

LYME - OLD LYME PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Impassioned with Pride and Purpose

MEETING MINUTES

Regular Board of Education Meeting

Lyme-Old Lyme High School

March 4, 2015

Board Present: Paul Fuchs, Vice Chair; Jean Wilczynski, Treasurer; Beth Jones, Secretary; Rick Goulding; Diane Linderman; Nancy Lucas Edson; Michelle Roche; Sarah Smalley

Absent by Previous Arrangement: James Witkins

Administration Present: Ian Neviaser, Superintendent of Schools; Elizabeth Borden, Director of Curriculum; 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: Tisha Kirk, AFT President; Staff Members: Barbara O'Leary, Courtney Payzant, and Aron D'Aquila; Abigail Cipparone and Gabe Barclay, High School Student Representatives; 3 Townspeople from LOL

I. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Paul Fuchs at 6:31 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

II. Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of Regular Meeting of February 4, 2015 and Special Meeting of February 11, 2015 were approved as presented.

II. Visitors:

Lon Seidman from the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education presented the district with the CABA Communications Award for the 2014-2015 Budget Book.

1. LOLHS Boys 4 x 800 Relay Team

The 4 x 800 relay team for the high school's track team (Ross Golebiewski, Thomas Roth, Will DeMott, and James Kolb) and their coaches (Barbara O'Leary, Courtney Payzant, and Marty Lane) were recognized by the Board for winning the Class S State Champion for this relay event.

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2. Student Representatives

Abigail Cipparone and Gabe Barclay reported on the following activities across the district:

At Center School: Center School celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday and Read Across America with cupcakes from the PTO. There were many other activities going on in the building that day. One highlight was that the 5th grade students had a buddy activity with the Prek students while dressed in their PJ's or their stripes. The Celebrate Center Student Activity Club continues to make display boards for the in-house museum that will be shared on May 1. The Middle School students are beginning to interview alumni. High School Representative, Ian James, is gathering student memories from past Center School students at his level.

At Lyme School: On February 12, Mrs. Ambruso, physical education teacher, organized the "Jump Rope for Heart Day" for all of the students. Each grade level participated in 45 minutes of continuous activities. Part of this day involved the students donating to the American Heart Association; 145 students made donations in the amount of \$7,150 which is more than double the amount from last year. A special thanks to Mrs. Ambruso and to all who contributed to the Heart Association. The fourth graders participated in the National Assessment of Educational Process (NAEP) today. NAEP is the largest continuing and nationally representative assessment of what our nation's know and can do in core subjects. NAEP is congressionally mandated and results are used to assess progress and develop ways to improve education in the United States. The 5th graders are busy planning and building their inventions for the upcoming Invention Convention that will be held on Tuesday, March 31, in the media center.

At LOLMS: the LOLMS production of "The Wizard of Oz" was a huge success with two, flawless, sold-out performances. Bravo to Ms. Gladd, Mrs. Saia and Ms. Skelly, to the entire cast and crew, and to the parents who were willing to do whatever was needed. The Middle School is looking forward to walking up to the high school on March 11 to enjoy Act 1 of "Carousel." The Summer Transition Academy was presented to students this week. The middle school staff is truly grateful to be able to provide support to struggling students over the summer.

At Mile Creek School: the Mile Creek PTO is sponsoring After School Cultural Enrichment (ACE) for Grades K-2. This program of diverse and fascinating courses will run for the next four Tuesday's in March. On March 24, Mile Creek PTO will be hosting "Bubblemania," a highly entertaining and engaging look into the science of bubbles. On March 26, the Mile Creek 3rd and 4th grades will be traveling to Center School to experience the Fifth Grade Invention Convention.

At LOLHS: Yesterday the 10th graders took the science CAPT test. The freshmen participated in a CAPT practice and the upperclassmen either participated in AP review sessions or enjoyed a few extra hours sleep. Both the boys and girls basketball teams are heading to the state tournament. The art department won the Judy Streeter Award which goes to the top performing school at the Future Choices art show sponsored by the Shoreline Art Alliance.

On March 12, 13, and 14, the Old Lyme Players will be performing the musical *Carousel*. Tickets are going fast. The robotics team won the Waterford Robotics event that included 35 schools from Connecticut and Massachusetts. Course registration has begun for the 2015-2016 school year. Tomorrow afternoon, LOLHS will be hosting ten other schools of the Greater Middlesex County Math League for a regional competition. Even those who do not excel in math are welcome to attend.

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

IV. Administrative Reports:

1. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Neviasher reviewed the personnel report, noting the upcoming retirement of Barbara Rayel, 2nd Grade Teacher at Mile Creek School, effective in June.

