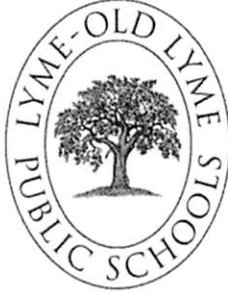


LYME-OLD LYME PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Small Schools, Big Ideas



*Challenging * Achieving * Excelling*

REGION #18

Regular Board of Education Meeting

April 4, 2018

Board Present: Jean Wilczynski, Treasurer; Rick Goulding, Secretary; Erick Cushman; Stacey Leonardo; Mary Powell St. Louis; Martha Shoemaker; Stacy Winchell

Absent by Previous Arrangement: Diane Linderman; Michelle Roche

Administration Present: Ian Neviaser, Superintendent of Schools; Mark Ambruso, Principal of Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School; James Cavalieri, Principal of Lyme Consolidated School; Michelle Dean, Director of Curriculum; 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; Noah Ventola, Assistant Principal of Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School; James Wygonik, Principal of Lyme-Old Lyme High School

Others Present: Olivia Hersant and Mary Roth, RETA Co-Presidents; Gina Wohlke, AFT President; Brynn McGlinchey and Madeline Zrenda, High School Student Representatives; 60 community members

I. Call to Order

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

II. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Mr. Cushman made a motion, which was seconded by Dr. Goulding, to approve the minutes of Regular Meeting and Executive Session of March 14, 2018.

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

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III. Visitors

1. Public Comment

Georgia Welch, a senior at LOLHS, read a statement on her opposition to the nonrenewal of the teaching contract for the 2018-2019 school year of LOLHS Science Teacher Jessica Nintean. Georgia presented a petition which was signed by 234 students from LOLHS in support of retaining Mrs. Nintean. The following students also voiced their opposition of the nonrenewal of contract for Mrs. Nintean: Jenny Ritchie, grade 11; Brittney Barbato, grade 12; Arianna DelMastro, grade 10; and Samantha Olson, grade 10. The students cited various reasons why they supported Mrs. Nintean.

Mrs. Wilczynski asked that the remainder of the public comment be open to those wishing to speak on other subjects due to time constraints. [*Note: there were other students who wished to speak to the teacher nonrenewal issue.*]

Ray Belval, Old Lyme resident, thanked Superintendent Neviasser and Principal Cavalieri for the recent meeting held at Lyme Consolidated School regarding security and safety. Mr. Belval voiced his concern about the lack of police presence in the Town of Lyme.

Mrs. Wilczynski noted that there have been meetings regarding security at the schools, and there will be more for the public to attend in the future.

Laura Nelson, a parent of a high school student, suggested that a meeting be arranged so that the students who wanted to speak regarding Mrs. Nintean could do so at another time.

Brenda Moriarty and her son, John Moriarty, an eighth grader at LOLMS, spoke about the many successful initiatives of the middle school Recycling Club. Mrs. Moriarty requested that she be able to hold a more formal presentation on this program at the June Board meeting.

Brian Greenho, an Old Lyme resident, spoke to the current condition of the tennis courts citing cracks which cause it to be a hazard to play on. He noted that the boys tennis team is currently sharing court time at Old Saybrook. He also spoke to potential lawsuits, cost associated with transporting athletes to Old Saybrook, and schedule disruption.

Kasie Munson, Old Lyme resident, also voiced her concern over the condition of the tennis courts. She noted the money expended on the track and athletic fields and that she felt the courts have been ignored. She recommended that the courts be fixed as quickly as possible.

Jessica Nintean, Science Teacher at LOLHS, thanked the Board for allowing her to teach in the district for the past four years. She also thanked the students and parents who spoke in support of her continued employment with the school district.

A community member spoke in support of Mrs. Ninteau; she also voiced concern over the lack of maintenance of the tennis court.

A community member stated that it was unfortunate that the Board and administration were not listening to the students regarding Mrs. Ninteau.

A community member and parent of a high school student spoke in support of Mrs. Ninteau. She asked the Board and administration to reconsider their decision regarding her contract.

