



LYME - OLD LYME PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Impassioned with Pride and Purpose

MEETING MINUTES

Regular Board of Education Meeting

Lyme-Old Lyme High School

January 7, 2015

Board Present: James Witkins, Chairman; Paul Fuchs, Vice Chair; Jean Wilczynski, Treasurer; Rick Goulding; Diane Linderman; Nancy Lucas Edson; Michelle Roche; Sarah Smalley

Absent by Previous Arrangement: Beth Jones

Administration Present: Ian Neviaser, Superintendent of Schools; Nancy Johnston, Director of Special Services; Holly McCalla, Business Manager; John Rhodes, Director of Facilities; James Wygonik, Principal of Lyme-Old Lyme High School

Others Present: Deborah House, RETA Co-President; Tisha Kirk, AFT President; Andy Raucci, Instructional Technology Specialist; Abigail Cipparone and Gabe Barclay, High School Student Representatives; Coach Tim King and various members of the LOL High School football team

I. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Witkins at 6:35 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of Regular Meeting of December 3, 2014 were approved as presented.

III. Visitors:

1. Coach Tim King and the LOLHS Football Team

Coach Tim King and some members of the newly crowned state champion football team (LOL High School cooperative team with Valley Regional High School) were present at the meeting to be recognized for this honor by the Board. Coach King spoke briefly about their winning season and introduced the athletes. The Board congratulated Coach King and the team.

2. Student Representatives

Abigail Cipparone and Gabe Barclay reported on the following activities occurring in the schools:

At Center School: Center School is back from vacation and getting ready for the new year. The select singers visited Center School the Monday before vacation. Students also had their own sing along the day before vacation. The Student Council sponsored a teacher secret snowman. Each council member had a teacher that they secretly made crafts and gifts for in December. At the sing along, teachers had to guess who was their secret snowman. Teachers continue to prepare and implement their engage/expeditionary units with passion and excitement. Students are rising to the challenges of each module and enjoying the student centered activities.

At LOLMS: students and staff returned from the break refreshed and they have jumped right back into the swing of things. Before the break, two wildcat-blue benches were installed in front of the middle school. Thanks were extended to the PTO for their generous donation toward the purchase of the benches. Students are putting them to good use as they wait for rides from parents or the late bus arrival. Parent-teacher conferences will be held next week. Parents can meet with their child's academic teachers as a team and unified arts teachers, school psychologist and school counselor individually. Mrs. Susi made arrangements to trial a web-based school event scheduling product so that parents can schedule their conference appointment online. Parents who cannot arrange to meet during any available time slots can notify the school through the program that they would like to be contacted to set up an alternate appointment. The staff are contacting families without email access by telephone. An email with instructions to schedule an appointment was sent home on Tuesday, January 6, and in less than 24 hours, 95 families have scheduled appointments to meet with academic teams and 11 families have scheduled to meet with special area teachers. The program seems to be working and feedback from parents has been positive.

At Lyme School: The CAS Leadership Conference for students will be held on January 14. Mrs. Kaczor, the TAG teacher, will be taking six 5th grade students to this conference. They are Drew St. Louis, Soleil Lech. Askel Sather, Julia Johnston, Mary Wholean and Frank Sablone. On January 26 and 27, the Florence Griswold staff will be visiting and conducting 45 minute workshops for all students. The PTO will be holding a "Craft Night" for students on Friday, January 30.

At LOLHS: Mid-term exams begin next week. The student leaders are hosting their annual Study with a Buddy next Wednesday night and Thursday afternoon. This is an opportunity for students to study together in the Commons and receive help from teachers. The Mock Trial Team won the regional competitions in Middletown on December 18 winning both of their trials against Valley Regional and Simsbury High School. This win advances the team to the quarterfinals to be held in Trumbull on January 25. The students have been working 3-4 hours a week meeting with their attorney coach, Mr. David Smith, a prosecutor in New London, and social studies teacher Mrs. Hylas. Winter sports are in full swing. All teams are doing well.

