

LYME-OLD LYME SCHOOLS

Regional School District #18

A Private School Experience



in a Public School Setting

Regular Board of Education Meeting

February 6, 2019

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

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: Mary Roth, RETA Co-President; Brynn McGlinchey and Emily O'Brien, High School Student Representatives; 10 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 January 2, 2019; Executive Session of January 2, 2019; Special Meeting of January 9, 2019; and Special Meeting of January 16, 2019 as presented:

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

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III. Visitors

1. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

2. Report from Student Representatives

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

At LOLHS: All chemistry classes at LOLHS recently participated in the U.S. Crystal Growing Competition 2018 and won first place nationally. The winning crystal was submitted by students Juliette Atkinson, Ava Berry, Emma Boardman and Sadie Frankel. Students were challenged to grow the largest and clearest Alum crystal. Over the past four years, LOLHS has finished third once and second twice. This Thursday, Friday, and Saturday (February 7-9), the Old Lyme Players will present the musical *Anything Goes*. The curtain goes up at 7:00 p.m. The mock trial team advances to the State quarterfinals competition being held at Quinnipiac School of Law on February 8. The defense team will compete in the morning trial against Valley-Regional High School. The prosecution team will compete in the afternoon trial against Crosby High School. If both trials are won, the team will advance to the top eight in the State. On February 28, the high school begins preparation for the 2019-2020 school year with the annual 8th grade parent's night. Senior Mya Johnson was just named the Connecticut Sportswriters Association Female Athlete of the Year.

At LOLMS: January was a busy month in the middle school. Parent-teacher conferences occurred on January 17 and 18. On January 30, State Trooper Kate Cummings meet with each grade to discuss the legalities and safety concerns associated with social media and cell phones. Unfortunately, the evening presentation was postponed due to weather. It has been rescheduled for February 11 at 6:30 p.m. in the middle school auditorium. The 6th grade hosted their annual performance by Chariots of the Sun, a presentation that uses drama to teach about Greek mythology. The district mentoring program continues to grow as select middle school students are now mentoring elementary students at Lyme and Mile Creek. The 8th grade students took both the Algebra and Spanish exams.

At Lyme Consolidated School: February 1 was the 100th day of school. The students were actively engaged in exciting activities. Lyme School student leaders have implemented the lunchtime recycling program. Students are very eager to participate in this very important program. Last night, at the Connecticut Association of Elementary Schools annual Celebration of the Arts at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington, 5th graders Carter McGlinchey and Andrew Taylor were recognized for their outstanding citizenship, cooperation skills, and outstanding artistic ability in the performing or visual arts. Congratulations were extended to Carter and Andrew. The next PTO meeting will be held on February 12 at 6:30 p.m. On Valentine's Day, Mrs. Ambruso will be facilitating activities for all students to celebrate "Healthy Heart Day." Students and staff raise money that will benefit the American Heart Association. On February 27, the PTO is offering a science exploration after school activity from 3:15 to 4:30 p.m.

At Mile Creek School: This month, the Mile Creek social development initiative is focused on the power of words and how unkind words can "wrinkle your heart." The Mile Creek School family will take a pledge to think before speaking and use kind and respectful words throughout the day at school. February 1 was the 100th day school. Children and teachers were invited to dress up like they were 100. It was a fabulous day dedicated to the number 100 and to celebrating all they have learned in 100 days of school. On February 5, fifth grade students, Maggie Thuma and C.J. Zapatka were honored at the statewide CAS Celebration for the Arts at the Aqua Turf. They were joined by their families, their art teacher, Joya Helander, their music teacher, Steve Ernst, and Dr. Downes...for dinner and a musical performance in their honor. On February 13, Mile Creek will participate in the National Assessment of Elementary Progress (NAEP). Test proctors, contracted by the Federal Government, will administer math or ELA tests to the 4th grade students. On February 28, the 1st grade will hold a musical performance on habitats for parents at 2:00 p.m.

In the Preschool Program: the preschool is keeping with tradition as they learn about the shape of a heart and the color pink in February. The theme of the month is feelings and emotions. During math instruction, the students will be studying patterns, counting with one to one correspondence and graphing. The letter sounds will be "M", "N" and "O." The literature to support their theme and the time of year are *Blame It On The Groundhog* and *When Sophie Gets Angry, Really Really Angry*. To enhance the science theme of shadows and bears, the students will be learning about the artist, Alicia Lugwig. The preschool wishes everyone a Happy Valentine's Day.

IV. Administrative Reports

1. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Neviasser reviewed the February Personnel Report. Of note, Malgorzata Holszanska, Special Ed Teacher at Lyme Consolidated School, and Barbara O'Leary, Math Teacher at LOLHS, have both submitted letters indicating that they will retire at the end of the 2018-2019 school year. Mr. Neviasser reported that they filled the School Psychologist position at Lyme Consolidated School that afternoon.

Mr. Neviasser reviewed the February Enrollment Report, which reflected a total of 1,278 students (in-house) enrolled. Mr. Neviasser noted that this is 13 more students than last month this time.

Mr. Neviasser reported on the kindergarten enrollments at Mile Creek and Lyme Consolidated Schools (65 students thus far have enrolled during the recent registration for next school year). Mr. Neviasser reported that the numbers do not indicate that another section is needed at this point in time.

