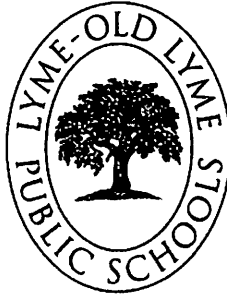


LYME-OLD LYME PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Small Schools, Big Ideas



Challenging * Achieving * Excelling

REGION #18

Regular Board of Education Meeting

Center School

December 7, 2016

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

Absent by Previous Arrangement: Beth Jones

Administration Present: Ian Neviaser, Superintendent of Schools; Elizabeth Borden, Director of Curriculum; James Cavalieri, Principal of Lyme School; Michelle Dean, Principal of Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School; Melissa Dougherty, Director of Special Services; Patricia Downes, Principal of Mile Creek School; Holly McCalla, Business Manager; Jeanne Manfredi, Assistant Principal of Lyme-Old Lyme High School; John Rhodes, Director of Facilities & Technology; Neil Sullivan, Assistant Principal of Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School

Others Present: Hildie Heck, Athletic Director; Gina Wohlke, AFT President; Library/Media Specialists: Robert Hibson, Diana Marchese, Shanon Pimentel, Lucy Trost; Madeline Zrenda and Matthew McCarthy, High School Student Representatives

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

1. Election of Board Officers

Mrs. Linderman made a motion, which was seconded by Dr. Powell St. Louis, to nominate Michelle Roche as the Chairwoman of the Board of Education. A paper ballot vote reflected all Board members voting for Michelle Roche as the Chairwoman of the Board.

Dr. Goulding made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Lucas Edson, to nominate Beth Jones as Vice Chair of the Board of Education. A paper ballot vote reflected all Board members voting for Beth Jones as Vice Chair of the Board.

49 Lyme Street, Old Lyme, Connecticut 06371

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

Mrs. Wilczynski made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Winchell, to nominate Rick Goulding as Secretary of the Board of Education. A paper ballot vote reflected all Board members voting for Rick Goulding as Secretary of the Board.

Mrs. Lucas Edson made a motion, which was seconded by Dr. Powell St. Louis, to nominate Jean Wilczynski as Treasurer of the Board of Education. A paper ballot vote reflected all Board members voting for Jean Wilczynski as Treasurer of the Board.

II. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Mrs. Linderman made a motion, which was seconded by Dr. Goulding, to approve the minutes of Special Meeting of November 2, 2016, Regular Meeting of November 2, 2016, and Special Meeting of November 14, 2016.

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

III. Visitors

1. Recognition of Retiree

Nancy Lucente, Middle School Special Education Teacher, was recognized by the Board for her 16 years of service to the district. Mrs. Lucente will be retiring from her position effective December 31, 2016.

2. LOLHS Girls Soccer Team

The girls soccer team was recognized by the Board for winning their second state championship in a row.

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. Report from Student Representatives

Madeline Zrenda and Matthew McCarthy reported on the following activities taking place at the schools:

At LOLHS: The participants in the 75th Pearl Harbor Anniversary Band Event made it to their destination in Hawaii. There was a live stream of the concert at 5:00 p.m. that evening. Focus has been on the gift of giving this month at the high school with the Community Service club collecting winter clothes to bring to the no freeze shelter in Norwich. Mr. Wang and Mr. Raucci are running a ping-pong challenge during lunch on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The National Honor Society is sponsoring a fundraiser for children in need. Different homerooms are also working on various projects i.e., adopting a family with LYSB, sending cards to veterans, and volunteering at the soup kitchen. A Safety Pin Campaign has begun with students wearing safety pins and signing a pledge saying they care and are “aware.” On the sports scene, the athletic department has signed up for the CIAC Class Act Initiative for good sportsmanship in the state. The student reps to the Board of Ed, Maddie Zrenda and Matt McCarthy, are on the leadership group. The football team made the state semi-finals and the girls soccer team won the state championship.

At LOLMS: The middle school is half-way through the second quarter. This past month, the staff participated in classroom walkthroughs called Step Up Learning Labs where each team observed classes in the grade level above them. Observations were non-evaluative and directly connected to professional development around learning objectives. In addition, students are working with the theme of "kindness" and creating visual representations of what that looks like in our school. Some of the content will appear in an upcoming school-wide Lip Dub that will be filmed in late December - stay tuned for the final product coordinated by Jane Regan, Bill Eydman, and students. The administration is planning diversity programming as part of the three year cycle of student character development and awareness; programming will start with the 8th grade this January. Winter sports are officially underway and so is rehearsal for the musical.