At Mile Creek School: Students and staff returned to school happy and well-rested. January is a busy month of curricular challenges and mid-year assessments. All grade levels will hold data team meetings as a way to analyze student achievement against the backdrop of national and local norms. Review of this data is critical to informing both curriculum delivery and SRBI needs. The Mile Creek PTO will be sponsoring Bingo Night on January 23 at 6:00-7:30 p.m. All are welcome for this family friendly night!

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

IV. Administrative Reports:

1. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Neviaser reviewed the January Personnel Report which reflected the resignation of elementary teacher Patricia Klein and the hiring of School Psychologist Danielle Miller and several resignations and hirings of instructional assistants and a custodian.

Mr. Neviaser reviewed the January enrollment report which reflected a total of 1,354 students enrolled. He also reported that the administration has updated the staffing proposals based on the current and projected enrollments as a part of the budget development process and for long range planning purposes.

Mr. Neviaser extended congratulations to the LOLHS Mock Trial Team for the distinction of becoming Regional Champions in their first year of competition. The first year team won both of their trials and beat ten other teams to advance to the quarterfinals on January 26 along with Mercy High School.

As noted in an email to the Board in December, Mr. Neviaser reported that the district has been recognized in a number of very positive articles in *The Day* newspaper. The content of these articles was varied demonstrating the district's success in a wide range of activities from athletics to proactive discipline measures. The district also made the front page of the paper with an article on the winter choral concert where high school students performed the work of a local composer. Mr. Neviaser congratulated all involved in this positive recognition of the district schools.

Mr. Neviaser reminded the Board to clear their schedule for the next three Wednesday evenings as the annual budget workshops begin January 14 when the principals will present their school budgets. Mr. Neviaser referred to the budget calendar as a reminder of the schedule for the next couple of months.

Mr. Neviaser gave an update on the positive bonding interest rates for the high school project, specifically the long and short term notes, and the impact to the debt service over the next several years.

2. Business Manager's Report

Mrs. McCalla provided a year to date budget status report, and she explained the discrepancies from last year this time. She also gave an update on the contingency fund report which reflects a balance of \$158,194.

V. Educational Presentation:

1. Technology Report

John Rhodes, Director of Facilities and Technology, and Andy Raucci, Instructional Technology Specialist, provided an update on the status of technology planning for the district. Their report details a review of three focus areas; increased capacity of the team; status update for each focus area; input gathered for the budget; a 2015-2016 proposal; and their next steps. A summary of their presentation is attached to these minutes for informational purposes. Follow-up discussion included conversation on reaching out to graduates; use of iPads at the middle school level; use of student-owned devices during the school day; fast serving Wi-Fi at the high school; the challenges of professional development for the various staff members because of their different levels of comfort with technology; use of the iPad mini at the elementary level; evolution of use of computers in the classroom especially by teachers who were not technology proponents; the need for an additional instructional specialist; and the role of tech facilitators in each building.

VI. Chairman & Board Report:

Mr. Witkins reported on Common Core taking hold in Connecticut due to community involvement and communications.

Mr. Witkins reported that he will not be in attendance at the next two Regular Board Meetings. In his absence, Mr. Fuchs, Vice Chair, or Beth Jones, Secretary, will run the meetings.

Mr. Witkins discussed the use of cameras in schools and the resulting need for policy change in this area. He also discussed body cameras that are currently being used in other school districts. Follow-up discussion included district liability in relation to camera usage.

Mr. Neviaser referred to an article which appeared in a recent edition of the *CABE Journal* by Denise Merrill, Secretary of State, on the new social studies framework. He educated the Board on the state's social studies framework and its components. A Board presentation on social studies is planned in March. Mr. Neviaser also reported on the Board's role in adopting a new social studies curriculum.

