

LYME-OLD LYME PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Small Schools, Big Ideas



Challenging * Achieving * Excelling

REGION #18

Regular Board of Education Meeting

Center School

March 1, 2017

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

Absent by Previous Arrangement: Rick Goulding

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; 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; James Wygonik, Principal of Lyme-Old Lyme High School

Others Present: Glynis Houde, AFT Representative; Matthew McCarthy, High School Student Representative; Mary Seidner and Missy Colburn Garvin from LYSB; LOLHS students Brynn McGlinchey and Emily O'Brien; 5 community members from Lyme-Old Lyme

I. Call to Order

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

II. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Mrs. Winchell made a motion, which was seconded by Dr. Powell St. Louis, to approve the minutes of Special Meeting of February 1, 2017 and Regular Meeting of February 1, 2017.

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

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III. Visitors

1. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

2. Report from Student Representatives

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

At LOLHS: The Old Lyme Players will proudly present this spring's musical, "Curtains." There will be shows, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. For the fourth straight year, the high school art department has won the Judy Streeter Award as the best art department on the Shoreline. The Shoreline Art Alliance is comprised of 24 schools in the Shoreline region. On March 23, LOLHS is holding its annual Prospective Student Day. Families from the region can schedule a personal tour of the school and meet with counselors and the administration. On March 16–18, over 100 of juniors and seniors will embark on the bi-annual tour of Washington D.C. On March 7, the high school will be holding the first annual Advanced Placement Information Night for students and parents. The evening will begin with an overview of AP courses by Mr. Wygonik. Students and parents will then have opportunities to visit with AP teachers to better understand the rigor, workload and expectations of taking specific AP courses.

At LOLMS: Congratulations were extended to the students who participated in the musical Alice in Wonderland Jr., and also to Laura Gladd, Director, and all of the parent volunteers who helped. The PTO generously sponsored an early teacher appreciation luncheon last Friday for the entire staff before the professional development day. Teachers are beginning their second observational rounds outside of their grade levels where they continue to have professional conversations related to professional development. The middle school is getting ready for spring athletics. March will be a busy month for LOLMS.

At Lyme Consolidated School: On March 2, all students will be celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday by participating in "Read Across America Day." The PTO will be holding an evening of fun and providing a mini golf activity. Curiosity Shop runs four consecutive Wednesdays beginning on March 15. On March 14, the 5th graders will join forces with Mile Creek's 5th graders and perform at LOLHS at the first ever "District Choral Concert" sharing this evening with the middle school and high school chorus. Report cards for grades 1-5 will be sent home on March 17. The "Circus Project" will run from March 20-24 and on that Friday, 4th and 5th graders will have their "Circus Performance" at 1:30 and 6:30 p.m. The 5th grade Invention Convention is on March 20, and SBAC testing begins the week of March 27 for grades 3-4-5. On March 31, the PTO will hold their "Basket Bonanza" beginning at 6:00 p.m.

At Mile Creek School: January 18 was a School Senate Spirit Day called "Wacky Wednesday." Starting at the end of January and until mid-February, the elementary schools are holding grade-level meetings to work on curriculum initiatives and to review student data for SRBI. Kindergarten registration was held on January 30 and 31. February 3 will mark another School Senate Spirit Day. In honor of the upcoming Super Bowl, students and staff are invited to wear attire of their favorite teams...any season. The 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students will travel to LOLMS to watch the middle school play on February 9. The

kindergarten report cards go home on February 10. February 17 is a half day for students with professional development in the afternoon for staff.

In the Preschool Program: In March, the preschool will be celebrating Read Across America with celebrity readers Bob Hibson and Lucy Trost, librarians at the Middle and High School respectfully. They will jump start the exploration of Dr. Seuss. Preschool will also begin the study of the planets and constellations. They are looking for planet/solar system experts to come and visit the class so if anyone is interested in applying, let us know. The preschoolers will be on the lookout for leprechauns and will be designing various traps to try and catch them. If they end up getting the gold, the preschoolers will share it with the senior class for safe grad.

