

# LYME-OLD LYME SCHOOLS

*Regional School District #18*

*A Private School Experience*



*in a Public School Setting*

## **Regular Board of Education Meeting**

November 7, 2018

*Board Present:* Michelle Roche, Chairwoman; Diane Linderman, Vice Chair; Jean Wilczynski, Treasurer; Erick Cushman; Stacey Leonardo; Mary Powell St. Louis; Martha Shoemaker; Stacy Winchell

*Absent by Previous Arrangement:* Rick Goulding

*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; 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; Gina Wohlke, AFT President; Leslie Traver, Business Ed Teacher at LOLHS; Louis Zubek, Mathematics Teacher at LOLHS; Brynn McGlinchey and Emily O'Brien, High School Student Representatives; 3 community members from LOL

### **I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chairwoman Roche. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

### **II. Approval of Minutes**

MOTION: Mrs. Linderman made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Shoemaker, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 3, 2018 as presented.

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

### **III. Visitors**

#### **1. Public Comment**

Betsy Danes, a community member, voiced support for repairing the tennis courts. Due to their condition, she believed the athletes were being put in danger and the courts were a liability. She suggested that the courts should reflect the district motto of "a private school experience in a public school setting." Mrs. Danes discussed assisted funding for the courts through grants, the Booster Club, or seeking a 501c3 non-profit status.

***Ian Neviaser, Superintendent of Schools***

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Julie O'Brien, a community member, asked that another informational meeting regarding the tennis courts be scheduled as many community members, parents and athletes are looking for guidance and answers to their many questions on the condition of the tennis courts.

## 2. Report from Student Representatives

Brynn McGlinchey and Emily O'Brien reported on the following activities taking place at the schools:

*At LOLHS:* On October 26, Jeanne Manfredi, Assistant Principal of LOLHS, along with five teachers and five students, attended the Shoreline Conference's action planning symposium on college and career readiness. October 31 marked the end of quarter one. On November 8, the high school will hold its annual Report Card Night. On November 9 and 10, the Old Lyme Players will present a Shakespeare adapted comedy, *A Mid-Summer's Jersey*. On November 12, LOLHS will host their annual Veterans Day ceremony. The high school welcomes the Board of Education to attend. As part of National Chemistry week, chemistry students competed in the World Wide "Molympics." Five events are set up to use the "mole," a chemistry variable, to focus on different aspects of the variable through physical tasks, lab skills, and calculations. One hundred nine schools world-wide participated. In their first appearance, the Wildcats placed 4th.

*At LOLMS:* A school assembly was held with David Flood addressing the students on kindness, acceptance and understanding. The 7th grade had the opportunity to work with the team-building group called Empower. The 6th graders visited Bushy Hill Nature Center and continue to develop their individual and group leadership skills. The first dance of the school year, sponsored by the unified arts teachers, was held. It was themed as a "costume dance" and approximately 150 students attended. Fall athletics concluded with another successful season including the cross country team's annual run to Teddy's Pizza. The 8th grade choir performed at the high school in their annual cooperative concert with the high school students.

*At Lyme Consolidated School:* The PTO is sponsoring Sam Drazin on November 8. Sam was born with a rare congenital disorder resulting in both facial anomaly and hearing loss. His presentations tell a story of his life growing up with this facial difference. The 3rd graders will be receiving their dictionaries from the Rotary Club November 8. On November 12, Lyme School students will be honoring the veterans at a tea at 1:00 p.m. and a Special Town Meeting beginning at 2:15 p.m. The Lyme PTO will hold their next meeting on November 13 at 6:00 p.m. in the school library. On November 15, beginning at 9:30 a.m., the Mile Creek kindergarten students will travel up to Lyme School for their annual Thanksgiving Day Feast with the Lyme kindergarten students. Report cards will be sent home for students in grades 1-5 on November 16. Parent-teacher conferences will be held on the afternoons of November 19 and 20. Both these days are half days of school for students. On November 30, the PTO will be sponsoring a Basket Bonanza from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. in the school gym.