At Lyme Consolidated School: The Lyme School senate collected over 500 food items to donate to the Old Lyme Soup Kitchen. Report cards were sent home on November 18 and parent/teacher conferences were held on November 21 and 22.

At Mile Creek School: On November 17, the kindergarteners traveled to Lyme School for a Thanksgiving Feast. On November 18, report cards went home for grades 1-5. On November 21 and 22, parent-teacher conferences were held. On November 22, representatives from Bushy Hill visited the 5th graders for a program on *Indigenous People Tomorrow*. On December 8, the Mile Creek PTO will sponsor its annual Winter Wonderland. On December 21, the second grade will hold its Bread Festival as an extension of their study of immigration. On December 22, LOLHS Select Singers will grace Mile Creek School with holiday music from around the world.

In the Preschool Program: The Preschool themes for December will be giving and gingerbread. The students will be learning about community outreach, holiday celebrations and the five senses. To support the gingerbread theme, the students will be reading *The Gingerbread Baby*, *Gingerbread Man* and *Gingerbread Christmas*. In order to learn about community outreach and giving, the students are collecting non-perishable food items for the local food bank and cat/dog food, toys and blankets for the local animal shelter. Those who would like to participate can stop by Center School and leave the donations in the red train near the gym. The preschool students wish everyone a happy holiday season.

IV. Administrative Reports

1. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Neviasser reviewed the December Personnel Report which reflected several resignations and several new hires of instructional assistants.

Mr. Neviasser reviewed the December Enrollment Report which reflected a total of 1309 students. He noted the receipt of enrollment projections from both NESDEC and Peter Prowda which are being incorporated into the budget process.

Mr. Neviaser congratulated the girls soccer team on winning the third (and second in a row) state championship in school history.

Mr. Neviaser reported that the Veterans Day programs at all the schools were very well attended by local veterans and greatly appreciated by them. Mr. Neviaser stated that this annual event is one of the most moving events held in-district every year and allows the students to understand the real sacrifices the veterans have made for this country.

Mr. Neviaser updated the Board on media coverage and the recent prospective student day which was held on November 30.

Mr. Neviaser updated the Board on the ongoing initiative to implement social media outlets (Twitter, Facebook and Instagram) for the district.

Mr. Neviaser also did a follow-up to the concerns raised at the last Board meeting regarding grading practices at the high school. Mr. Neviaser reviewed a presentation that was given to the high school parents on November 9 regarding this issue which is attached to these minutes for informational purposes.

Mr. Neviaser shared the budget development schedule and asked that the Board mark their calendars for the numerous meetings that take place in January.

2. Business Manager's Report

Mrs. McCalla reviewed the Executive Budget Summary as of November 30, 2016. Fluctuations of note:

Administrative Services: reclassification of technology spending.

Instructional Programs: general purchasing down year over year.

Special Education: reduced tuition year over year.

Pupil Transportation: Timing of invoices.

Mrs. McCalla reviewed the Contingency Maintenance Report which reflected a balance of \$99,279 as of November 30, 2016. She explained that spending is associated with recent vandalism that occurred on the main campus. Other spending is due to the main campus water issues as previously reported to the Board.

V. Educational Presentation

1. Library Media Presentation

The district's library media specialists (Lucy Trost, Shanon Pimentel, Robert Hibson and Diane Marchese) gave an update on their services to students and how they are impacting the schools. A copy of their presentation is attached to these minutes for informational purposes.

Follow-up discussion followed the presentation. The Board asked about book fairs, the amount of time students spend in the library, other opportunities for students in the library, working cooperatively with the towns' libraries, use of digital vs. paper books, and various resources available to students.

VI. Chairman & Board Report

Mrs. Roche asked the Board members to email her their preferences for Board committee membership.

Mrs. Roche gave an update on the CABA Convention that she recently attended with Mrs. Linderman and Mr. Neviasser.

VII. New Business

1. Appointment of Certified Personnel

Mr. Neviasser recommended the appointment of Beth Goulding to the position of Special Education Teacher at Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School. Because Mrs. Goulding is the spouse of Rick Goulding, a Board of Education member, the Board must approve this appointment, excluding the aforementioned member, per Board of Ed policies 5260 and 8360.