IV. Administrative Reports

1. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Neviasser reviewed the March Personnel Report. Of note: the retirements of Dr. Elizabeth Borden, Director of Curriculum, and Deborah Pardue, Mile Creek Elementary Teacher, which will occur at the end of the school year. The report also noted the resignation of Nancy Stark, School Nurse at Lyme Consolidated School.

Mr. Neviasser reviewed the March Enrollment Report which reflected a total of 1,311 students enrolled.

Mr. Neviasser reported on the Open House at the high school which will occur on March 23. He noted that there has been a lot of interest in this event by prospective students.

Mr. Neviasser extended congratulations to the LOLHS Art Department which, for the fourth year in a row, was named the recipient of the Judy Streeter Outstanding School Award by the Shoreline Arts Alliance.

Mr. Neviasser reported that the budget edition of the *Focus on Education* newsletter is being distributed this week. The administration will also present the 2017-2018 proposed budget to the Lyme and Old Lyme Boards of Finance in April.

Mr. Neviasser reported that the high school's AP scores placed the district at number two in the state in terms of performance and number five in terms of participation. He noted how this is an amazing feat and something for which the district can be proud of.

Mr. Neviasser reported that in their continued response to parent concerns over homework and AP course requirements, Lyme-Old Lyme High School will host an Advanced Placement information night on March 7 in preparation for the 2017-2018 course registration process in late March.

Mr. Neviasser reported that there will be an official vote to set a date for graduation as prescribed in statute at the Board's April meeting. Assuming no more closures beyond the snow day in February, the last day of school will be June 14, 2017.

Mr. Neviasser reported that the month of March is Connecticut Board of Education Member Appreciation Month, and he recognized all of the Board members for their dedicated service to the communities.

2. Business Manager's Report

Mrs. McCalla reviewed the Executive Budget Summary as of February 28, 2017. Fluctuations of note:

Administrative Services: Reclassification of technology spending to instruction.

Instructional Programs: General purchasing is down year over year.

Special Education: Tuition costs are down year over year.

Mrs. McCalla reviewed the Contingency Maintenance Report. New spending is associated with server/security cameras district-wide and an increase to a purchase order at Lyme School to troubleshoot boiler issues. Total available contingency balance is \$70,960.

Mr. Neviasser stated that he and the Business Manager are working on resolving a budget issue with the towns that he previously emailed the Board about. He will keep the Board updated.

V. Educational Presentation

1. REACH Club (Responsible Educated Adolescents Can Help)

Mary Seidner and Melissa Colburn Garvin of the Lymes' Youth Service Bureau and two LOLHS students (Brynn McGlinchey and Emily O'Brien) were present at the meeting as representatives of a youth prevention group (REACH Club). REACH is a group of active high school students committed to living a healthy substance free lifestyle. These students work on a variety of prevention projects at the high school throughout the year. A copy of their presentation detailing the efforts of this club is attached to these minutes for informational purposes.

There were several follow-up questions to the presentation. The students were commended for their presentation.

VI. Chairman & Board Report

Mrs. Roche discussed the possibility of yoga being incorporated into the physical ed program as has been done successfully in another district.

VII. New Business

1. New Boathouse Lease

Mr. Neviasser reported that he was looking for volunteers from the Board to join him in reviewing the boathouse lease agreement with the Town of Old Lyme prior to the consideration of said lease by the full Board. This committee would also take part in the review of the proposed agreement with the Old Lyme Rowing Association. Diane Linderman, Jean Wilczynski and Michelle Roche volunteered to serve on this committee.

2. Policy 2255 Use of Dogs to Sweep School Property and Associated Regulation

Mr. Neviaser and Mrs. Linderman reviewed a first read of Policy 2255 *Use of Dogs to Sweep School Property* and its associated regulation with the Board.

Mrs. Winchell made a suggestion for a clarification under bullet #8 which would list the school administration as the persons responsible for conducting a search of an individual. Mrs. Linderman further explained that the administration has the sole responsibility for acting on any drug alerts.

