

LYME - OLD LYME PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Impassioned with Pride and Purpose

MEETING MINUTES

Special Board of Education Meeting

Lyme-Old Lyme High School

February 11, 2015

Board Present: James Witkins, Chairman; Paul Fuchs, Vice Chair; Jean Wilczynski, Treasurer; Beth Jones, Secretary; Rick Goulding; Nancy Lucas Edson; Michelle Roche

Absent by Previous Arrangement: Diane Linderman; Sarah Smalley

Administration Present: Ian Neviasher, Superintendent of Schools; Patricia Downes, Principal of Mile Creek School; Nancy Johnston, Director of Special Services; Holly McCalla, Business Manager; John Rhodes, Director of Facilities; Lori Susi, Interim Principal of Center School and Assistant Principal of Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School; Ellen Tyler, Principal of Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School; James Wygonik, Principal of Lyme-Old Lyme High School

Others Present: Tisha Kirk, AFT President; Bonnie Reemsnyder, Old Lyme First Selectwoman; Skip Sibley, Old Lyme Selectman; Mary Jo Nosal, Old Lyme Selectwoman; David Brown, Lyme Board of Finance Chair; Kim Drelich, *The Day*

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Witkins at 6:33 p.m. The purpose of the meeting was to hold a Public Forum on the proposed 2015-2016 budget.

A PowerPoint presentation was given on the 2015-2016 budget by Superintendent Neviasher which reflected a proposed budget figure of \$32,547,409, a 1.83% increase from the current year's budget. Reporting highlights included: goals to be served by the budget; graphic depiction of areas to be served by the budget; budget drivers; enrollment projections; program inclusion and improvements; and upcoming facilities projects. A copy of this presentation is attached to these minutes for informational purposes.

Mr. Witkins discussed the Board and administration's efforts to bring to the communities a manageable budget but which addressed the educational needs of the district.

The meeting was opened up for questions and comments from the public.

Bonnie Reemsnyder, Old Lyme First Selectwoman, voiced appreciation for the reasonable budget increase, the majority of which is for debt service. Mr. Neviasser reported that the current average of budget increases for public school districts across the state is 3.42%.

Mrs. Reemsnyder recommended that the administration communicate to the public the reasoning behind an increase when enrollment is declining. Mr. Neviasser noted that this is good advice for the Communications Committee for future budget publications and public meetings. Skip Sibley, Old Lyme Selectman, recommended that they also communicate the low operating budget increase in spite of obligations to the staff for negotiated salaries.

Mr. Witkins discussed the district's obligations to maintaining the grounds and athletic fields to support their quality athletic programs. He also noted the increase in technology expenses as the district moves into a more digital learning environment.

David Brown, Lyme Board of Finance Chairman, recommended that there be clarification of the term "transition programming" which was listed under program improvements in the PowerPoint presentation.

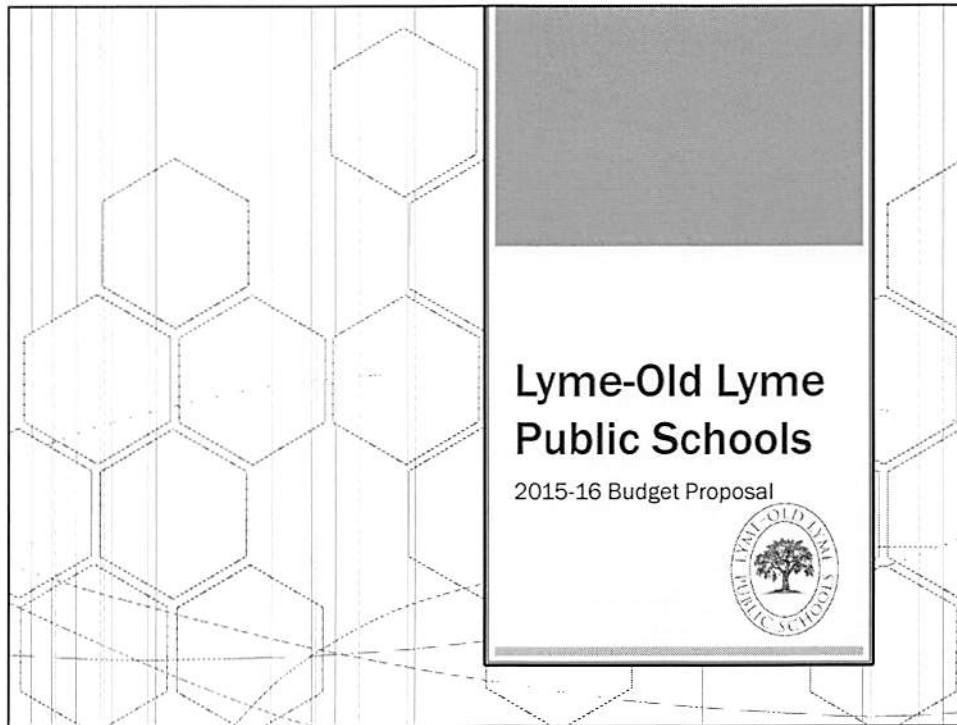
MOTION: Mrs. Roche made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Wilczynski, to approve the proposed 2015-2016 budget in the amount of \$32,547,409, a 1.83% increase over the current budget.