Jeff Hartmann, Old Lyme resident and parent of a 12th grader, spoke in support of Mrs. Ninteau. He also spoke to the condition of the tennis courts. He noted this was not in line with how the district normally maintains the buildings and grounds. He asked about the process for the maintenance of the courts and he recommended that the Board allocate money for their repair.

Jennifer O'Brien, a community member, voiced concern that the Board was considering installing a turf field, which came with safety concerns, but ignored the condition of the tennis courts.

2. Report from Student Representatives

Madeline Zrenda also spoke in support Mrs. Ninteau and asked that her nonrenewal be reevaluated.

Brynn McGlinchey and Madeline Zrenda reported on the following activities taking place at the schools:
At LOLHS: Today marks the end of the third marking period. For underclassmen, the course selection process is underway for the 2018-19 school year. Spring sports teams opened their season yesterday. A snow storm on March 21 has moved the SAT exam to April 24. Registration is open for the Lyme Road Race on April 8. This event is sponsored by the Class of 2020.

At LOLMS: March at the middle school began with the successful showing of the musical, *The Little Mermaid, Jr.*, and a successful community adult dodgeball tournament, which was sponsored by the PTO. In addition, the LYSB sponsored a community forum and informational presentation on vaping. The forum was attended by more than 100 people and included a student panel and a student generated informational presentation. The PTO held an activity night for the student body. Over 150 students participated in a variety of games and activities. Also, the world language students completed the AAPPL (pronounced Apple) testing, which assesses their proficiency in world language. On the related arts front, Carrie Wind, Music Teacher, and the LOLMS Jazz Cats performed at the Lyme-Old Lyme Senior Center, and the visual arts students displayed their work at the Lyme Academy.

At Lyme Consolidated School: This month Lyme School is beginning the SBAC testing for grades 3, 4 and 5. Students will have two test sessions in ELA and three test sessions in math. The testing window will be finished the week of May 9. The PTO has organized the afterschool Curiosity Shop program and 135 students will be participating in one of the many workshops that are offered. On April 12, the PTO will be holding Arts Night for students and families. On April 26, the fifth graders will be traveling to

Lowell for their special field trip. On April 27, the fifth graders will be displaying their artwork at the Lyme Public Library from 3:15 to 4:15 p.m. Jennifer Pitman, Art Teacher at Lyme Consolidated School, was commended for organizing this wonderful art show.

At Mile Creek School: Congratulations were extended to the fifth graders for their stellar performances in *We Are Monsters!* Special thanks also went out to Susan Whritner and Francesca Fusaro for directing the show. On March 23, report cards for grades one through five went home to parents. On March 24, young inventors attended the Central and Eastern Invention Convention. Two Mile Creek students will be moving on to the State competition: Natalie Barndt for *The Zoomer Scooter* and Anna Eichholz for *Handicapped Helper*. Nila Kaczor and the representative from the Mentoring Corps for Community Development were thanked for their time and special areas of expertise. On April 3, there was a special PTO meeting with Mr. Neviaser and Dr. Downes to present security measures in place at Mile Creek and to answer questions and hear suggestions from parents. On April 5 and 6, the Mile Creek kindergarten will present *Whether the Weather* including lively songs, interesting facts and kindergarten humor from the kindergarten science and music curriculums. SBAC testing has begun at Mile Creek. On April 25, 5th grade students will take their first step toward transitioning to the LOLMS. Principal Mark Ambruso and Guidance Counselor Renee Molnar will meet with the students to introduce themselves and field questions from the soon-to-be sixth graders.

In the Preschool Program: The preschool is anxiously awaiting the warm weather. This month they will continue with their study of dinosaurs and oviparous animals. The color of the month is purple, the shape is oval and the letters are U, V and W. Earth Day will be the focus of the social studies theme this month. Students will be reading *Chickens Aren't the Only Ones* and *The Quiet Egg*.

IV. Administrative Reports

1. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Neviaser reviewed the personnel report which reflected several resignations effective at the end of the current school year.

Mr. Neviaser reviewed the April enrollment report. A total of 1280 students are enrolled in-house.

Mr. Neviaser noted that there will be an official vote to set a date for graduation as prescribed in statute later in the meeting under *New Business*. With the numerous snow days this year, the last day of school is scheduled for June 22, 2018 (183rd day of school). The recommended date for the high school graduation is June 19, 2018 (180th day of school).