*At Mile Creek School:* Mile Creek students, staff and families collected new and gently used coats in an effort to reinforce caring and sharing with those in need. The school was overwhelmed by the community's generosity. Best Cleaners donated the dry cleaning of all donations. Over the past two weeks, grades 3, 4 and 5 partnered with the Audubon Society for field experiences that supported their science curriculum. On November 8, representatives of the Old Saybrook Rotary will be delivering dictionaries to every 3<sup>rd</sup> grade student. Students enjoy this annual tradition. Grades close on November

9. Students and staff will honor veterans at a Veterans Day assembly on November 12 at 2:00 p.m. with a tea following. Mile Creek kindergartners will travel to Lyme School on November 16 for their annual Thanksgiving Feast. Also on November 16, the 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade report cards go home. There will be early dismissal for parent/teacher conferences on November 19 and 20.

*In the Preschool Program:* Since it is November, the preschool will be studying Thanksgiving and food exploration with the monthly theme of exercise and nutrition. Letter sounds are “E” and “F,” the color is yellow and the shape is a square. The preschool will be studying the nurse rhyme “Jack Be Nimble” and reading books such as “Stone Soup” and “Today is Monday.” The preschool students wished all a Happy Thanksgiving and recommended that you eat well and take a walk.

#### IV. Administrative Reports

##### 1. Superintendent’s Report

Mr. Neviaser reviewed the November personnel report which reflected two short term substitute position to be filled at the high school level along with the need for a custodian and several instructional assistants. The report also reflected the hiring of a new technology facilitator.

Mr. Neviaser reviewed the November enrollment report which reflected a total in-house population of 1,258, an increase of three students from the previous month.

Mr. Neviaser reported on the prospective student day held recently in October at Lyme-Old Lyme High School. Jim Wygonik, Principal of LOLHS, Tracy Lenz, Director of School Counseling, and the Superintendent met with students and their families who also were given tours of the school by student representatives. All families were very impressed and expressed an interest in attending our schools in the future. Mr. Neviaser reported that he expected more tuition student requests as a result of this open house event.

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

Mr. Neviaser reminded the Board to sign up for the CABA/CAPSS Convention through Jeanne DeLaura. Mr. Neviaser stated that this interesting and inspiring event will take place on November 16.

Mr. Neviaser noted that congratulations are in order again as the district was awarded the Bonnie B. Carney Award of Excellence for Educational Communications for both the district website (winner) and the budget book (honorable mention).

Mr. Neviaser reported that the preschool expansion committee has almost completed the planning process and will present to the Board at the December meeting.

Mr. Neviaser updated the Board on progress made thus far on the district goals in the areas of curriculum, math instruction and human resources.

Mr. Neviaser reported on the events planned at all the schools on Monday, November 12, in honor of Veterans Day.

Mr. Neviaser reported on the success of the recent Wellness Day at LOLHS.

Mr. Neviaser reported that the Facilities Committee meeting has been rescheduled to November 28.

## 2. Business Manager's Report

Mrs. McCalla reviewed the Executive Budget Summary as of October 31, 2018. Fluctuations of note: *Instructional Programs*: spending in line with FY17. Instructional Technology, Tuition, Software, Textbooks.

*Special Education*: tuition actuals are exceeding budget expectations due to increase of population.

Mrs. McCalla reviewed the Contingency Maintenance Report which reflected a balance of \$102,537. New spending this month was attributed to a supply line leak on the high school roof.

## V. Educational Presentation

### 1. High School and Middle School Annual Report

Jim Wygonik, Principal of Lyme-Old Lyme High School, gave his annual high school achievement report to the Board, which included indicators of success; data driven improvement; and initiatives that aid in the improvement of the social, emotional and physical wellness of the students. A copy of his presentation is attached to these minutes for informational purposes.

Comments and questions followed the presentation. Included in the discussion: what other districts are doing to improve their SAT scores that the high school could emulate; AP course expectations and how this is communicated to parents and students; and enrollment of students in AP courses.

