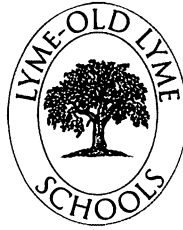


# LYME-OLD LYME SCHOOLS

*Regional School District #18*

*A Private School Experience*



*in a Public School Setting*

## **Regular Board of Education Meeting**

May 1, 2019

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

*Absent by Previous Arrangement:* Erick Cushman

*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:* Brynn McGlinchey and Emily O'Brien, High School Student Representatives; four community members from LOL

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairwoman Roche. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

MOTION: Mrs. Winchell made a motion, which was seconded by Dr. Powell St. Louis, to approve the minutes of the District Budget Hearing of April 1, 2019 and the Regular Meeting of April 3, 2019.

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

### **III. Visitors**

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

***49 Lyme Street, Old Lyme, Connecticut 06371***

***T: 860-434-7238 F: 860-434-9959 E: [neviaseri@region18.org](mailto:neviaseri@region18.org) [www.region18.org](http://www.region18.org)***

Mona Colwell read a statement voicing her opposition to the preschool expansion. Her statement is attached to these minutes for informational purposes.

Kim Thompson, an Old Lyme resident, read the following statement: *When I first heard about plans to expand the Center School Pre-K program, I was very excited about the opportunity. However, as the year has progressed, I have become increasingly concerned about the structure and speed at which the expansion was being implemented at great cost to the community. I tried to find minutes from the Pre-K expansion committee meetings to understand this process; they are not available anywhere. I've tried to find research to convince myself that this is a valuable investment for our community; I have not found any. I found the Georgetown paper that Mr. Neviasser has referenced. In the population in that study, 32% were white, 28% of mothers were never married, 12% of mothers held college degrees, and 77% of students were receiving free or reduced price lunch. The difference between the cultural and socio-economic makeup of this population and that in our community makes it inappropriate to apply the results of that study to the expansion of programs in our towns. We are lucky that the preschool program has existed in our town for 40 years, so we know which students have attended Center School preschool and how they performed in our schools as they have moved through. We're lucky that most students who start school in LOL graduate from LOL. What would convince me, and many others who are skeptical about this expensive program, that this is a valuable investment would be to see data that show that students who attended Center School preschool perform better than their peers who didn't.*

## 2. Report from Student Representatives

Brynn McGlinchey and Emily O'Brien reported on the following activities taking place at the schools:  
*At LOLHS:* This coming Sunday, seniors Casey Blue and Anna Sather will be honored at the Aqua Turf as LOLHS's CIAC scholar athletes. AP testing starts next week and will run through the third week of May. On May 11, the prom will be held at the Hanley Mansion in Mystic. The underclassmen awards night is May 16. The National Honor Society Induction takes place on May 20. The senior awards night will be held on May 28. This past Sunday, senior Mya Johnson was honored by the Connecticut Sportswriters as the 2019 Connecticut Female Athlete of the Year.

*At LOLMS:* The middle school began the month with the 8th grade choir participating in the annual district choral concert at the high school. The middle school also hosted the second installment of the Parent University series during which parents viewed a film about anxiety and participated in a question and answer session with mental health professionals. On April 11, the school celebrated Wellness Day, starting with a school-wide showing of the movie *Angst*, which was followed up by student-led break-out discussions around anxiety. After viewing and discussing the movie, students attended three workshops of their choice. Workshops included high intensity fitness, sports nutrition, vegetarian eating, and many more. The day concluded with a group of professional BMX riders putting on a show while emphasizing safety, good decisions, and physical activity. The middle school concluded their plastic recycle-a-thon with a total of 183 pounds of plastic bags collected and recycled. The school hosted a 5<sup>th</sup> grade transition evening for parents during which the families of rising 6<sup>th</sup> grade students toured the middle school and learned about the programming.