Wording from the related policies is as follows: Persons related by blood or marriage to a Lyme/Old Lyme Board of Education member may only be permanently employed by Regional School District 18 following full disclosure of the relationship in a public meeting and with sufficient Board voting support (without the vote of the related Board member). The related Board of Education member shall not participate in discussion regarding the appointment of a relative nor vote on such appointment.

MOTION: Mr. Cushman made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Winchell, to approve the appointment of Beth Goulding to the position of Special Education Teacher at Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School.

VOTE: all Board members present, with the exception of Dr. Goulding, voted in favor of the motion.

2. 2017-2018 School Calendar

Mr. Neviasser reviewed a draft of the 2017-2018 school calendar which mirrors the regional calendar developed by LEARN. This was for discussion purposes only. Board action will be taken at the January 4, 2017 meeting.

VIII. Old Business

1. Policy 4600 Use of School Facilities, Buildings and Grounds

This was a second reading of this policy.

MOTION: Mrs. Winchell made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Lucas Edson, to approve Policy 4600 Use of School Facilities, Buildings and Grounds and its associated regulation as presented.

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

2. Closing of LOLHS Project

The district is still waiting for the final change order from the State so there is no action required on this agenda item.

3. Reports of Committees

- a. *Facilities*. Dr. Goulding reported that this committee would meet again on January 4. They are still seeking volunteers to sit on the Turf Committee.
- b. *Building*. No report. This standing committee's charge has been completed.
- c. *Technology*. No report.
- d. *Policy*. It was agreed that this committee would convene again in February.
- e. *Communications*. Mrs. Roche reported that this committee would meet again in February to develop the budget edition of the *Focus on Education* newsletter.
- f. *Finance*. No Report.
- g. *Human Resources*. No report.
- h. *Enrollment & Equity*. No report.
- i. *LEARN*. Mrs. Roche reported that she would be attending this group's meeting the following morning.

IX. Correspondence

There was no correspondence to report.

X. Executive Session

Upon motion by Mrs. Wilczynski, which was seconded by Mrs. Linderman, the Board voted unanimously to move into executive session for the purpose of discussing security strategy.

XI. Adjournment

The regular meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m. upon motion by Dr. Goulding and a second by Mrs. Linderman.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Goulding, Secretary

Welcome

November 9th, 2016

Lyme-Old Lyme High School



Agenda:

- Review Concerns
- Present Findings
- Present Conclusions
- Present Future Actions

Lyme-Old Lyme High School



Concerns:

Perception that there is a school-wide change in the grading practices negatively impacting grades.

A belief that 90% of a student's grade is based on test-taking ability.

The time committed to homework is not proportional to the credit received for completion.

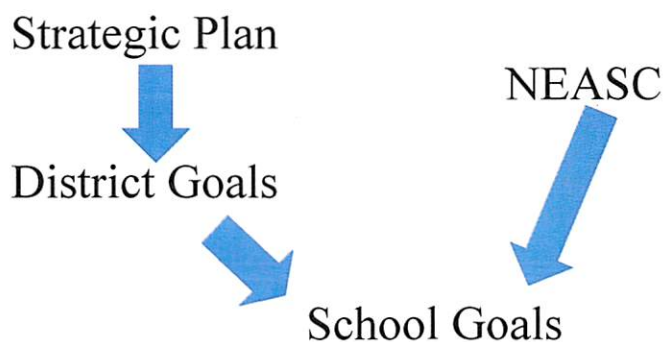
Some students are overwhelmed and stressed.

There is a need for balance in our students' lives.

Lyme-Old Lyme High School



A Model of Continuous Improvement



Lyme-Old Lyme High School



School Goals

- Ensure quarter and final grades reflect the level of student mastery towards curricular standards.
- Develop, implement, and communicate a school-wide system to address the instructional and emotional requirements of SRBI and Tier One intervention.

Lyme-Old Lyme High School



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Lyme-Old Lyme High School



World Language:

2015-16	2016-17
30% Graded Assignments	30% Interpersonal Communication
30% Test, Projects, Quizzes	30% Interpretive Communication
30% Oral Proficiency	30% Presentation Communication
10% Homework	10% Homework

- The weighting has not changed, nor has the value or amount of homework. The category titles and the type of activities in each have been aligned to ACTFL national standards.