Mark Ambruso, Principal of Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School, and Noah Ventola, Assistant Principal of Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School, provided a middle school update. The presentation included: how they address the social-emotional needs of the students; how they promote daily movement and a positive school climate; the variety of extracurricular activities available to students; how they provide a challenging learning environment through:

- interdisciplinary units of study
- the development of an academic lab to support learning skills
- a 6<sup>th</sup> grade enrichment block
- the addition of STEM instruction
- support initiatives to ensure sound educational decisions

A copy of their presentation is attached to these minutes for informational purposes.

Comments and questions followed the presentation. Included in the discussion: Aimsweb Plus used as a tool to ensure all students receive appropriate support.

## **VI. Chairman & Board Report**

Mrs. Roche reminded the Board members that the election of Board officers will be held at the December meeting.

## **VII. New Business**

### **1. New Course Proposal**

Michelle Dean, Director of Curriculum, and Leslie Traver, Business Ed Teacher at LOLHS, presented a proposal for a University of Rhode Island Cybersecurity Course to be included as a course selection beginning at the start of the 2019-2020 school year. This course would not be for college credit, but the book and course requirements are utilized at the university.

Discussion and questions centered on the following subjects: why the course will be offered every other year (based on teacher's schedule); technology resources supporting coursework; cost of program centering mainly on textbook; students receiving certification of completion (can take certification test on their own); garnering interest in this course; and the rapid changes in technology.

MOTION: Mr. Cushman made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Shoemaker, to approve the Cybersecurity Course for Lyme-Old Lyme High School beginning in the 2019-2020 school year as presented.

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

### **2. Request for a Research Project**

Mr. Neviasser explained that Board of Education Policy 2710 states, *The Lyme/Old Lyme Board of Education, as well as the parents or guardians of students, must approve all requests for the services of student volunteers in research projects, special studies, and surveys which are not part of the regular educational program. Staff members shall submit requests for the services of student volunteers through appropriate administrative channels.* Mr. Neviasser reviewed a proposal from a parent regarding a research project for a dyslexia screening tool utilizing district students. Questions were posed by the Board on this request specific to protection of students. Mrs. Shoemaker noted that she had a very positive experience with something similar done at the Waterford Public Schools. There was Board consensus that it was important to look at new and better ways for screening dyslexia.

MOTION: Mrs. Wilczynski made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Shoemaker, to approve the proposal for a research project for a dyslexia screening tool using student volunteers from the district pending parent and/or guardian approval.

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*. Mr. Neviaser reported that this group will meet on November 28. Mr. Neviaser reported that the district did receive approval from the Wetlands Commission for usage of the pond for irrigation of the athletic fields contingent on getting approval from the neighbor whose well could be affected. The district will abide by the restrictions for the pond level. If there is damage to the well of the neighbor, the district would be responsible for this fix.  
Mr. Neviaser reported that the oil tank has been installed at Mile Creek and paving should occur soon. Solar panels have been installed at Lyme School, LOLMS and LOLHS. Details for installation of solar panels on the Mile Creek roof are still being studied.
- b. *Finance*. No report.
- c. *Communications*. Mr. Neviaser reported that the November edition of the *Focus on Education* newsletter came out in the *Lyme Times* that day.
- d. *Policy*. No report.
- e. *LEARN*. Mrs. Leonardo reported on the LEARN Board's last meeting. Discussion took place on the new LEARN building, SBAC scores, student records and confidentiality, and teacher contracts. The Superintendent of the New London Public Schools will be a speaker at an upcoming meeting.
- f. *Prevention Coalition*. Mrs. Shoemaker reported that *Drug Take Back Day* was postponed due to inclement weather. She also reported that the LYSB hosted *Hidden in Plain Sight* to heighten parent awareness of drug use/abuse; she noted that the presentation was attended and well received by 30 community members. Mrs. Leonardo reported that Mary Seidner, Director of the LYSB, will be presenting at the next Lyme PTO meeting.

## IX. Correspondence

It was noted that the Board received correspondence from a community member relative to the condition of the tennis courts. Discussion followed on whether the courts were safe for usage. Mr. Neviaser reported on the annual repair of the courts and some of the roadblocks they face (repair company will not work on courts unless it is 70 degrees or above and spring sports start in March when it is still very cold). Only one court was closed down last season (out of nine courts) due to condition. Additional discussion centered on the need for nine courts for a district of our size. Community usage was also discussed. Mr. Neviaser reported that communication to all tennis parents was sent out recently. The benefits to having tennis as a fall sport vs. a spring sport was discussed.