Mr. Neviasher reviewed the March enrollment report which reflected a total of 1,360 students enrolled.

Mr. Neviasher reported that the budget edition of the *Focus on Education* newsletter will go out in the mail at the beginning of next week.

Mr. Neviasher reported that he and Holly McCalla, Business Manager, presented the district budget to the Old Lyme Board of Finance. The presentation was well received, and this group was appreciative of the efforts in developing a responsible budget. The presentation to the Lyme Board of Finance will take place later this month.

Mr. Neviasher noted that there will be an official vote to set a date for graduation as prescribed in statute at the April Board meeting. Assuming no more closures beyond the four we have already had, the last day of school and the date for graduation will be June 18, 2015.

With all of the press coverage related to measles vaccinations, Mr. Neviasher stressed the importance of knowing what the district's policies and requirements are for students. Mr. Neviasher reported that he met with the school nurses recently, and they provided him with a link from the Connecticut Department of Public Health school survey results. The latest information pertains to the 2013-14 school year. State law prohibits individual school district immunization results to be released; instead it is broken down by county. The nurses have agreed that *it is most useful to conclude from this data that the risk to exposure within this population is low due to the overall high immunization rate. This high rate of vaccination helps to protect individuals and the community at large. A herd immunity occurs when the majority of the population has been vaccinated. The recent outbreak of measles supports this notion. With the increasing globalization of our society coupled with our students who travel*

outside of the U.S. borders, we need to stay ever vigilant in our standards of care and observant of emerging threats.

CT immunization survey results can be found at:

http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/infectious_diseases/immunization/workplace/web_summary_page-school_immunization_data02102015_wlinksrevised_cs.pdf.

Mr. Neviasher also provided the Board with the district policy as well as state statute related to vaccinations for students.

Mr. Neviasher reported on the following information from William Allik, Art Teacher at LOLHS: *The Visual Arts Department of Lyme-Old Lyme High School is proud to announce outstanding results from this year's Future Choices Art Show, sponsored by the Shoreline Arts Alliance. In the Drawing category, Senior Jordan Bourne and Junior Silja Forstein took First and Second Place respectively, repeating the exceptional performance of last year's LOLHS competitors; while in Painting, two of our Seniors also took the top two spots: Adi Dahlke (First) and Sofia Restrepo (Second). Jordan earned First in Pastels, while Adi took an additional Honorable Mention in Painting. Also awarded Honorable Mention in Painting were Meredith Kegley and Claudia Mergy. In Ceramics, Alix Turner won Third Place, with Rande Gearing and Veronica Rollins both earning Honorable Mentions. All 21 of our students' submissions were juried into this year's show, including a drawing by Sophomore Natalie Rugg and additional pieces by Sofia, Rande, Adi and Veronica. Best in Show overall was awarded to Jordan Bourne for a portrait drawing. Students who reside or attend school in the 24-town Shoreline region are eligible to submit up to three works to this juried competition. Cash prizes are awarded to award-winners, and other prizes and scholarship awards will be announced after the opening reception Sunday, March 1, at 3:00, Sill House Gallery, Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts. The show will run until March 11, with gallery hours from 10am – 4pm Monday – Friday. All artworks will also be available for viewing during the upcoming Region 18 Youth Art Show, also at Sill House, opening Thursday, March 19.*

Mr. Fuchs suggested that the Art Department's staff members and students be invited to a future Board meeting.

Mr. Neviasher noted that the month of March is Connecticut Board of Education Member Appreciation Month. He recognized all Board members for their dedicated service to the communities.

2. Business Manager's Report

Mrs. McCalla provided a year to date budget status report (similar to last time this year), and she gave an update on the contingency fund report which reflected a balance of \$147,002.

V. Educational Presentation:

1. Report on Social Studies Frameworks

Dr. Beth Borden and Aron D'Aquila, Department Chair of the Social Studies Department, gave a report on the newly adopted Social Studies Frameworks. A summary of their presentation is attached to these minutes for informational purposes.

Follow-up questions and comments included: staff preparation for teaching new course offerings with a notation that social studies certification is very comprehensive; staff assignment consideration of interests, best fits and expertise; flexibility and enthusiasm of staff for new frameworks; and course selection and what it encompasses.

VI. Chairman & Board Report:

There was no report.

VII. New Business:

1. Employee Request for Use of the AFT Sick Bank

The Board reviewed a request from staff member Loyda Diaz who was requesting 10 additional days from the AFT Sick Bank due to surgery. Mr. Neviasser noted that Loyda was granted 20 days from the Sick Bank during the earlier part of the 2014-2015 school year.