Year	Spanish III	Spanish IV
2015	85.63	83.63
2016	86.31	88.20

Lyme-Old Lyme High School



Math:

2015-16	2016-17
90% Assessments*	90% Assessments*
10% Homework	10% Homework

**Assessments* may include:
Tests, Quizzes, In-Class Assignments, Projects

Year	Algebra I	Algebra II	Geometry	Pre-Calculus
2015	89.01	86	89.16	85.86
2016	87.89	86.67	89.53	86.75

Lyme-Old Lyme High School



Science:

2015-16	2016-17
25% Homework / Classwork	10% Homework
75% Test, Projects, Quizzes, Labs, Performance Tasks	90% Test, Projects, Quizzes, Labs, Performance Tasks, Classwork

- The students still have the same opportunity to earn the same points for their classwork as last year.
- While the ratio may differ from course to course or unit to unit, an audit of the gradebooks confirmed a balance of all activities.

Year	Biology	Chemistry	Physics	Physical Science
2015	88.39	90.19	87.14	83.55
2016	87.90	91.17	88.96	83.41

Lyme-Old Lyme High School



English:

2015-16	2016-17
15% Homework	10% Homework
20% Classwork	20% Classwork
40% Tests, Essays, Performance Tasks	45% Tests, Essays, Performance Tasks
25% Quizzes	25% Quizzes

The 5 percentage points removed from homework were shifted to Essays / Performance Tasks.

Year	American Lit	British Lit	Classic Cont.	World Lit
2015	89.01	88	86	90.67
2016	90.05	86.67	84.75	88.91

Lyme-Old Lyme High School



Social Studies:

2015-16	2016-17			
Department	AP European History	Civics, Modern World & U.S., Electives	AP U.S. History	AP Psychology
Test = 100 pts	10% Homework	10% Homework	10% Homework	Total Points
Quiz = 30-50 pts	90 % Assessments *	15 % Quizzes	15% Quizzes	
Projects = 100-150 pts		75% Assessments *	50% Tests / Essays	
Classwork = 10-20 pts			25% Projects / Classwork	
Homework = 10 pts				

* **Assessments** Include: tests, projects, essays, performance tasks, classwork.

Year	Civics	AP U.S. History	AP Psychology
2015	88.00	87.90	82.06
2016	87.00	82.34	80.00

Lyme-Old Lyme High School



Advanced Placement Courses

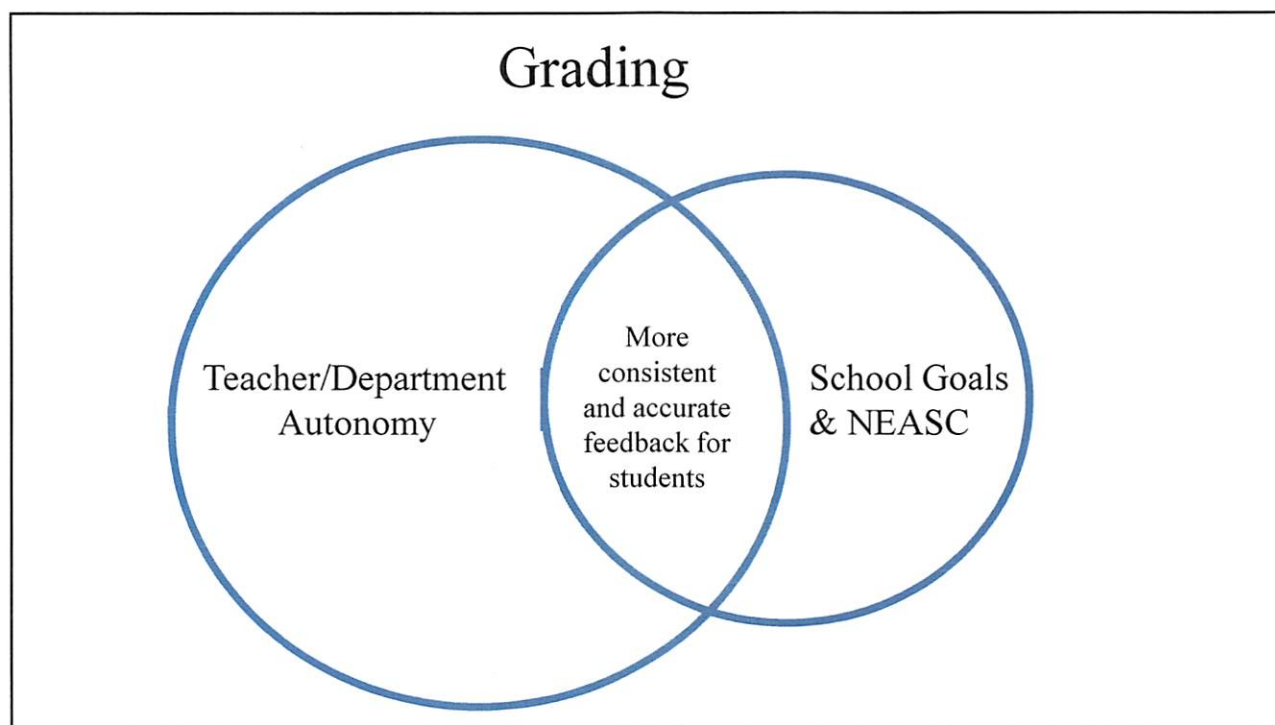
- Course content, pace, and rigor are at a college level.
- There should be a correlation between AP course grades and AP test results.