*At Lyme Consolidated School:*

- May 4: the Lyme School PTO will be holding the 4th annual golf tournament followed by the 19th hole celebration and silent auction, all at Fox Hopyard.
- May 3 and May 17: two "Town Meetings."
- The students participated in "The Pennies for Penguins" challenge from Mystic Aquarium to save the endangered African penguin. Lyme School won the contest and now we will have a special visitor on the afternoon of May 6. The Mystic Aquarium will be bringing over an African penguin as a reward for winning this contest. The students raised over \$1,200.
- May 8: the 5th grade students will celebrate Cinco de Mayo with a Spanish luncheon.
- May 9: there will be a special lunch provided by the PTO for Staff Appreciation Day.
- May 10: all of the students will participate in "Young Authors Day." Students will share their own writing in their Lyme Cares groups and then have a celebration for writing/reading in the gym. Also on May 10, the 3rd graders will be participating in the Audubon Program.
- May 15: kindergarten orientation for parents.
- May 16: 5th graders will perform their musical "Melody High."
- May 22: Mr. Ambruso, Principal of LOLMS, will be visiting the 5th graders.
- May 23: The district staff dinner.
- May 28 and 30: the 4th and 5th graders will participate in the Audubon Program.
- May 30: the 5th graders will be joining the Mile Creek 5th graders for a band and chorus concert to be held at the middle school.
- May 31: the fifth graders will have "The Talk."

*At Mile Creek School:* May is a busy month with special field trips that serve to bring closure to the math, science and social studies curriculums. Students will be visiting the Connecticut Science Center, Bushy Hill and Meigs Point Nature Centers and Roger Williams Zoo, to name a few.

May 3: School Spirit Day in honor of School Lunch Hero Day. We are very grateful for Chartwells' Staff, Alexa Mancini and Erin Miner, for their service to our school.

May 3: Taco Fiesta Café with Senora Tackett.

May 6: PTO meeting at 6:30 p.m.

May 16: PTO sponsored staff appreciation luncheon.

May 16: Incoming kindergarten parent orientation at 7 p.m.

May 23: 5th Grade concert *Rhythm of the Rails* at 2 p.m.

May 30: 5<sup>th</sup> Grade band and choral recital at LOLMS at 7 p.m.

May 31: End of the year PTO party for Dr. Downes' Retirement, 5:30-7:00 p.m. on the playground.

*In the Preschool Program:* During the month of May, the preschool will be learning about habitats, fossils and dinosaurs. They will be discussing the holidays that occur in May. Math studies will include adding and taking away. They are at the end of the alphabet for letter sounds and will be practicing the letters "W, X, Y and Z." Their literature will include many books to support the monthly themes. The celebrated artists are all of the preschool students. The older group is beginning to become excited about the end of the year celebration and moving on to kindergarten.

#### **IV. Administrative Reports**

##### **1. Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Neviaser reviewed the May personnel report. Of note: Rebecca Pote, Elementary Teacher at Lyme School, Mary Cikatz, Technology Facilitator at LOLHS, Kathryn Bartus, Nurse at LOLMS, and Mary Murray, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher at LOLMS, will be retiring at the end of the school year. The hiring process for the 2019-2020 school year has begun.

Mr. Neviaser reviewed the May enrollment report, which reflected an in-house population of 1,281, an increase of two students from last month.

Mr. Neviaser reminded the Board about the upcoming staff recognition dinner scheduled for May 23 at the Riverhouse at Goodspeed Station in Haddam.

Mr. Neviaser noted that the yearly goals, part of the superintendent's end of year review, will be discussed in executive session at the end of the regular meeting.

##### **2. Business Manager's Report**

Mrs. McCalla reviewed the Executive Budget Summary as of April 30, 2019. Fluctuations of note:

*Non-Certified Salaries:* addition of security positions.

*Employee Benefits:* timing of invoices.

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

*Support Services:* increased spending YTD on library books at Lyme School, LOLMS and Mile Creek purchased services.

*Administrative Services:* administrative technology purchases and equipment purchased services.