Per the AFT Contract, "Should a special circumstance arise wherein an employee may require more than his/her accumulated sick leave plus 20 Sick Bank days, said employee must submit an additional letter to the Board of Education for review and decision..."

Mr. Neviasser noted his support of this request.

MOTION: Mrs. Lucas Edson made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Roche, to grant Loyda Diaz an additional 10 days from the AFT Sick Bank.

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

2. Nonrenewals of Non-Tenured Staff

As is annual practice to ensure compliance with state statute, and in accordance with Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-151(b), which gives authority to the Superintendent to determine whether a non-tenured teacher should be offered a contract for the subsequent school year, Mr. Neviasser recommended the non-renewal of all non-tenured teachers.

MOTION: Ms. Smalley made a motion, which was seconded by Dr. Goulding, that pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151, the Region 18 Board of Education non-renew the teacher contracts as specified at the end of the 2014-2015 school year as recommended by the Superintendent. Further move that the Superintendent of Schools be directed to communicate this action of the Board in writing to named staff members.

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

3. Sponsorship of Safe Graduation Party

Mr. Neviaser explained that since 1994 the Board has provided liability insurance for the Safe Grad party. The Safe Grad Committee has again requested this coverage. This is general liability coverage for the event at the named facility. Mr. Neviaser reported on a proposed change in procedure with this request which would have the Safe Grad Committee get their own liability insurance coverage since this is not a district sponsored event, and the district would cover the cost up to \$500.00. In previous years, the event was covered by the district's liability insurance.

MOTION: Mrs. Linderman made a motion, which was seconded by Dr. Goulding, to approve the funding of event insurance for the 2015 Safe Grad Party with a limit of \$500.00

It was recommended that the Board's approval require that all graduates who participate in the event be dropped off and picked up by a responsible individual who has not attended the party (e.g., a parent, neighbor, friend) so as to avoid the operation of a motor vehicle by participants who may be suffering from sleep deprivation. Mr. Neviaser confirmed that would be detailed in his letter to the Safe Grad Committee. Mrs. Roche asked if the committee considered other celebratory options for the seniors on the night of graduation as this event is not geared for all students and is a very expensive venture.

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

4. Renewal of Auditor Contract

Mrs. McCalla explained that the RFP for the auditor allows for a two year extension of the contract upon approval by the Board. The Finance Committee is recommending approval of this extension as the auditor has agreed to keep their costs stable in order to retain the district's business. It was noted that the district has been very pleased with the level of service received from Sandra E. Welwood, LLC.

MOTION: Dr. Jones made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Lucas Edson, to waive the bidding requirements of Policy 6330 and approve the two year extension of the auditor contract with Sandra E. Welwood, LLC.

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

5. Middle School HVAC Controls Upgrade

John Rhodes, Director of Facilities, provided the following background on this agenda item: The 2014-2015 facilities plan budgeted funds to install HVAC energy efficiency motor improvements at the Middle School, Mile Creek and Lyme Consolidated Schools. Since this plan was devised, it has become clear that focusing on upgrading the Middle School HVAC controls, boiler controls and gymnasium motors will have greater efficiency gains, resolve a

number of Middle School HVAC control network issues, and result in a more efficient implementation by completing one entire building.

It is also recommended that Connecticut Controls be awarded this work without public bidding. Connecticut Controls is the district's HVAC controls contractor. They have an intimate knowledge of the district's HVAC controls and have successfully performed maintenance on those controls in an efficient, timely and accurate manner.

MOTION: Mrs. Linderman made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Roche, to award Connecticut Controls Corporation the contract to upgrade the Middle School HVAC controls without public bidding for \$37,095.

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

6. Mile Creek and Lyme Consolidated School Carpet Replacement

John Rhodes provided the following background on this agenda item: replacing the Mile Creek and Lyme Consolidated floor coverings is a budgeted 2014-2015 facilities project. The work was publically bid. The district received only one bid through this process despite sending the request for proposal to multiple contractors. R&B Ceramic Tile and Floor Covering Inc., has a significant resume of completed and ongoing projects. They are used extensively by the large construction management companies in Connecticut.

MOTION: Mrs. Wilczynski made a motion, which was seconded by Dr. Jones, to award R&B Ceramic Tile and Floor Covering Inc., the contract to replace the existing Mile Creek and Lyme Consolidated media center floor coverings for \$39,300.