Year	Biology	Chemistry	Physics	History	Calculus	English	Spanish
2015	88.09	82.62	81.27	87.90	89.76	91.40	90.91
2016	86.88	88.35	83.18	82.34	92.11	89.82	92.13

Year	AP Courses
2015	87.42
2016	87.83

Lyme-Old Lyme High School





Conclusion

We know:

- Concerns about homework and stress levels voiced by some of our students and parents are real.
- No substantial systematic changes in grade weighting have occurred or negatively impacted student grades.
- A change of a grading practice was made in one course taken by 55% of our juniors that negatively impacted grades. Adjustments have since been made.
- An audit of gradebooks confirm that teachers are using a variety of assessments to calculate student grades.

Lyme-Old Lyme High School



Moving Forward:

We will:

- Provide opportunities for community conversations about stress on the high school student.
- Conduct a comprehensive review of best homework practices, current homework guidelines, and individual classroom practices, for BOE review.
- Determine how to better inform / counsel students and parents about AP course expectations.

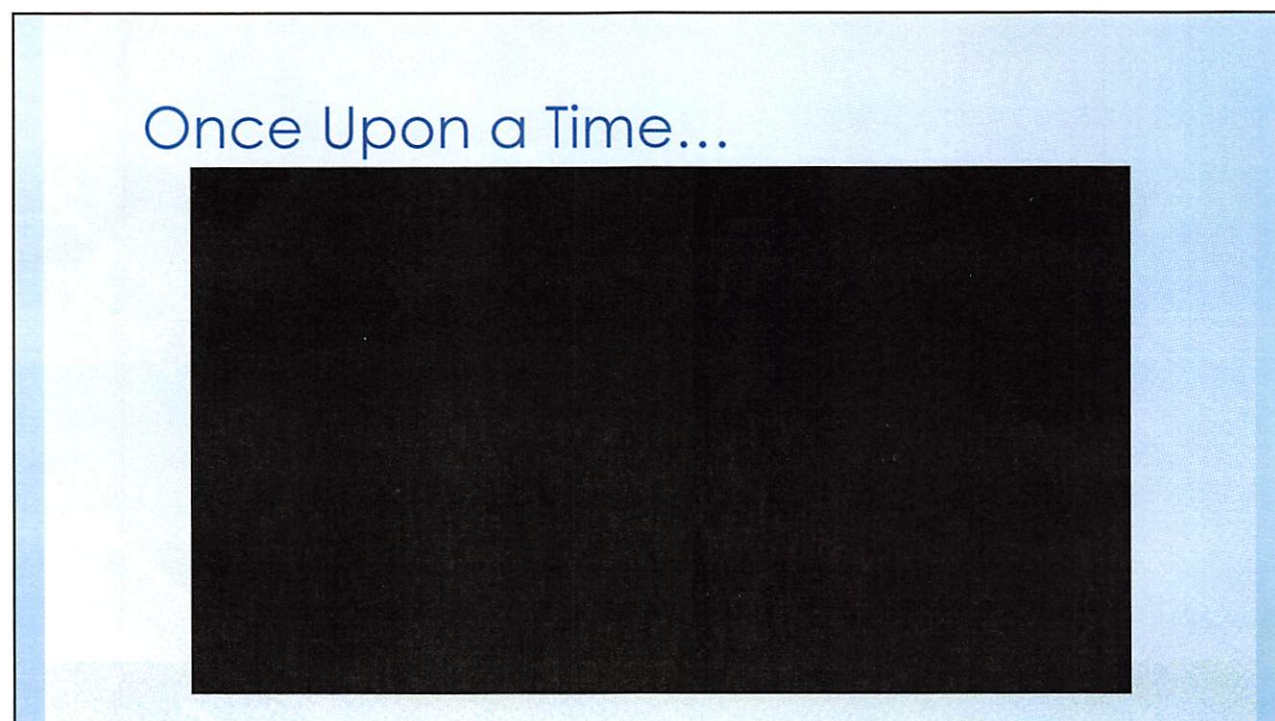
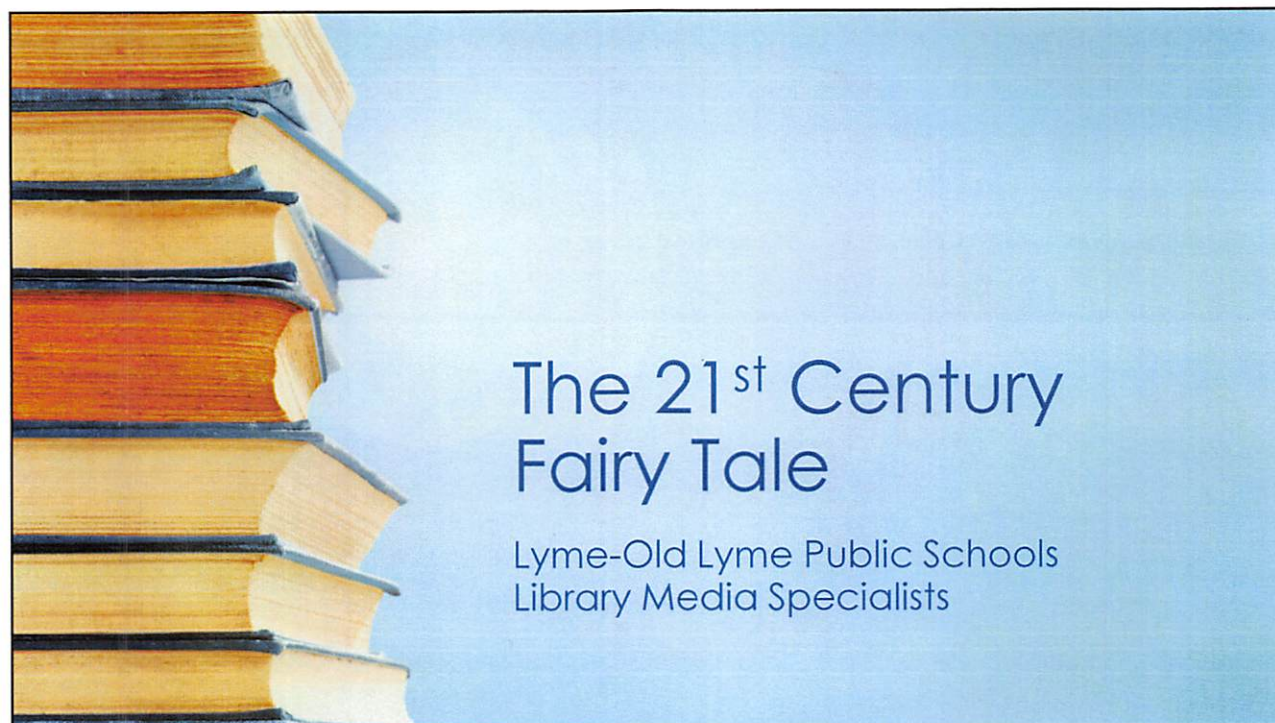
Lyme-Old Lyme High School



Thank You

Lyme-Old Lyme High School





There once was a teacher...

- We are **Teachers**
 - Inspiring Lifelong learners
 - Embracing the world of information and all its formats
 - Fostering a love of reading



Elementary Library Lessons



High School Book Talks

In modern times...