VOTE: the Board voted unanimously (including the Board Chair) in favor of the motion.

The special meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m. upon motion by Dr. Goulding and a second by Mrs. Roche.

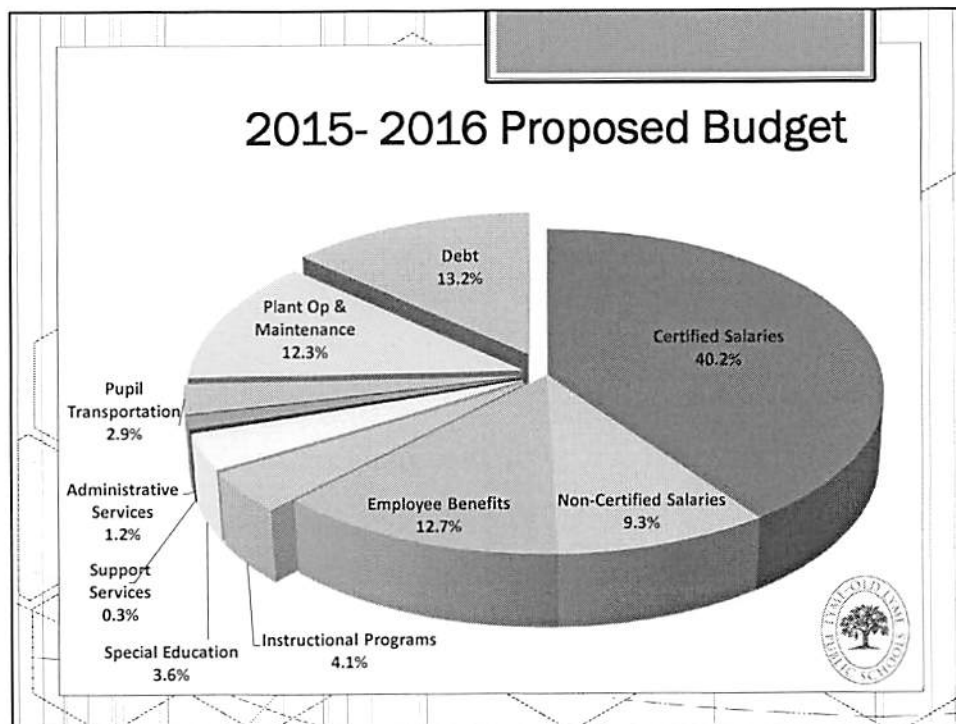
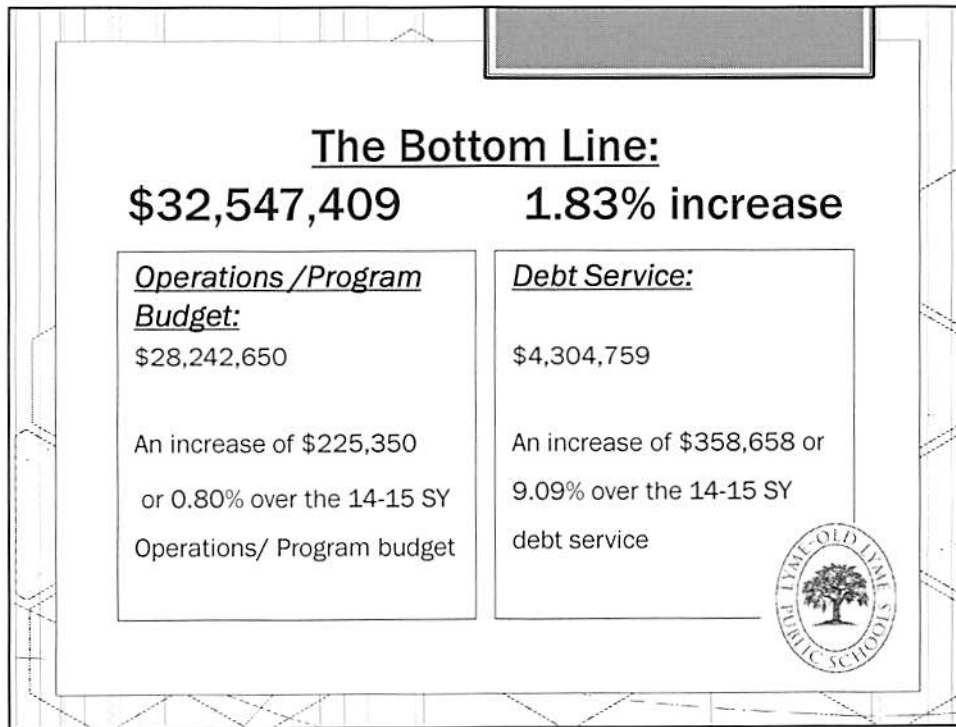
Respectfully submitted,