VII. New Business:

1. Board of Ed Meeting Schedule for 2015-2016

The Board of Education meeting schedule for the 2015-2016 school year was presented. The schedule remains the same as it has been with meetings scheduled for the first Wednesday of

each month beginning at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Neviasek explained that this schedule must be posted in the town halls this month and, therefore, requires Board action for approval to post.

MOTION: Mr. Fuchs made a motion, which was seconded by Dr. Goulding, to approve the schedule of regular monthly Board of Education meetings for the 2015-2016 school year.

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

2. Resolution for Lyme School Roof Replacement Project

The Board was presented with a resolution for the Lyme School roof replacement project.

MOTION: Ms. Smalley made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Fuchs, to approve the following resolution:

The Regional School District Board of Education hereby resolves the following for the Lyme Consolidated Roof Replacement Project:

1. Establishes that the School District's standing Facilities Committee will be the Building Committee for this project;
2. Authorizes the preparation of construction drawings and specifications;
3. Authorizes bidding the project once the construction drawings and specifications are approved by the Connecticut Department of Construction Services;
4. Authorizes the filing of the grant application (EDO49);
5. Authorizes funding of \$961,023 for this project from the School District's undesignated fund account.

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

3. Security Camera Purchase

Mr. Rhodes provided the following background information on this agenda item:

Increasing the number of security cameras is part of the 14-15 Facilities Capital Projects budget. These cameras will be installed at Mile Creek School, Center School, the Middle School, and Lyme Consolidated School. Once they are installed, there will be security camera coverage of the school hallways, outside doors and elementary school playgrounds. The camera selection is compatible with the existing security camera network. This purchase was not publically bid since this equipment is available through Internet purchase. Three Internet quotes were obtained for the specified camera as listed below:

A1 Security Cameras	\$30,093
Uniquepos	\$30,101
Immedia Systems	\$28,882

MOTION: Mr. Fuchs made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Linderman, to approve the purchase of 21 security cameras from Immedia Systems for \$28,882.14.

Discussion followed on where the cameras would be located and the monitoring they provide. Existing policy will be reviewed relative to this additional surveillance. The need for surveillance in the high school parking lot was also discussed.

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

VIII. Old Business:

1. 2015-2016 School Calendar

The proposed 2015-2016 school calendar was presented to the Board for approval. This was the second view of the calendar which the Board initially reviewed at their December meeting. Mr. Neviasser noted that with the new regional requirements, there is little flexibility with the calendar schedule.

MOTION: Ms. Smalley made a motion, which was seconded by Dr. Goulding, to approve the 2015-2016 school calendar as presented.

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

2. Reports of Committees:

Facilities. Mr. Fuchs reviewed some of the options this committee is considering for the track field which continues to have issues making it a non-viable athletic field.

- Strip grass and reseed.
- Strip grass and apply sod.
- Strip grass, add drainage and sand.
- Install artificial turf.

At the Facilities Committee meeting of December 16, 2014, the committee members agreed to allocate \$171,860 to re-sod the track field and drainage.

Building. Mr. Rhodes reported on the improvement to the HVAC issues at the high school which has resulted in few or no heating/cooling complaints.

Technology. No report.

Policy. The group will meet again in February.

Communications. No report.

Finance. The group will meet next Thursday to meet with the towns' finance committees to discuss their financial priorities.

Human Resources. The committee will begin meeting in March begin the AFT negotiations.

Enrollment & Equity. No report.

LEARN. No report.

IX. Correspondence:

There was no correspondence to report.

X. Executive Session:


Mrs. Linderman made a motion, which was seconded by Dr. Goulding, to move into executive session for the purpose of discussing the mid-year evaluation of the superintendent and pending legal matters. Mr. Neviasser was invited to attend the executive session.