Mrs. Roche asked the students present for their opinion on the possibility of having dogs sweep school property for contraband. Brynn McGlinchey and Emily O'Brien discussed the positives of such a policy which they believed would make the campus safer and be a deterrent to bringing drugs to school.

Clarification was made that a sweep by law enforcement could be done after school hours and on weekends and that it was the Board's role to invite law enforcement to conduct a search. Information will be included in the parent/student handbook if this policy comes to fruition.

A community member questioned the lack of a drug and alcohol counselor on campus to help students in need. She encouraged the Board to find more proactive ways to help the students. Mrs. Linderman explained the purpose of the policy and the importance of being proactive and not reactive to a drug problem or issue.

Dr. Jones and Mrs. Roche both voiced their opposition to this policy. They asked for specification on when they would use this policy and the need to publicize this sufficiently if it does go into effect.

Mrs. Lucas Edson recommended follow-up discussion on initiatives they could implement should there be students in need due to a drug problem. Jim Wygonik, Principal of Lyme-Old Lyme High School, reviewed current initiatives already in place to help students.

3. Healthy Food Certification

Mrs. McCalla explained that section 10-215f of the Connecticut General Statutes requires that each local board of education or governing authority for all Connecticut public school districts participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) must take action annually to certify whether all food items sold to students will or will not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards. This includes all NSLP public schools, regional educational service centers, the Connecticut Technical High School System, charter schools, interdistrict magnet schools and endowed academies.

MOTION: Dr. Jones made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Lucas Edson, to approve compliance with optional Section 3 of Public Act 06-63 and to authorize exceptions (either general or specific) to the beverage and food requirements of Public Act 06-63 for sales which meet all of the following requirements:

1. The sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend.
2. The sale is at the location of the event.
3. The beverages or foods are not sold from a vending machine or school store.

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

4. Field Trip Request

The following background information was offered on this field trip proposal:

- The FIRST robotics team will be seeking to go the World Championship in St. Louis, Missouri in April 2017. The group would leave early in the morning on Wednesday, April 26, as teams are allowed to unpack their robots and go through tech inspection that evening. The competition continues on Thursday, April 27, through Saturday, April 29. Sunday, April 30, would be the travel home day. A total of three school days are missed.
- The cost for airfare, hotel, mass transit to/from the airport and dinners with the team is usually between \$900-\$1,000. Students share accommodations in order to keep the costs down, and there are usually four in each room. Two fundraisers have been held to lower the cost of the trip. The percentage of savings will depend on the number of students that attend.
- Many of the students are preparing to take multiple AP classes in late April, and the students bring their review packets with them on the trip and work on them while traveling or during down-time when it's available.
- Usually about 20-25 students attend this competition, and the adults who go usually include Mr. Derry, Mr. Goss and Mr. Gentry, as well as at least six additional adult mentors. These adults include parents and mentors who have been with the team for many years.
- As this is the World Championship for FIRST robotics, the opportunities available to the students are numerous. They collaborate and compete alongside students and adults on teams representing many countries. The students also visit tables at the convention center staffed by representatives from highly-competitive colleges and high-tech companies.
- The students experience representing themselves in a trade-show setting by staffing a team "pit" and a hall of fame booth. The handful of teams who have been Championship Chairman's Award winners in previous years are expected to have a presence in the hall of fame and automatically qualify to attend the championship each year based on that accomplishment.

MOTION: Mrs. Linderman made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Cushman, to approve the FIRST Robotics trip to St. Louis, Missouri as presented.

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

VIII. Old Business

1. 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.

2. Report of Committees

- a. *Facilities*. No report.
- b. *Finance*. No report.
- c. *Communications*. Mr. Neviasser reported that the budget edition of the *Focus on Education* newsletter was included in the local mailing of the *Lyme Times* that day.
- d. *Policy*. The next meeting of this committee will take place on March 8 at 6:00 p.m.
- e. *LEARN*. No report.