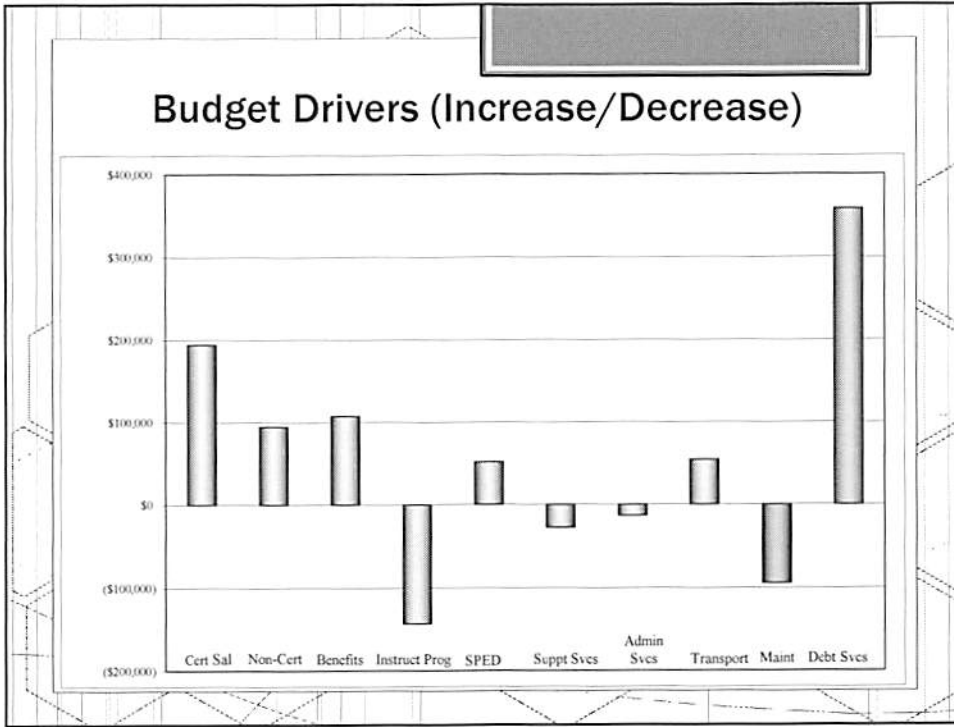
Beth Jones, Secretary



**Goals to be Served by the
2015-2016 Budget**


- To support the objectives outlined in the Strategic Plan by:
 - Preserving and building upon the high standards of education in LOL while remaining fiscally responsible to our communities.
 - Supporting the ongoing renewal of curriculum, instruction, assessment, and staff development activities in response to the expectations of the CCSS.
 - Continuing to plan and provide technology infrastructure and applications that are consistent with highly effective and efficient programming and operational standards.
 - Maintaining high facility standards for all District buildings and grounds.
 - Maintaining a dynamic and responsive approach to programming needs and mandates in special education.
 - Maintaining both compliance and reasonability in response to state and federal mandates.





Enrollment

Level	2012	2013	2014	2015 Projected* (Roll-ups)
Elementary	665	611	564	538/546* (519)
Middle	360	364	351	359/361* (347)
High	420	430	435	454/462* (471)
TOTAL	1445 (-5)	1405 (-40)	1350 (-55)	1359/ 1361* (1337) +9/11* (-13)



The operations/program budget reflects:

- Continued adherence to class size guidelines
- A reduction in staff relative to declining enrollments
- Reallocation of existing staff to account for enrollment shifts
- Continuance of existing academic and extracurricular activities
- Adjustments for anticipated changes in the special education population
- Adequate funding for maintenance and repair of buildings and grounds
- Scheduled replacement of technology and equipment
- Program improvements that are consistent with high academic and operational standards



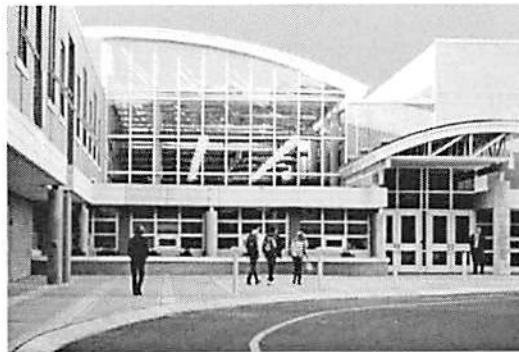
Program Improvements:

- Increased English staffing at LOLHS
- Increase in staff in Physical Education at LOLMS
- Increase in technology staff
- Reallocation of existing staff to account for enrollment shifts
- Transition programming



Facilities Projects:

- Upgrade Lyme Consolidated and Mile Creek marker/tack boards (remediate asbestos glue)
- Create Lyme Consolidated paved playground
- Add track field drainage, amend soils and re-sod
- Connect LOLMS Rooms 202 & 203 to create new choral room
- Improve Lyme Consolidated and Mile Creek Media Center layouts during carpeting replacement



What's next?

- Opportunity for public comment
- Board action on the proposed budget

