck).

Mr. Neviasek reviewed the January enrollment report which reflected a total of 1,325 students (in-house) enrolled. He noted that as part of the budget development process and in terms of long range planning, staffing proposals have been updated based on the current and projected enrollments.

Mr. Neviasek congratulated the building committee in recognition of the Lyme-Old Lyme High School building project achieving LEED Gold Certification. This certification speaks to the commitment of the Lyme-Old Lyme community to quality education in sustainable and energy efficient facilities.

Mr. Neviasek reminded the Board to clear their schedule for the next three Wednesday evenings. The annual budget workshops begin next week (January 13) when the principals will present their school budgets. The budget calendar was made available to the Board as a reminder of the schedule for the next couple of months.

2. Business Manager’s Report

Mrs. McCalla reviewed the Executive Budget Summary through December 31, 2015 with comparison to spending for last year this time.

Of note:

Certified and Non Certified Salaries: 2014-2015 did not include the final December payroll plus reduced administrator.

Special Education: increased outplacement costs.

Support Services: few supply purchases year to date comparative to last year.

Administrative Services: Center School reconfiguration, technology purchasing, and attorney fees.

Mrs. McCalla reviewed the Contingency Maintenance Report which reflected a remaining contingency as of December 31, 2015 of \$133,066.

Mrs. McCalla presented the Audit Report for year ending June 30, 2015 which reflected a positive audit from auditor Sandra E. Welwood, LLC. In summary, Mrs. McCalla reported that the district is performing well both in accepted accounting principles and in internal controls. There were no significant findings to note and the audit went very smoothly.

V. Educational Presentation

1. Special Education Report

Nancy Johnston, Director of Special Services, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the following topics:

- The “Charge” of Special Education
- Compliance
- Roles and Responsibilities
- Fiscal Overview (Funding and Costs)
- Challenges

A summary of Mrs. Johnston’s report is attached to these minutes for informational purposes.

Board discussion followed the presentation with a majority of the discussion centering on state and federal mandates regarding student evaluations, parental rights relative to requests for evals, and the effect on escalating costs to the district. Mrs. Johnston also field questions on the success rates of students after graduation; district offerings comparative to outplacement facilities; elevated transportation costs; and increased autism diagnoses. Mrs. Johnston also discussed the forecast for the 2016-2017 special education budget.

VI. Chairman & Board Report

Mrs. Roche thanked the Board for their input relative to Board committee assignments. Mrs. Roche noted that there are still vacancies on the Comcast Advisory Board and the LEARN Board. She asked the chairs of the Finance and Facilities Committees to confirm that the community members sitting on these committees still want to serve.

Mrs. Roche asked the Board to notify the Superintendent, Board Chair, and the Board’s secretary should they be unable to attend a meeting.

Mrs. Roche asked the Board if they were interested in forming a team for the upcoming LOL Educational Foundation Trivia Bee. Several Board members expressed interest.

VII. New Business

1. LOLHS Field Trip Request

James Wygonik, Principal of LOLHS, presented a field trip request for the Robotics team to travel to St. Louis, Missouri for the national robotics competition.

MOTION: Mr. Cushman made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Wilczynski, to approve the field trip request of the Robotics team to St. Louis, Missouri as presented.

VOTE: the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

2. Board of Ed Schedule for 2016-2017

The Board of Education meeting schedule for the 2016-2017 school year was presented for Board review and approval. The schedule remains the same as it has been with meetings scheduled for the first Wednesday of each month. This schedule must be posted in the town halls this month.

MOTION: Mrs. Linderman made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Lucas Edson, to approve the Board of Ed Regular Meeting Schedule for the 2016-2017 school year.

VOTE: the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

VIII. Old Business

1. School Calendar for 2016-2017

This was a second reading of the proposed calendar for the 2016-2017 school year.

MOTION: Dr. Powell St. Louis made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Linderman, to approve the 2016-2017 School Calendar as presented.

VOTE: the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

2. Policy 4340 Visits to Schools

This was a second reading of Policy 4340 *Visits to Schools*. Changes suggested at the last Board meeting were made.

MOTION: Dr. Goulding made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Winchell, to approve Policy 4340 *Visits to Schools* as presented.

VOTE: the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

3. Reports of Committees

- a. *Facilities*. Dr. Goulding reported that this committee met earlier in the evening and discussion centered on their five year plan and the water issue (lack of) on the main campus. Dr. Goulding described some of the bigger expenditures that are included in the five year facilities improvement plan. Mr. Rhodes gave a detailed report on initiatives for finding a viable place to drill a new well to alleviate the lack of water. They are looking at a May/June timeframe for drilling the well if approved by the State of Connecticut. Discussion ensued on a deep well vs. a gravel packed well and benefits of each.

Upon a question by a Board member, Mr. Rhodes gave a historical report on the district's past feasibility study of installing solar panels on district property. Several Board members requested that the Facilities Committee revisit this issue.