Mr. Neviasser reported that he is currently working with representatives from Old Lyme Children's Learning Center and Grasshopper Green Daycare on plans to expand their before/after school program. Both organizations expressed interest in this initiative.

Mr. Neviasser reported that the interviews for the Mile Creek Principal position begin next week. Mr. Neviasser noted that they have a very strong group of candidates.

Mr. Neviasser reported that the sewage issue at the middle school is still being studied and won't be fully rectified until March or April.

2. Business Manager's Report

Mrs. McCalla reviewed the Executive Budget Summary as of January 31, 2019. Fluctuations of note: *Certified/Non-Certified Salaries*: one additional pay period on the books last year to date vs. this year to date.

Employee Benefits: timing of invoices.

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

Support Services: increased spending year to date on library books at Lyme School, LOLMS, and Mile Creek.

Administrative Services: administrative technology purposes; equipment purchased services.

Mrs. McCalla reviewed the Contingency Maintenance Report noting that there was no new contingency spending in January. The remaining balance in this account is \$100,787.

V. Educational Presentation

There was no educational presentation scheduled.

VI. Chairman & Board Report

Mrs. Roche clarified how the public comment section of the Board meeting is run, noting that the Board members do not engage in conversation with members of the public during the meetings but rather use this time to gather community input. She recommended that community members submit letters to the Board about their concerns/questions as another way to communicate with the Board.

VII. New Business

1. Field Trip Request

Mr. Wygonik, Principal of Lyme-Old Lyme High School, reviewed a proposed student immersion field trip to Spain in April 2020 for approximately 20-30 students who are enrolled in Spanish IV, ECE Cultural Topics, or Spanish AP/ECE Composition. The students attend classes in Spain during this trip and are fully immersed in the Spanish language.

MOTION: Mrs. Wilczynski made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Linderman, to approve the field trip request to Spain as presented.

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

2. Approval of the 2019-2020 Budget

Mrs. Wilczynski voiced her appreciation for the answers supplied by the administration to her numerous questions regarding the budget, specifically the PreK program. She did voice concern that the implementation of the expanded PreK program was occurring too quickly.

MOTION: Dr. Goulding made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Linderman, to approve the 2019-2020 budget as presented in the amount of \$35,084,758, a 2.29% increase over the current year's budget.

VOTE: the Board voted in favor of the motion with seven Board members voting in favor and two members (Mrs. Wilczynski and Mrs. Winchell) voting against. Motion passed with a vote of seven in favor and two opposed.

3. Policy Update

Mr. Neviasher presented a change to Policy 2420 *Enrollment of Nonresident Students*, which reflected the tuition of \$10,000 for non-resident students who enroll in the PreK program.

MOTION: Mrs. Linderman made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Shoemaker, to approve the change to Policy 2420 *Enrollment of Nonresident Students* as presented.

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

4. Center School Gymnasium Floor Replacement

John Rhodes, Director of Facilities and Technology, provided the following background information on this agenda item:

The Center School gymnasium floor is scheduled to be replaced as part of the 2018/2019 facilities projects budget. The existing rubber floor was originally installed at least 30 years ago and the surface was refinished in 2004. At this point, the flooring system is at end of its life. There are a number of locations where the rubber bond to the concrete sub floor has failed. The existing floor will be removed and replaced with a poured rubber floor.

This project was publicly bid. Results are listed below:

Thor Performance Products	\$53,500
Dynamic Sports Construction	\$45,000
O'Sullivan Flooring	\$52,822
Gugliotti Associates	\$56,540

Following a scope review and reference check, it is recommended that Dynamic Sports Construction be awarded the contract to replace the existing gymnasium floor.

MOTION: Mr. Cushman made a motion, which was seconded by Dr. Powell St. Louis, to award Dynamic Sports Construction the contract to replace the Center School gymnasium floor for \$45,000.

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 on the meeting of this committee that took place earlier in the evening. The committee reviewed the five-year facilities plan, most notably the big ticket items of the replacement of the tennis courts and the irrigation system water supply project. Dr. Goulding reported that they have scheduled the replacement of the Lyme School gym floor and the HVAC system at a cost of \$435,000 for inclusion in the 2020-2021 budget.
- b. *Finance*. No report.
- c. *Communications*. This committee is working on the budget edition of the *Focus on Education* newsletter.
- d. *Policy*. This committee will meet on February 27 to work on new mandated polices.
- e. *LEARN*. Mrs. Leonardo reported that this group will meet tomorrow with the main discussion being the entrance age for kindergarten.
- f. *Prevention Coalition*. Mrs. Shoemaker reported on the January meeting of this committee. The Coalition is trying to encourage additional community involvement; their next meeting is February 19 when they will be forming focus groups and getting out the word on the work of this committee.
- g. *CABE Legislative Breakfast*. Mrs. Wilczynski reported that she attended this breakfast; discussion centered on the potential regionalization mandate and concern over the minimum budget requirements.

Mr. Neviasser reported on a summary of legislative updates related to education that the superintendents receive on a routine basis.

IX. Correspondence

Mrs. Roche updated the Board on letters received from the community concerning the budget, the preschool expansion, the birthdate requirement for preschool attendance, and the high school musical *Anything Goes*.

X. Executive Session

Mrs. Winchell made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Linderman, to move into executive session for the purpose of discussing a student discipline matter. The Superintendent was invited to attend the executive session.

XI. Adjournment

The regular meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Shoemaker, Secretary