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

VIII. Old Business:

1. Bus Contract

The following information was provided to the Board regarding this agenda item: the district bid the contract this fall and have negotiated a proposed new five year contract with the lowest bidder, M&J Bus, who currently provides transportation services for the district. There are some cost increases from the previous contract related to the following: an increase in the lease payments to the Town of Old Lyme for the bus barn, new regulations related to the Affordable Care Act, electricity costs due to changes in lighting at the bus barn, and the State of Connecticut Mandatory Sick Leave Law. The cost of this contract is estimated at \$820,000 for the first year with approximate increases of 4% each year for the term of the contract.

As a number of questions were raised at last month's Board meeting regarding the cost of the facility where the buses are housed (the bus barn), Mr. Neviaser provided a number of documents that he reviewed relative to last month's discussion and concerns raised:

- Bus Barn Repayment Schedule of \$575,000 Expense.
- Minutes from the Board of Ed Meeting of November 19, 2008 where the Board initially approved that the buses would be parked on town property at the Four Mile River Road for two consecutive five year contracts.

Mr. Neviasser reported that the Board's concerns and questions about the bus barn and repayment schedule were addressed at the February Community Leadership meeting.

Dr. Jones voiced her concern over approving the bus contract because it included the bus barn repayment schedule which she was in disagreement with. A lengthy discussion on the repayment schedule ensued. It was noted that the district would be paying less over the ten year period of the contract than the \$575,000 that the bus barn cost the Town of Old Lyme and that the original agreement was that the district would use the bus barn for ten years. There was Board consensus to commit to the next five years of the ten year contract and then do additional homework on subsequent payments that the district might be charged for the bus barn.

MOTION: Mrs. Roche made a motion, which was seconded by Ms. Smalley, to approve the transportation agreement between Regional School District #18 and M & J Bus, Inc., as presented.

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

2. Reports of Committees

- a. *Facilities*. It was reported that discussion at the last meeting revolved around the Lyme School roof project. State has reviewed the design plans and bids are to be returned in early April.

On another matter, Mrs. Roche recommended that a committee be formed to study the expenses paid and earmarked for the track field thus far and the feasibility behind a turf field. She noted the \$172,000 expenditure budgeted for 2015-2016. Mr. Rhodes concurred with the need for a committee formation to study this issue.

- b. *Building*. No report.
- c. *Technology*. Mrs. Wilczynski, Mr. Rhodes and Dr. Borden reported that this committee met that day and discussed technology initiatives and the high school student survey which reflected a positive attitude and interest in digital courses. The committee also discussed next big steps and initiatives in technology.
- d. *Policy*. No report.

- e. *Communications*. Mr. Neviasser reported that the *Focus on Education* newsletter (budget edition) was going out next week.
- f. *Finance*. Mrs. Wilczynski reported that the group met earlier that night and discussed the auditor contract that was approved by the Board.
- g. *Human Resources*. Dr. Jones reported that the process to begin negotiations with the AFT union has begun.
- h. *Enrollment & Equity*. Dr. Jones reported that this committee met February 11 to review the enrollment projection reports which reflected a trend in low kindergarten numbers and enrollments of below 1,000 students in ten years.
- i. *LEARN*. No report.

IX. Correspondence:

Dr. Jones thanked the Superintendent for the handwritten note the Board received from him in honor of Board appreciation month.

X. Executive Session:

There was no need for an executive session.

XI. Adjournment:

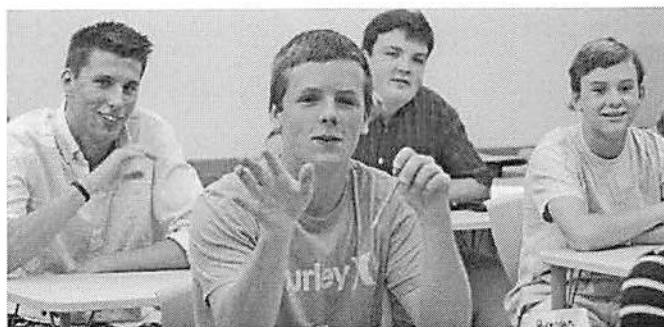
The regular meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m. upon motion by Ms. Smalley and a second by Dr. Goulding.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Jones, Secretary

New CT Social Studies Framework Implications and Opportunities

MARCH 4, 2015



Social Studies Team

Grade 6 to 8

- Pam LaMesa
- Heather Saia
- Steve Bushnell

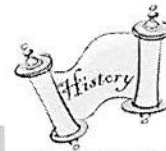


High School

- Kristine Acunzo
- Aron D'Aquila *
- Brett Eckhart
- Sarah Hylas
- Emily Kelly

New CT Social Studies Framework Guidance from 2013 C3

- C3 = College, Career and Civic Life
- National Framework for SS State Standards
- Created by teacher experts around the nation
- Work done under guidance of:
 - CCSSO (Council of Chief State School Officers)
 - NCSS (National Council of Social Studies)