Mr. Neviaser reported that the CSDE Performance Office has contacted Michelle Dean to participate in a national interview series regarding how our district has implemented SBAC practice tests and curricular test question models/prompts as part of the teacher evaluation process. This is a result of Mrs. Dean's partnership with the performance office over the past two years on related matters.

Mr. Neviaser reported that the annual staff banquet is scheduled for May 24 at Langley's in Waterford. This is a celebration of all staff members. Invitations will be sent after the April vacation.

Mr. Neviaser reported that the Old Lyme Rowing Association has donated a Vespoli '13 MK133E313 ES 8+, valued at \$27,000. The district made the down payment on this boat (\$5,000), and OLRA paid the balance of \$22,000. ORLA also donated a Yamaha 8 horsepower outboard motor for the coaching launch. The purchase price was \$2,065.

Mr. Neviaser reported that the AP cohort information has just come out and the results again placed LOLHS in the top schools in the state for participation and scores in AP exams. Mr. Neviaser congratulated the students and staff for their hard work.

Mr. Neviaser reported that Kylie Hall, grade 11, was named a Governor's Scholar and Sam Fuchs and Sarah Kwon were named National Merit Finalists.

2. Business Manager's Report

Mrs. McCalla reviewed the Executive Budget Summary as of March 31, 2018. Timing of payrolls related to meeting document preparation speaks to increased spending in certified and non-certified salaries year over year.

Fluctuations of note:

Employee Benefits: due to timing of invoices and increased costs of medical insurance and FICA.

Instructional Programs: multiple line items contribute to increased spending.

Special Education: increased tuition and transportation costs.

Administrative Services: reclassification of LAP insurance from the facilities budget to the administrative service budget.

Mrs. McCalla reviewed the Contingency Maintenance Report which reflected a balance of \$50,475. There is just over \$6,000 in new spending from last month, which is due to the water main break.

V. Educational Presentation

1. Mentoring Presentation

Noah Ventola, LOLMS Assistant Principal, and Renee Molnar, Guidance Counselor, gave a presentation on the middle school mentoring program which included an overview of the program, program specifics, next steps and mentor quotes. Other speakers included Mary Seidner and Missy Colburn Garvin of the Lymes' Youth Service Bureau and three middle school students who are involved in the program. A copy of their presentation is attached to these minutes for informational purposes.

Mrs. Winchell spoke on behalf of her daughter who is involved and has benefitted greatly from the program. She commended all involved with the mentoring program.

Mr. Ventola explained the identification process for the program which comes from teacher recommendation, parent and student requests, and students identified as needing support. Mrs. Molnar added that they are looking to get a mentor for all new students moving into the community.

2. LYSB Survey Results

Mary Seidner, Director of the Lymes' Youth Service Bureau, presented results of a recent youth survey on drug and alcohol use in the Lyme-Old Lyme community. Three students (Emily O'Brien, Brynn McGlinchey and Emma Sked) joined Mrs. Seidner.

Comments centered on the increased usage of vapes among high school students. The students discussed some of the initiatives at the high school to discourage vaping. Teacher education on vaping is critical. This subject is also included in health class discussion at the middle school level. Mrs. Seidner also discussed the intervention program that centers on the negative effects of vaping.

Mrs. Wilczynski thanked Mrs. Seidner and the LYSB for all their efforts.

VI. Chairman & Board Report

Mrs. Wilczynski thanked the Board members for all the time they volunteer to Board business.

VII. New Business

1. Tuition Student Request

Mr. Neviasher presented a request for a tuition student in the preschool program.

MOTION: Mr. Cushman made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Winchell, to approve the tuition request of Student A to attend the preschool program during the 2018-2019 school year at a rate to be determined.

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

2. Setting Date of High School Graduation

Section 10-161 (Establishment of graduation date) of the C.G.S. states, "Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes to the contrary, a local or regional board of education may establish for any school year a firm graduation date for students in grade twelve which is no earlier than the one hundred eighty-fifth day noted in the school calendar originally adopted by the board for that school year, except that a board on or after April first in any school year may establish such a firm graduation date for that school year which at the time of such establishment provides for at least one hundred eighty days of school." Per statute, Mr. Neviasher recommended the Board vote to establish June 19, 2018 (180th day of school) as the firm graduation date for the Class of 2018.