- b. *Building*. Mr. Neviaser reported that this committee's final meeting was held in November when they voted to close the project. There are a couple of outstanding items to be addressed and the official closeout of the project will be brought before the Board of Education within the next couple of meetings.
- c. *Technology*. No report.
- d. *Policy*. No report.
- e. *Communications*. Mrs. Roche reported that she, the Superintendent, and Mr. Cushman have had discussions on assisting students that can't afford to go on field trips that are offered. They are looking to possibly form an alumni fund to help make these trips possible for those students wanting to go but are financially unable to. Mary Seidner of the Lymes' Youth Service Bureau has offered to help manage that fund.
- f. *Finance*. Mrs. Wilczynski reported that this group met in December to discuss some of the major issues involved in the 2016-2017 budget. Strategies to fund big ticket items such as special education costs and pending facilities issues were shared with the Superintendent.
- g. *Human Resources*. Dr. Jones reported that there would be a need for an executive session after the regular meeting concluded. She also reported that Erick Cushman has joined this committee.
- h. *Enrollment & Equity*. No report.
- i. *LEARN*. Mrs. Roche volunteered to serve as the Board representative to the LEARN Board. Mr. Neviaser reported on Regional Educational Service Centers (RESC) and their purpose.

IX. Correspondence

There was no correspondence to report.

X. Executive Session

Mrs. Linderman made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Wilczynski, to move into executive session for the purpose of discussing the Superintendent's mid-year evaluation. Mr. Neviaser invited to attend the executive session.

XI. Adjournment

The regular meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. upon a motion by Mrs. Linderman and a second by Mrs. Lucas Edson.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Goulding, Secretary

Special Education Overview

January 6, 2016

Topics

- The “Charge” of Special Education
- Compliance
- Roles and Responsibilities
- Fiscal Overview (Funding and Costs)
- Challenges



Back to the Beginning... Public Law 94-142

P.L. 94-142 was passed in 1975. It guaranteed a free appropriate public education to each child with a disability.

Four Purposes of P.L. 94-142

- to assure that all children with disabilities have available to them ... a free appropriate public education which emphasizes special education and related services designed to meet their unique needs
- to assure that the rights of children with disabilities and their parents ... are protected
- to assist States and localities to provide for the education of all children with disabilities
- to assess and assure the effectiveness of efforts to educate all children with disabilities"

Source: Education for All Handicapped Children Act, 1975

Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)

- Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) is the requirement in federal law that students with disabilities receive their education, to the maximum extent appropriate, with nondisabled peers and that special education students are not removed from regular classes unless, even with supplemental aids and services, education in regular classes cannot be achieved satisfactorily. [20 United States Code (U.S.C.) Sec. 1412(a)(5)(A); 34 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) Sec. 300.114.]
- The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) stresses the importance of participation of students with disabilities in the general curriculum *and* in the general education environment.

Special Education Eligibility

- 14 Primary Disability categories
- Eligibility is established at time of initial referral
- Re-established every 3 years (or sooner)
- Based on need for specialized instruction
- Related services cannot “stand alone” – except in the case of students identified with a Primary Disability of Speech or Language Impairment
- Must meet annually (within 365 days of previous annual review) to develop a new IEP

Special Education Compliance

On-going State and Federal Compliance reviews for:

- Timelines
 - Initial referrals
 - Triennial reevaluations
- Annual review dates
- Completion of PPT paperwork
- Proportionality of disabilities
- SPED graduation rates
- Implementation of IEP goals and objectives
- Provision of accommodations and modifications
- And more...



Roles and Responsibilities of Special Education Teachers

- In the FRONT SEAT when it comes to PPT paperwork/process compliance
- Case Manager, Strategist, Resource Specialist
- Direct Services
 - Co-Teaching
 - Supported Instruction
 - Pull-out Instruction
- Indirect Services
 - Consultation
 - Implementation of specific tasks, actions and/or strategies to support students and the adults who work directly with them



Roles and Responsibilities of General Education Teacher

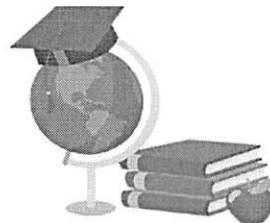
"Chief Cook" when it comes to delivering content...

Content Specialist

Instructional Leader

Collaborator

Co-Teacher



The National Association of State Directors of Special Education focuses on the infusion of quality teaching on the part of both general and special education teachers, and acknowledges that:

“...the success of all children is dependent on the quality of both special education and general education...and special education is not a place apart, but an integral part of education.”

(NASDSE, 2002)



\$\$ COSTS \$\$

In-District

- Personnel: Special Education Teachers, Related Services Personnel, Instructional Assistants
- Transportation (per IEP)
- Consultant Services and Contractual Services (e.g., Soundbridge)
- Evaluations (District initiated and IEEs)

Out-of-District

- Tuition
- Transportation
- Fees for services beyond tuition, such as Related Services and Contractual Services (e.g., Parent Training)
- Evaluations

FUNDING

- DISTRICT BUDGETS
 - Excess Cost
- IDEA GRANTS
- AGENCY SUPPORTS
 - DCF = 1x/pupil vs. 4.5 x/pupil
 - BRS
 - BESB



CHALLENGES

- Increasing numbers of students with special needs
 - In the past 7 years, we have increased from 9.5% Special Education to 12.4% in Region 18 (which is in keeping with State and DRG averages.) *(And 504 is a whole other story...)*
- Magnet School costs
- Increased expectations to accommodate and modify
- Many educators feel they are being called upon to teach students with an increasingly diverse range of educational needs.
- Expectations of parents (including shift toward identification 'push')

CHALLENGES (cont.)

- Legislation: Continues to expand student and parent rights – often with significant financial ramifications for districts (e.g., IEEs, Transition)
- Working against the “assumption” that “your school district won’t do the right thing...”

QUESTIONS?

thank
you!