Mr. McCalla reviewed the Contingency Maintenance Report. There was additional spending of \$7,576 on the Lyme Consolidated School boiler repair. The remaining contingency balance is -\$45,778.

#### **V. Educational Presentation**

##### **1. Implementation of NGSS**

Michelle Dean, Director of Curriculum, gave an update on the implementation of the Next Generation Science Standards. A copy of her presentation is attached to these minutes for informational purposes.

Discussion followed the presentation and included: changes in science instruction at elementary level; middle school curriculum revision; purchase of additional equipment; funding through Title I and II for professional development and supply needs; physics instruction for all high school students; and elimination of physical science course.

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

Mrs. Roche reminded the Board about the District Budget Meeting on May 6, the referendum vote on May 7, and the staff recognition dinner on May 23. Mrs. Roche noted that the Board will discuss the

superintendent's annual review in executive session at the end of the meeting. A form will be sent to all Board members to complete regarding this review and should be returned to Mrs. Roche by May 8.

## **VII. New Business**

### **1. Grounds Upkeep and Maintenance Contract**

John Rhodes, Director of Facilities and Technology, gave the following background information on this agenda item: Through a publicly advertised competitive bid process, Mystic Lawn Care was the successful lowest qualified bidder. The bidders competed to win a three-year contract for the three school district properties. Scope of the contract includes lawn mowing and trimming, mulching, sand removal and leaf pickup. Mystic Lawn Care was the district's grounds upkeep and maintenance contractor from 2007–2016. Below is a summary list of bids received.

Tarantino Landscapes	\$233,985
Mystic Lawn Care	\$212,430

MOTION: Mrs. Shoemaker made a motion, which was seconded by Dr. Goulding, to award Mystic Lawn Care a three-year contract for the district's grounds upkeep and maintenance for \$212,430.

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

### **2. iPad Lease**

John Rhodes gave the following background information on this agenda item: as part of the school district's technology replacement program, we are replacing 210 existing iPads, which have aged out in both the regular education and special education programs. Apple applies an 11% educational discount when purchased directly from Apple. Based on this educational discount program, the district does not publicly bid Apple purchases. Lease finance charge is 3.5%. The school district can purchase the iPads for \$1 at the end of the lease.

MOTION: Mrs. Linderman made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Wilczynski, to award Apple Financial Services a three-year lease for 210 iPads for an annual cost of \$21,291.90.

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. Policy Review**

The Board reviewed and wordsmithed the following new policies, which were recommended by CABA to be included as district policy

*3541.5 Safety Complaints/Records and Reports*

MOTION: Dr. Powell St. Louis made a motion, which was seconded by Dr. Goulding, to approve Policy 3541.5 *Safety Complaints/Records and Reports* as presented.

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

*3542.22 Food Service Personnel – Code of Conduct*

MOTION: Dr. Goulding made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Shoemaker, to approve Policy 3542.22 *Food Service Personnel – Code of Conduct* with recommended changes.

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

*4212.42 Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus Drivers*

MOTION: Mrs. Winchell made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Shoemaker, to approve Policy 4212.42 *Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus Drivers* with recommended changes.

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

*5144.2 Use of Exclusionary Time Out Settings*

MOTION: Mrs. Shoemaker made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Winchell, to approve Policy 5144.2 *Use of Exclusionary Time Out Settings* with recommended changes.

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

*6161.3 Comparability of Services*

MOTION: Mrs. Winchell made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Wilczynski, to approve Policy 6161.3 *Comparability of Services* as presented.

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

*6164.11 Drugs, Tobacco, Alcohol*

MOTION: Mrs. Wilczynski made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Winchell, to approve Policy 6164.11 *Drugs, Tobacco, Alcohol* as presented.

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

*6164.12 Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)*

MOTION: Mrs. Winchell made a motion, which was seconded by Dr. Goulding, to approve Policy 6164.12 *Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)* as presented.

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

### 6171.2 *Preschool Special Education*

MOTION: Mrs. Winchell made a motion, which was seconded by Dr. Powell St. Louis, to approve Policy 6171.2 *Preschool Special Education* as presented.