Purpose of C3 Framework: To help states develop curriculum that:

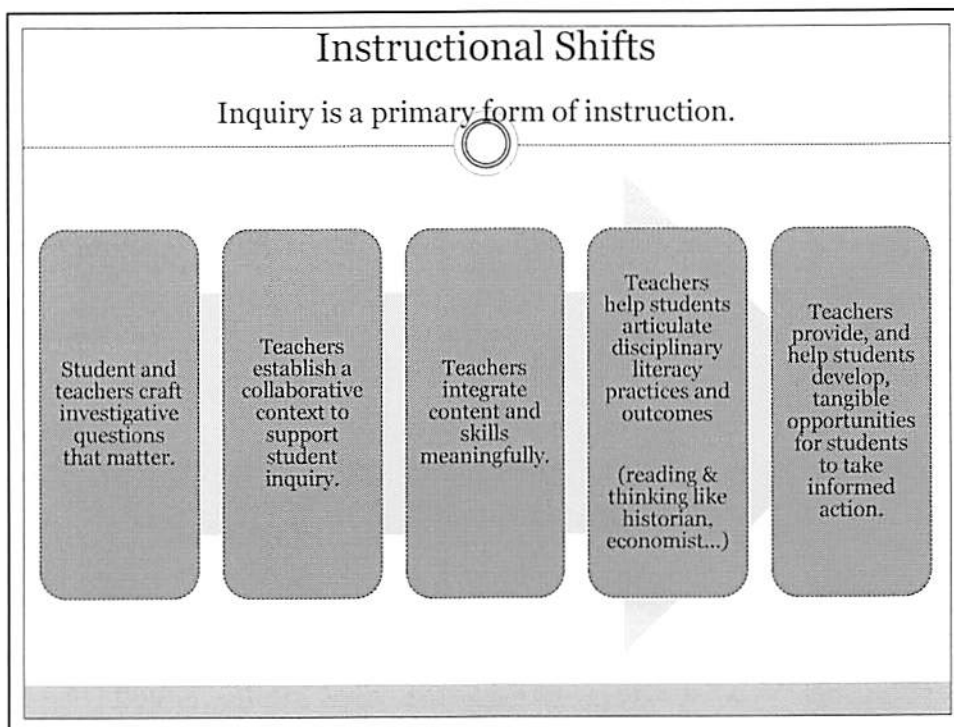
Strengthens instruction in K-12 social studies

Establishes fewer, clearer and higher standards

Includes civics, economics, geography and history

Build critical thinking, problem solving & participatory skills vital to engaged citizenship

Align programs to the CCSS for ELA and Literacy in History/Social Studies.



CT Content Focus By Grade Level

Grade	Focus Area
K	Social Studies: Me and My Community
1	Social Studies: Society and Ourselves
2	Social Studies: Making a Difference
3	Connecticut and Local History
4	United States Geography
5	Early United States History
6 & 7	World Regional Studies
8	United States History
9	Civics and Government
HS	Modern World History
HS	United States History

Current and Proposed Course Offerings

	Current SS 6-12	Proposed SS 6-12 Sequencing
6 th	North and South Am Geography	World Regional Studies I (N & S Am, Asia)
7 th	Ancient World History	World Regional Studies II (W & E Europe & Af)
8 th	Early US (Colonial-CW)	Early US (Rev-Recons)
9 th	MWH (Modern World History)	Civics Roots of Democracy
10 th	Civics and EUSH (Early US History)	MWH or AP EURO
11 th	MUSH (Modern US History) or APUSH	MUSH or APUSH
11 th - 12 th	Electives: Intro and AP Psych ECON Global Film CT	Electives: Intro and AP Psych ECON Global Film CT

Implementation Plan: A 2 year roll-out

	Current 2014-15	Proposed 2015-16	Proposed 2016-17
6 th	North and South Am Geography	World Regional Studies I	World Regional Studies I
7 th	Ancient World History	World Regional Studies II	World Regional Studies II
8 th	Early US (Colonial-CW)	Early US (Rev-Recons)	Early US (Rev-Recons)
9 th	MWH (Modern World History)	Civics and "Roots of Democracy"	Civics and "Roots of Democracy"
10 th	Civics and EUSH (Early US History)	Civics and EUSH	MWH or AP EURO
11 th	MUSH (Modern US History) or APUSH	MUSH or APUSH	MUSH or APUSH
11 th - 12 th	Electives: Intro and AP Psych ECON Global AHTF* CT	Electives: Intro and AP Psych ECON Global AHTF* CT	Electives: Intro and AP Psych ECON Global AHTF* CT