XI. Adjournment:

The regular meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Fuchs, Secretary Pro Tem



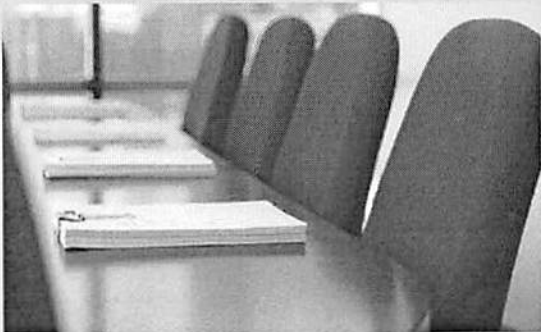
Creating a Digital Learning Environment

**BOARD OF
EDUCATION
MEETING**

JANUARY 7, 2015

AGENDA

GOAL - PRESENT 2015-16 PLAN BASED ON 3 FOCUS AREAS



Review of Three Focus Areas

Increased Capacity of the Team

Status Update For Each Focus Area

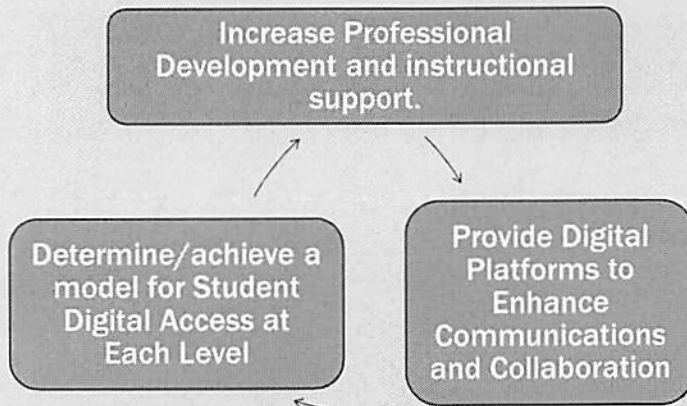
Input Gathered for Budget

2015-16 Proposal

Next Steps

THREE FOCUS AREAS

IN ORDER TO ENSURE EFFECTIVE INTEGRATION OF TECHNOLOGY, WE NEED TO:



INCREASING CAPACITY OF THE TEAM

We need diversity of thought in the world to face the new challenges.

—Tim Berners-Lee

- Technology Team
- Lib Media Specialists
- K-12 Teachers
- Administrators
- District Strategic Tech

CURRENT STATUS

Professional Development

- Created bank of digital training videos to provide district specific ,anytime PD.
- Established more time in PD schedule for Certified and Non-Certified Staff Tech PD.
- Communicated clear expectations for integrating educational technology to all Staff.

Digital Communication & Collaboration

- Increased network accounts/Email to elementary level students
- Provided Office 365 training for certified, non-certified staff and students
- Introduced new collaboration tools available on Office 365
- Explored numerous district programs and available LMS for possible pilot

Digital Access

- HS - 1 laptop cart/department
- MS - 1 laptop cart/grade
- K-5 - 1 laptop cart/school and 4 per class

GATHERING INPUT

Staff at
each school

Leadership
Teams
across the
district

Admin
Team

District Tech
Strategic
Planning
Team
To Be
Rescheduled

BOE on 1/7

HS
Students
& Recent
Grads

2015-16 PROPOSAL

K-5

- **K-5 Tech Integration Specialist to:**
 - teach gr 3 -5, support teachers, coordinate K-5 program, work with K-12 Tech Team
- **60 iPad minis**
 - 2/class for total of 3 (cart vs class vs Library sign-out - TBD) & 10 minis/ LMC

MS

- **Additional laptop cart to address usage**
- **Move CS wired lab to MS**

HS

- **Shift existing Tech Integration Specialist to High School**

NEXT STEPS

Gather Input

Current HS Students

Recent Grads

Form Teams

Explore common Communication and Collaboration Platform

Improve device to student ratio

Meet with District Strategic Tech

Share student input & updates

Seek guidance and next steps