Dr. Jones discussed the possibility of money saving initiatives when going out to bid for an insurance broker in the future.

Mr. Neviasser commended the Board on their suggestion for increasing the budget for health insurance in next year's budget as the quote came in slightly under the budgeted amount.

The Board discussed the state budget and its effect on local budgets relative to funding a percentage of teacher pensions.

IX. Correspondence

There was no correspondence to report.

X. Executive Session

Mrs. Winchell made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Linderman, to move into executive session for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter.

XI. Adjournment

The regular meeting at adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Jones, Secretary Pro Tem



Community Action for
Substance Free Youth

substance free is where it's at



Lymes' Youth Service Bureau

> EMPOWERING YOUTH FOR A BETTER FUTURE



Responsible Educated
Adolescents Can Help

substance free is where it's at

What is Reach?

REACH is a group of active high school students committed to living a healthy substance free lifestyle. These students work on a variety of prevention projects at LOLHS throughout the year.

- **R**esponsible
- **E**ducated
- **A**dolescents
- **C**an
- **H**elp

#ProAtBeingMe

What makes you a Pro?

A **Pro** is someone who can say:

- I am good enough.
- I am confident, proud and resilient.
- I know what really matters.
- I make good choices.
- I am at my best when I am being me.

#ProAtBeingMe



#ProAtBeingMe

WE NEED YOUR HELP!



REACH is launching the **#ProAtBeingMe** campaign. During lunches this week, answer the *Question of the Day* and write your answer on a post-it note. You will be given a piece of **candy** in exchange for an honest answer. Post-it notes will be placed on a sign in the Commons.

#ProAtBeingMe Questions

- What is the best compliment you have ever received?
- What do you think is your best non-physical quality?
- What would you tell your younger self about what really matters?
- When do you feel the most confident?
- When have you felt insecure and how did you overcome it? confident?

#ProAtBeingMe



Who is Chris Herren?

- Chris was a former member of the Boston Celtics.
- He started using alcohol at age 14, followed quickly by marijuana.
- Addiction progressed to cocaine while in his Freshman year at Boston College.
- Addiction further progressed to prescription pain medications and then heroin.
- Chris has been in recovery for 8 years and has since started The Herren Project.

Chris Herren @ LOLHS



Quotes from Chris Herren:

"We hover academically, put pressure on them athletically, and totally let them go socially."

"If you were a child, would you look up to you?"

"When you look in the mirror at night,
are you proud of who you are?
Are you proud of what you have done?"

"WHY are you using anything? Don't you feel good enough to just be you?"

"You need to be a pro at being you"



Chris Herren on our #ProAtBeingMe Campaign:



Chris Herren on Twitter:



Reflections from LOLHS students:

- 387 total reflections written.
- 52 identified a close friend, relative or self who has significant substance abuse problems.
- 10 identified a close friend or relative who has died due to alcohol or drug use.

"I know first hand that drinking and
drugging is a prevalent issue at LOLHS and
you showed us that we think it will never be us,
but it just might"

"I have struggled with drugs.
You have helped me gain some confidence and
make me realize that my struggle doesn't
make me a bad person"

"You talked about sober people, like the people in REACH who have a lot of courage to stand in front of a school and say they are above the influence. This stood out to me because it is true, I never would have the courage to do what REACH did and I applaud them for that."

"I worry about a friend who blacks out from drinking. People laugh behind this person's back. I hope you helped my friend today."

"What I remember most is when you said that there were people in the room who had lost their friends over drugs and alcohol and I have experienced this for myself"

"The part of breaking promises stood out to me. I have promised to stay away from alcohol and drugs. I need to keep that promise to myself as well as my family."

"Your stories definitely changed a lot of my decisions and choices. We needed this talk. There are people that are struggling and need help and this was the perfect opportunity".



From Instagram:



Are you a Pro?
Are you on Instagram?

Please post a picture that demonstrates you
are a

#ProAtBeingMe





Video

www.proatbeingme.com