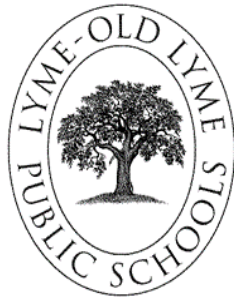


LYME-OLD LYME PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Small Schools, Big Ideas



*Challenging * Achieving * Excelling*

REGION #18

Regular Board of Education Meeting

November 1, 2017

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

Administration Present: Ian Neviasher, 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: Mary Roth, RETA Co-President; Glynis Houde, AFT Co-President; Brynn McGlinchey and Madeline Zrenda, High School Student Representatives; 4 community members

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairwoman Roche. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

II. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Dr. Goulding made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Winchell, to approve the minutes of Regular Meeting of October 4, 2017; Executive Session of October 4, 2017; and Special Meeting of October 25, 2017.

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

III. Visitors

1. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

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2. Report from Student Representatives

Brynn McGlinchey and Madeline Zrenda reported on the following activities taking place at the schools:

At LOLHS: For the first time in school history, the girls soccer team finished the regular season with a record of 16-0. They begin their march to a possible 4th straight Shoreline Conference championship tonight against Cromwell. The 20th annual Yale Physics Olympics competition was held on October 14. The Lyme-Old Lyme team took the silver medal for placing second out of 50 schools in the competition. On November 3, the students and staff will experience their first Wellness Day. Over 30 community members will be running workshops at the school to address healthy living. The electric vehicle team will defend its state title this Friday at Lime Rock Raceway. On November 9, the annual Report Card Night will be held to give parents an opportunity to meet with teachers to discuss their children's progress. Lyme-Old Lyme High School will host local veterans for the annual Veterans Day program on November 10. An invitation was extended to all board members to attend this event. The Old Lyme Players will present "Radium Girls" on November 17 and 18. Tickets are now on sale.

At LOLMS: The middle school just completed two events: Look for the Good Campaign and Red Ribbon week where students signed a drug-free pledge. The recycling club is sponsoring the Trek Challenge through the recycling of plastic wrap which just kicked off and will last through April. Last Friday, 185 students attended the second dance of the year which had a costume theme. The fall sports season is coming to an end for both boys and girls soccer and cross country involving a total of 104 student-athletes.

At Lyme Consolidated School: October was a busy month for classroom teachers as they attended the district grade level meetings. Last week, the PTO held their fall Scholastic Book Fair and on October 27, they held their Truck or Treat event. Both events were very successful and well attended. November is a short month with only 18 school days but is another busy month for both students and staff. On November 7, students have the day off as staff attends professional development workshops. On November 10, Lyme School will be celebrating Veterans Day with a tea and town meeting with 35 to 40 veterans anticipated to attend. On November 17, Lyme School will be holding the student Talent Show with over 65 students sharing their talents. Report cards will be sent home on November 17 for students in grades 1-5. On November 20 and 21, students have a half day of school in the morning and will be dismissed early so that parent/teacher conferences can be held.

At Mile Creek School: On October 27, Mile Creek School wrapped up a two week initiative for Look for the Good Project. Coverage of the event, including the kick-off assembly, was covered on October 13 by local CBS affiliate, WFSB, and can still be viewed on their website. On October 27, the Mile Creek PTO sponsored the Trunk or Treat event. Each classroom had a theme-decorated vehicle in the bus circle. Following a costume parade, the students were treated to goodies and prizes. On November 9, the Old Saybrook Rotary Club will visit the 3rd graders with a special gift of dictionaries for each student. On November 10, Mile Creek will honor family members and friends at a Veterans Day assembly with refreshments following. From November 13–17, the Mile Creek PTO will hold its Scholastic Book Fair.

On November 16, Mile Creek kindergarten students will host the Lyme Consolidated kindergarten students for their annual Thanksgiving feast. On November 17, report cards go home for grades 1-5. On November 20 and 21, the students will be dismissed early for parent conferences. On November 20, pie pick up for the Mile Creek PTO fundraiser will take place from 2:30–5:30 p.m.