## X. Executive Session

There was no need for an executive session.

## XI. Adjournment

The regular meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m. upon a motion by Mr. Cushman and a second by Mrs. Winchell.

Respectfully submitted,  
Diane Linderman, Secretary Pro Tem

# Lyme-Old Lyme

High School

Board of Education

November 7, 2018



## Agenda

- 🐾 Indicators of Success
- 🐾 Data Driven Intervention
- 🐾 Social, Emotional, & Physical Wellness



## Indicators of Success

### AP Four-Year Growth

Year	2015	2018	Growth
Exams	237	261	10%
Testers	116	145	25%
# Courses	22	21	-1
3 or Better	75%	79%	15%

Group	Mean Score
LOLHS	3.38
Connecticut	3.21
U.S.	2.87
Global	2.89



### AP Participation

School	Cohort %
LOLHS	30%
Madison	16%
Guilford	23%
Old Saybrook	23%
East Lyme	23%
State Average	20%

## Early College Experience (ECE)

### 2018-19 Courses

Spanish Conversation and Culture  
 Spanish Intermediate Composition  
 Biology  
 Physics I  
 Physics II  
 Drawing  
 Music Appreciation  
 French Grammar and Composition  
*British Literature*  
*French Global Culture*  
*Intermediate Chinese II*  
*Advanced Topics in Latin*



### University of Connecticut

#### 2017-18

90 students enrolled ECE courses.  
 15% of those students enrolled in  
 multiple courses.

#### 2018-19

121 students are enrolled ECE courses.  
 25% of those students are enrolled multiple  
 courses.

## Indicators of Success

% of LOLHS students enrolled in college the Fall immediately after graduation.

Class	Lyme-Old Lyme	National Average
2013	79%	69%
2014	79%	69%
2015	88%	68%
2016	83%	70%
<b>2017</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>-</b>



## Indicators of Success



% of LOLHS students enrolled in college...

Class	Within the First Year	Within the First Two Years
2014	91%	94%
2015	77%	85%
2016	87%	88%
2017	85%	-



## Indicators of Success

**Persistence:** % of LOLHS students who return for their  
sophomore year of college

Class	Lyme-Old Lyme	National Average
2013	96%	72%
2014	93%	72%
2015	96%	74%
2016	94%	74%



## Indicators of Success

**Time to Graduate:** % of LOLHS students who graduated from college.

<b>LOLHS</b>	Class	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
	4-Years	44%	42%	48%	42%	54%
	6-Years	61%	65%	66%	58%	-
<b>National</b>	Class	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
	4-Years	40%	41%	42%	42%	54%
	6-Years	53%	55%	63%	58%	-



## Indicators of Success

% of Students meeting or exceeding benchmarks

### SAT

#### Evidence-Based Reading and Writing

1	Madison School District	93.1
2	Weston School District	92.6
3	Westport School District	91.2
4	Darien School District	90.8
5	Avon School District	89.9
6	Simsbury School District	89.8
7	Canton School District	89.7
8	New Canaan School District	89.7
9	Ridgefield School District	89.2
10	<b>Regional School District 18</b>	<b>89</b>
11	Wilton School District	88.6



#### Math

1	Darien School District	80.3
2	Westport School District	79.5
3	Avon School District	78.9
4	New Canaan School District	78.8
5	Weston School District	77.7
6	Ridgefield School District	77.4
7	Simsbury School District	77
8	Wilton School District	73.4
9	Regional School District 08	72.1
10	Regional School District 09	71.9
11	Farmington School District	71.3
12	Madison School District	70.6
13	Greenwich School District	68.9
14	Glastonbury School District	68.2
15	Regional School District 10	68.1
16	Tolland School District	67.4
17	<b>Regional School District 18</b>	<b>67</b>

## Data Driven Improvement

SAT, PSAT, PSAT 8/9, Mid-Term & Final Exams

#### ERW

Expression of Ideas  
Standards of English Conventions  
Words in Context  
Analysis in Social Sciences and History.