Mr. Cushman asked about past history on having graduation on a week night. Mr. Neviasher stated that they try to tie this date to a weekend but they cannot have graduation before the 180th day of school.

Mr. Neviaser also clarified questions on the length of school day for the seniors and how graduation preparation would not affect middle school dismissal and the underclassmen's routine during the last week of school.

MOTION: Mrs. Shoemaker made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Cushman, to establish June 19, 2018 as the firm graduation date for the Class of 2018 of Lyme-Old Lyme High School.

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

3. Annual Review of Tuition Policy/Rate

Mr. Neviaser reported that per policy #2420, the Board is required to set a tuition rate for non-resident students by May 30. The current tuition rate is:

A) Tuition Student Rates

- *Grades 9-12 - \$19,000*
- *Grades 6-8 - \$17,000*
- *Grades PK-5 - \$15,000*

B) Students attending under Attendance Agreements (unless a multiple-year agreement to provide education facilities is entered into with another Board of Education)

- *PK-12 \$19,000*

C) Children of current staff members will be charged 50% of the applicable tuition.

D) Children of active military parents will be charged 80% of the applicable tuition.

E) Foreign students attending under an F-1 visa as required by SEVIS will be charged 150% of the applicable tuition.

F) Multiple students from the same family attending together will be required to pay the following amounts:

- *1st child– 100% of the applicable tuition*
- *2nd child– 75% of the applicable tuition*
- *3rd child– 50% of the applicable tuition*
- *Any additional children will be charged 50% of the applicable tuition.*

Mr. Neviaser recommended that these rates remain the same for the 2018-2019 school year.

MOTION: Dr. Goulding made a motion, which was seconded by Dr. Powell St. Louis, to approve the tuition rates for the 2018-2019 school year as presented.

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

4. Social Studies Textbook

Michelle Dean, Director of Curriculum; Aron D'Aquila, Social Studies Area Coordinator; and Christina Todd, Social Studies Teacher, presented information on a proposal for a world history textbook. The textbook will be available in the Central Office for those Board members who wish to review it. The online component of the textbook is also available for viewing.

The Board asked questions about the proposed textbook and the online digital version. A decision on the proposed textbook will take place at the May Board of Education meeting.

5. 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-tenure teacher should be offered a contract for the subsequent school year, Mr. Neviasser recommended the nonrenewal of all non-tenured teachers.

MOTION: Mrs. Shoemaker made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Cushman, that pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151, the Region 18 Board of Education nonrenew the teacher contract of the teachers named on the document (provided to the Board) at the end of the 2017-2018 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: all Board members present voted in favor of the motion with the exception of Dr. Goulding who abstained from the vote.

6. Purchase of LOLHS Lab Computers

John Rhodes, Director of Facilities and Technology, presented the following background information on this agenda item: the existing High School technology education lab computers are eight years old and will no longer support the educational program needs. The quote received is based on the State of Connecticut bid pricing and will be supplied by Connecticut Computer Services. These replacement computers will be delivered this summer, and they are part of the 2018-2019 technology budget.

Follow-up discussion centered on recycling of outdated equipment and the make and warranty of the new computer purchase.

MOTION: Dr. Goulding made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Winchell, to Award Connecticut Computer Services the purchase of the high school technology education computer lab computers for \$26,550.

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

7. Accounting System Move to Cloud Storage

John Rhodes gave the following background information on this agenda item: the existing Tyler Technologies school district accounting system is installed on two eight- year-old servers. In addition to hosting this system on school district servers, a large sophisticated backup server is required which is also in need of replacement. After evaluating options, we recommend hosting the accounting system in cloud storage. This eliminates periodic server replacements, security and application updates, as well as backup. In addition, moving to the cloud provides the option of select personnel having access to the accounting system while outside the school district network. This project is funded in the 2018-2019 budget.