In the Preschool Program: The preschool is gearing up for a fun November. They will be continuing their study of pumpkins. The theme of the month is exercise and nutrition which will culminate in the making of Stone Soup. The color of the month is yellow and the shape is a square. Students will begin a study of leaves through many hands-on activities and reading the books “Leaf Man” and “Let It Fall.” The students will also be learning about Thanksgiving traditions. Finally, everyone is busy deciding on the perfect outfit and practicing their smiles for picture day scheduled for November 13.

IV. Administrative Reports

1. Superintendent’s Report

Mr. Neviaser reviewed the November Personnel Report which reflected several new hires.

Mr. Neviaser reviewed the November Enrollment Report which showed an in-house enrollment of 1,272.

Mr. Neviaser reported on the recent open house at the high school for prospective students. The Superintendent, Jim Wygonik, Principal of LOLHS, and Tracy Lenz, Director of Guidance, met with nine different families who also were given tours of the school by student representatives. All families were very impressed and expressed an interest in the district. Olwen Logan also assisted as the greeter and conversation starter for each group.

Mr. Neviaser reported that the November edition of the *Focus on Education* newsletter is expected to be out November 9 as an insert in the *Lyme Times*.

Mr. Neviaser reminded the Board to let Jeanne DeLaura know if they wanted to attend the CABA/CAPSS Convention which takes place on November 17.

Mr. Neviaser also reminded the Board about a workshop scheduled with Anne Littlefield from Shipman and Goodwin on November 16. While this is labeled as being for new Board of Education members, Mr. Neviaser encouraged all members to attend as a refresher on legal matters.

Beth Jones and Nancy Lucas Edson were honored for their tenure on the Board of Education as this was their last meeting. Dr. Jones served on the Board for ten years and Ms. Lucas Edson served for four years.

2. Business Manager’s Report

Mrs. McCalla reviewed the Executive Budget Summary as of October 31, 2017. Fluctuations of note: Certified and Non-Certified Salaries: timing of payrolls relative to meeting date.

Employee Benefits: timing of invoices.

Special Education: increased tuition and transportation costs.
Administrative Services: reclassification of liability and property insurance.
Pupil Transportation: contractual increases.

Mrs. McCalla reviewed the Contingency Maintenance Report which reflected a balance of \$176,948 as of October 31, 2017. The \$3,874 in increased spending was due to pump repairs specific to the main campus water.

V. Educational Presentation

There was no educational presentation scheduled.

VI. Chairman & Board Report

No report.

VII. New Business

1. Leave of Absence Request

The Board reviewed a request from Tiffany Sestrom, elementary teacher at Lyme Consolidated School, for a childrearing leave with a return date of March 5, 2018.

Dr. Jones suggested that leaves of absence be looked at during the next teacher negotiations with consideration that these requests be approved at the Superintendent level.

MOTION: Dr. Powell St. Louis made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Winchell, to approve the childrearing leave of absence request of Tiffany Sestrom 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*. Dr. Goulding reported that this group met earlier in the evening and discussed long-term projects. Mr. Neviasser updated the Board on the possibility of purchasing a power agreement for solar energy panels which would be installed on the roofs of the school buildings with possible savings in the range of \$100,000 - \$120,000 per year for the next 20 years. Future discussion will come before the Board on this initiative.
- b. *Finance*. Mrs. Wilczynski reported that discussion on the 2018-2019 budget began earlier in the evening when the Board met with the Boards of Finance and Selectmen from both towns.

- c. *Communications*. Mrs. Roche reported that the next edition of the *Focus on Education* newsletter would be coming out next week.
- d. *Policy*. Mr. Neviasher reported that this committee would meet on November 8 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the awards policy and the wellness policy.
- e. *LEARN*. Mrs. Roche and Mr. Cushman both attended LEARN's monthly meeting. At this meeting Superintendent Maryann O'Donnell from the Clinton Public Schools made a presentation. There was also a roundtable discussion about how boards of education communicate with the director of curriculum. It was noted that the Lyme-Old Lyme Schools has their director of curriculum report directly to the entire Board.

IX. Correspondence

There was no correspondence to report.

X. Executive Session

Dr. Goulding made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Linderman, to move into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters. The Superintendent was invited to attend the executive session.

XI. Adjournment

The regular meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m. upon a motion by Dr. Goulding and a second by Mrs. Linderman.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Goulding, Secretary