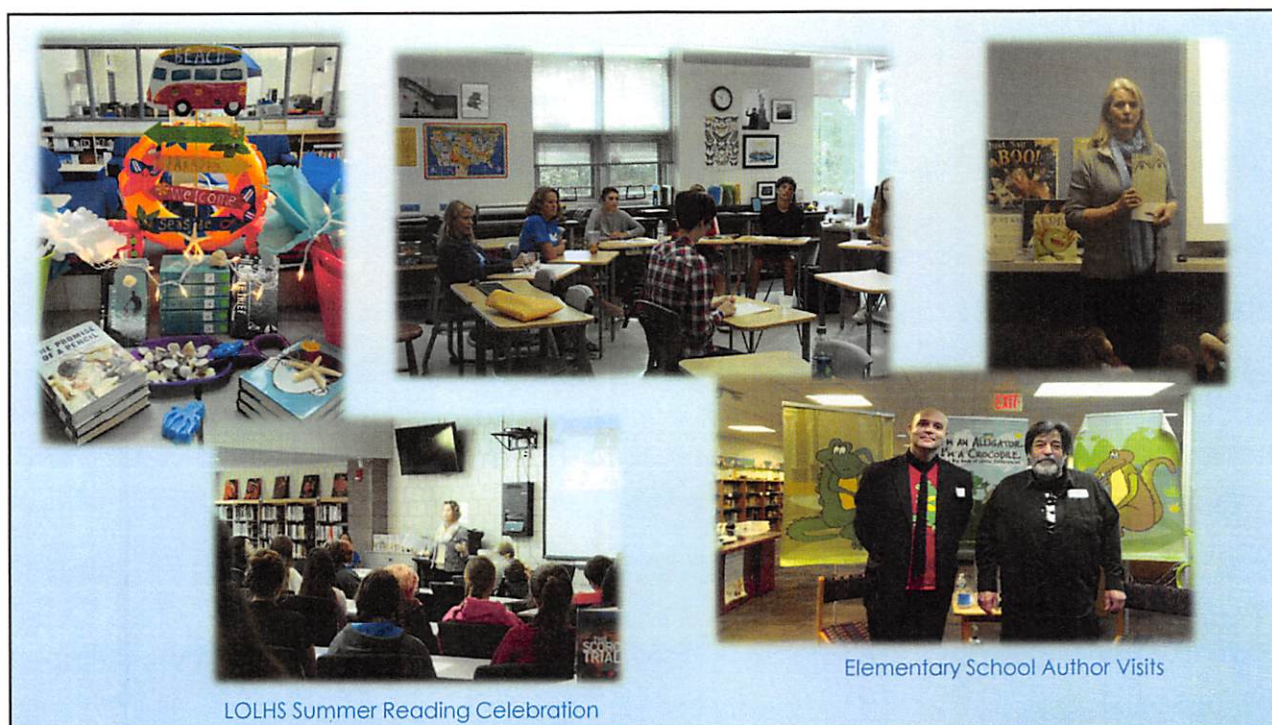


Read Across America Day



Second grade tree planting

- We are **Program Coordinators**
 - Accessibility
 - Building bridges
 - Program Development
 - Resource selection and promotion



In the land of information...

- We are **Specialists**
 - Select, acquire, evaluate, and organize
 - Provide equitable access and teach responsible use
 - Seek out, evaluate, and promote
 - Modeling effective strategies for developing media literacies



In the land of information...



In this magical kingdom...

- We are **Instructional Partners**

- Collaboration
- Curriculum Development
- Professional Development

21st Century Libraries
Something to
Shh!!!OUT About

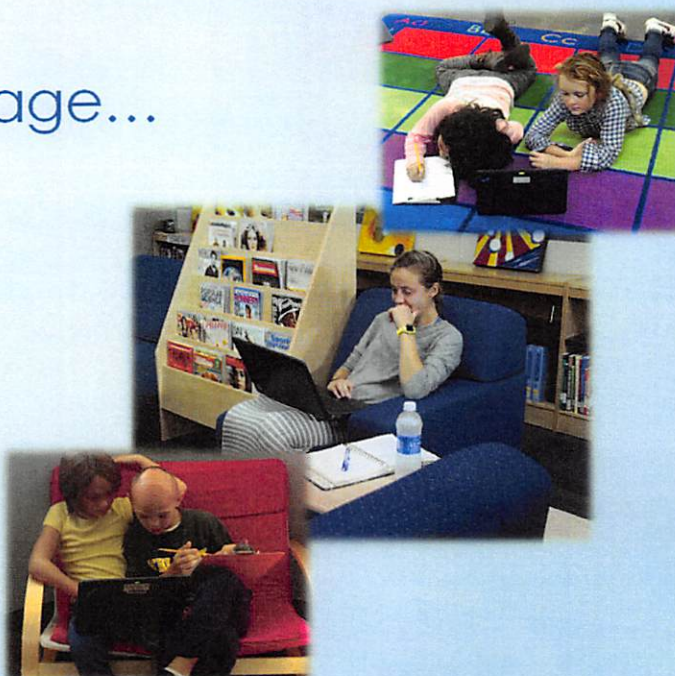
Kristie Schmidt, @vrhscybrarian
LMS, Valley Regional HS, Deep River
Lucy Trost, @lohscybrarian
LMS, Lyme-Old Lyme HS, Old Lyme

Break Down Walls:
Empower Learners!
October 25-26, 2015



And, in this village...