Follow-up discussion centered on the selection of Tyler Technologies as the vendor and the benefits of moving storage to the cloud vs. retaining data on in-house servers.

MOTION: Mrs. Shoemaker made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Leonardo, to award Tyler Technologies the contract to move the existing accounting system to cloud storage for \$23,412.

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

8. Replacement of Computer Network Infrastructure

Mr. Rhodes provided the following background information on this agenda item: the existing district-wide servers, storage, emergency backup, core switches and network controller were installed in 2010 and are ready for replacement. These replacements are consistent with the network infrastructure maintenance plan. All the equipment being purchased is priced at or below the HP Connecticut State pre-bid contract pricing. All of this equipment will be supplied and installed by Connecticut Computer Services, the network services contractor. Total cost is within the 2018-2019 school district budget.

MOTION: Mrs. Winchell made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Leonardo, to award Connecticut Computer Services the supply and installation of new servers, storage, emergency data backup, core switches and network controller for \$80,803.

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

VIII. Old Business

1. Second Reading of Wellness Policy 3375

A second reading of the *Student Wellness* Policy 3375 took place.

Some recommended changes were made that made the policy more readable. The Board thanked Patricia Cournoyer, Health Teacher, and Ellen Maus, Nurse Coordinator, for their efforts on this rewrite.

MOTION: Mrs. Shoemaker made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Leonardo, to approve Policy 3375 *Student Wellness* with inclusion of noted changes and revisions.

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

2. Update on Solar Negotiations

Mr. Neviasser gave an update on the pending contract with Greenskies. There are legalities still being worked out but they hope to have the proposed contract to the Board at the May meeting.

Background: the district has been in discussions with Greenskies regarding the installation of solar panels on all school buildings. This has the potential to save the district about \$100,000 per year over the next 20-30 years. At the January meeting, the Board authorized the Superintendent to negotiate a contract with Greenskies for the installation of solar panels with the plan that this project take place this summer.

3. 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.

4. Report of Committee:

- a. *Facilities.* Mr. Neviasser and Mr. Rhodes discussed the condition of the tennis courts with the Board in light of the public comments made earlier in the meeting. They agreed that the tennis courts are in very bad shape because they are 20 years old. They need to be replaced and are part of the five year facilities improvement plan. The cracks cannot be repaired unless there is warmer temperatures. Implications that they haven't been maintained is not true. In the interim, the Old Saybrook courts are being used with the possibility of using the local tennis club courts. Follow-up discussion centered on best practices for communicating important district issues to the public via the website and publishing of minutes.
- b. *Finance.* No report.
- c. *Communications.* No report.
- d. *Policy.* No report.
- e. *LEARN.* No report.
- f. *CASFY.* No report.

IX. Correspondence

There was no correspondence to report.

X. Executive Session

There was no need for an executive session.

XI. Adjournment

The regular meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m. upon a motion by Mrs. Shoemaker and a second by Mrs. Winchell.

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Goulding, Secretary



Middle School Mentoring Program



April 4, 2018



Program Overview

- This program provides positive social connections for students
- Started during 2015 - 2016
- Run in collaboration with Lymes' Youth Service Bureau
- Currently, we have 22 mentees in the program who are mentored (5 adult mentors and 17 high school mentors)
- Aligns with the district strategic plan around community connections

Program Specifics

- How mentees are identified and how mentors are recruited
- Mentoring program as a Tier II behavioral/social SRBI support
- Training and support of mentors
- Structure of mentor meetings



Next Steps

- Develop a way to assess the effect that the program is having on our mentees
- Continue to develop and refine mentor training and support
- Develop a plan for students mentees that are transitioning to the high school
- Support interested mentees to transition to mentors as they advance through the grades

Mentor Quotes

“The LOLMS Mentor Program has definitely shaped me as a person. Spending time with my mentee is the highlight of my day. I am so grateful to have had this opportunity; it has been such a positive and humbling experience.”

“I love the program. It allows me to think and learn in such a different point of view.”

“I look forward to and value my time with my mentee. Our time together is so rewarding and I think we both grow from the experience. I am grateful to the LOLMS and the LYSB for initiating this incredible initiative. The community and the students are better off for it.”