



# LYME - OLD LYME PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*Impassioned with Pride and Purpose*

## MEETING MINUTES

### **Special Board of Education Meeting**

Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School

April 9, 2014

*Board Present:* James Witkins, Chairman; Paul Fuchs, Vice Chairman; Michelle Roche, Treasurer; Beth Jones, Secretary; Rick Goulding; Diane Linderman; Nancy Lucas Edson; Sarah Smalley

*Absent by Previous Arrangement:* Jean Wilczynski

*Administration Present:* Ian Neviasier, Superintendent of Schools; Nancy Johnston, Director of Special Services; James Wygonik, Principal of Lyme-Old Lyme High School

*Others Present:* Student A and parents; various legal counsel and staff; state trooper

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 p.m. by Chairman Witkins. The purpose of the meeting was for a student discipline matter.

Mr. Fuchs made a motion, which was seconded by Dr. Goulding, that the Board enter executive session to discuss a matter involving a student that would likely result in the disclosure of public records or the information contained therein as described in Connecticut General Statutes Sections 1-210(b)(2), (11) and (17). Only those invited by the Board may be present in the executive session. The Board invites the following individuals into executive session:

- Student A;
- The Parents of Student A;
- Ian Neviasier, Superintendent of Schools;
- For the Administration: Attorney Leander Dolphin, Attorney Peter Maher, Trooper Deborah Turner, Nancy Johnston, James Wygonik;
- For the Student: Attorney Dow and Marc DiShaw;
- Attorney Kyle McClain, the Board's attorney.

The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

The Board of Education reconvened into open session at 11:05 p.m.

MOTION: Ms. Smalley made a motion, which was seconded by Dr. Goulding, that the Board of Education find that Student A, the subject of the Board's executive session discussion, did exhibit behavior which violated Board Policy 2610 in that Student A harassed others through inappropriate conduct and communication which was seriously disruptive of the educational process and is, therefore, an expellable offense pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-233d and Board policy.

VOTE: Ms. Smalley, Dr. Goulding, Mr. Watkins, Mrs. Lucas Edson and Mr. Fuchs voted in favor of the motion. Dr. Jones, Mrs. Roche and Mrs. Linderman voted against the motion. Motion passed with a vote of 5 in favor and 3 opposed.

Upon motion by Mr. Fuchs and seconded by Mrs. Lucas Edson, the Board voted unanimously to move into executive session for the purpose of discussing disciplinary action at 11:08 p.m.

The Board reconvened into open session at 12:58 a.m.

MOTION: Ms. Smalley made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Lucas Edson, that pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-233d, the Board of Education expel Student A, as discussed in executive session, from attendance at Lyme-Old Lyme High School for the period from March 17, 2014, until June 20, 2014, for the reasons presented by the Administration in executive session.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the period of expulsion shall be shortened to June 2, 2014, and the remaining period of expulsion waived, provided Student A complies with the following conditions:

- Student completes 20 hours of community service prior to June 2, 2014;
- Student participates in counseling, either with the school psychologist, or with another counselor, therapist or like professional, at the parents of Student A's expense, to meet at least once per week.

All conditions must be met to the satisfaction of the Superintendent of Schools, in his sole discretion, prior to June 2, 2014.

Further, the Board directs the administration to offer an alternative educational opportunity pursuant to General Statutes Section 10-233d, subsection (d), to the student for the period of this expulsion in a form to be determined by the Superintendent.

The Board also directs the Administration, pursuant to General Statutes Section 10-233d, subsection (f), to record this expulsion on the student's cumulative educational record, to be expunged from such record if the student graduates from high school.

Finally, the Board authorizes Attorney Kyle McClain to communicate in writing the Board's decision and the reasons therefore, consistent with the Board's executive session discussion, to Student A and his or her parents, as appropriate.

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

Upon motion by Mr. Fuchs and seconded by Mrs. Roche, the meeting was adjourned at 1:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Jones, Secretary