- We are **Leaders**
 - Creating the hub
 - Being active team members
 - Communicating
 - Advocating
 - Meeting challenges
 - Promoting literacy and the use of information



Before Renovations...



Lyme School



Mile Creek



During Renovations...



The hub of our schools...

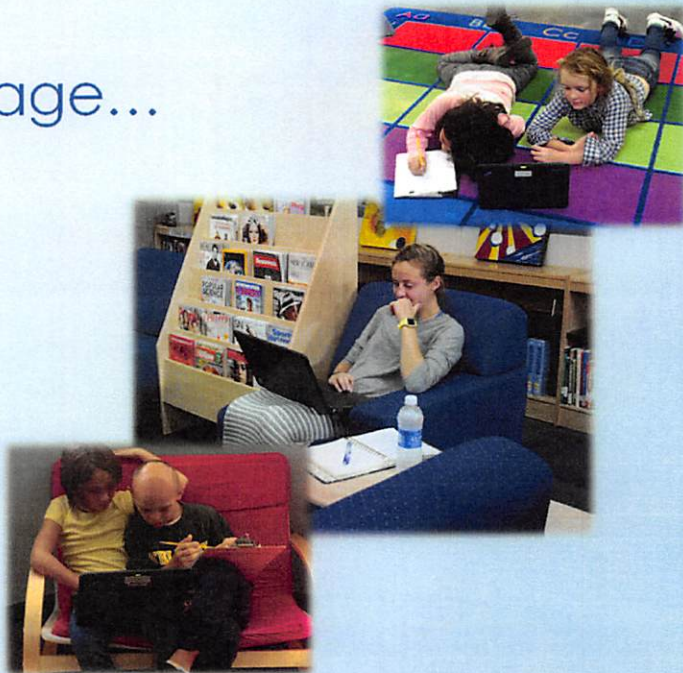


Mile Creek

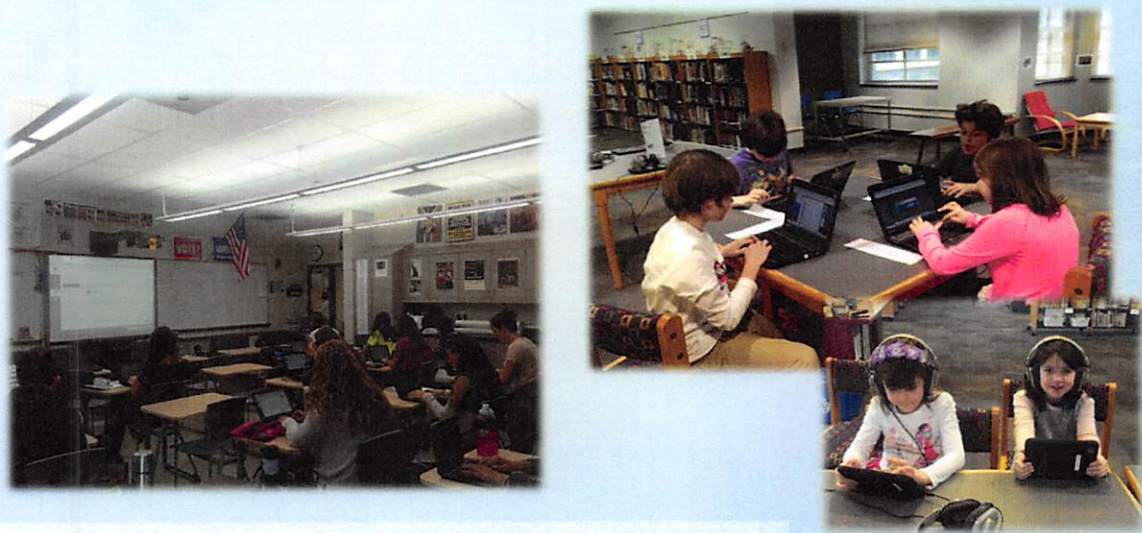
Lyme School

And, in this village...

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Pioneers of technology...



Promoters of literacy...