#### Math

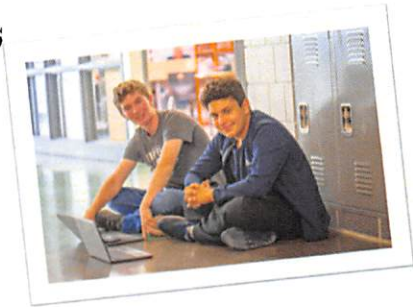
Heart of Algebra  
Problem Solving & Data Analysis  
Passport to Advanced Math



# Data Driven Improvement

SAT, PSAT, PSAT 8/9, Unit, Mid-Term & Final Exams

- Cohort, School-Wide or Longitudinal Trends
- Teachers' Student Learning Objectives
- SRBI Intervention
- Customize SAT Prep Courses



# Social, Emotion, & Physical Wellness

- Advisory
- Staff PD
- Homework Free Weekends
- Wellness Day
- Field Day



## Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School



November 5, 2018

At the Middle School, we believe that:

- Students in middle school have unique social-emotional needs
- All students deserve an appropriately challenging educational experience
- Data is a key component of educational decision-making



## How we are addressing the social-emotional needs of our students

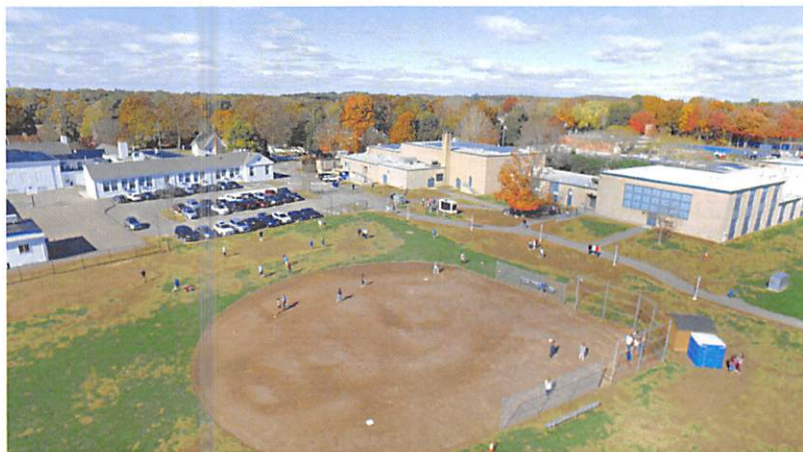
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We consider the needs of the whole-child when making decisions



## To promote movement, we implemented a daily activity period

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To promote a positive school climate, we developed and implemented an interest-based advisory program called Pursuits



Pursuit Offerings



We offer a variety of extra-curricular activities to meet the needs of ALL our students



2018 - 2019 Intramural Brochure



## How we are providing an appropriately challenging learning environment

We are refining an existing rigorous and relevant middle level academic experience.



Teams developed interdisciplinary units of study, which included a study of homelessness, sustainability, and regions of the world



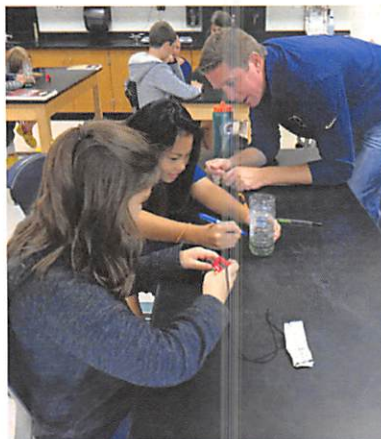
To ensure that students have appropriate and relevant support, we developed an Academic Lab to support the development of executive functioning skills

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To provide enrichment for all, we implemented a 6th grade enrichment block fo all

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To ensure a comprehensive curriculum, we added STEM to our Unified Arts rotation

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We provide support to our learning community to ensure sound educational decisions

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- We are using Aimsweb Plus as a universal screen to ensure all students receive appropriate support
- Our teachers are using Interim Assessment Blocks (IAB) to support test-taking skills and drive instruction
- Peer observations through learning walks