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

### 6172 *Alternative Education Program*

MOTION: Mrs. Wilczynski made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Winchell, to approve Policy 6172 *Alternative Education Program* as presented.

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

### 3. Report of Committees:

- a. *Facilities*. Dr. Goulding reported on a walkthrough of the main campus that took place by this committee earlier in the evening. The fields look good due to all of the rain; the committee will follow up with a walkthrough at the end of the summer to see the benefits of the pond water that assists with the irrigation of the fields.
- b. *Finance*. No report.
- c. *Communications*. Mrs. Roche reported that this committee will be working on the next edition of the *Focus on Education* newsletter, which is published after graduation.
- d. *Policy*. Mr. Neviasser reported on the need to revisit the “dogs on school premises” policy to adjust for flexibility. Mrs. Linderman noted the need to also revise the graduation requirements policy.
- e. *LEARN*. Mrs. Leonardo reported on the interview process for the executive director vacancy. CABE is coordinating the search. Mrs. Leonardo reported that she cannot attend the next LEARN meeting; she asked the other Board members if they wanted to attend in her place.
- f. *LOL Prevention Coalition*. Mrs. Shoemaker reported that Mary Seidner is rewriting the vacancy posting for the new coordinator for the coalition. Mrs. Shoemaker also reported on the success of the *Drug Take Back Day* on April 27 when 200 pounds of medication were dropped off by community members.

### IX. Correspondence

Mrs. Wilczynski reported on a joint event between the Community Connections group and the Chamber of Commerce on May 8, *How Connecticut's Budget Woes Affect Your Organization*.

### X. Executive Session

MOTION: Dr. Goulding made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Wilczynski, to move into executive session for the purpose of discussing the Superintendent's year end evaluation. Mr. Neviasser was invited to attend the executive session.

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

**XI. Adjournment**

The regular meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m. upon a motion by Dr. Goulding and a second by Mrs. Linderman.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Shoemaker, Secretary



Four months ago, you, the Board, accepted an idea of pre-k expansion in the upcoming budget on a premise that it could work in the budget. However, you have been given misinformation about this proposed pre-k expansion.

You were told that the student population and the numbers of sections at Mile Creek were decreasing – they are not.

You were told that this was a way to avoid letting teachers go – however we now know this expansion requires increasing the number of teachers and Instructional assistants for Region 18

The data you were presented in support of pre-k expansion is not comparable to our area – there is no data to support the benefits of a 5 day, all day pre-k program for the socio-economic population in our towns.

The curriculum we have now was developed as a one on one peer based academic special needs program, so yes, we have a curriculum, but it's not one that is created for a universal pre-k program.

You were told that the local businesses are ok with the expansion, but they are not and offering free pre-k for all will put local businesses out of business, further reducing the options available to our local families so they will have to go to Old Saybrook and East Lyme for other preschool options. Where are they going to buy a house then? According to Ian Neviaser, they'll buy a house where their kids are going to preschool and that will not be in our towns.

You were told that everyone in our towns wants free pre-k for all kids – we have over 300 signatures on two petitions from people who don't want the pre-k expansion in it's current form, who are asking you as a Board to hold off on this proposal so that the program can be fully developed.

Diane Linderman and Ian Neviaser told us at the Middle School PTO meeting in March that you, as a Board, still have time to rework the Region 18 2019/2020 budget, you can remove the proposed pre-k expansion costs of \$400,000, you can adjust for the \$150,000 in insurance savings that we already know about and you can decrease the heating expenses to Region 18 by \$300,000 by taking steps to prevent heat loss in all of our buildings and offer a flat budget for the 2019/2020 school year without taking any programming away from our k-12 students.

By creating a flat budget, the current \$1.2 million increase to the taxpayers of Old Lyme will be decreased by over \$640,000.

Ian Neviaser has said that he'll keep the pre-k expansion even if the budget gets voted down – the truth is that no one in our towns wants the budget to get voted down.

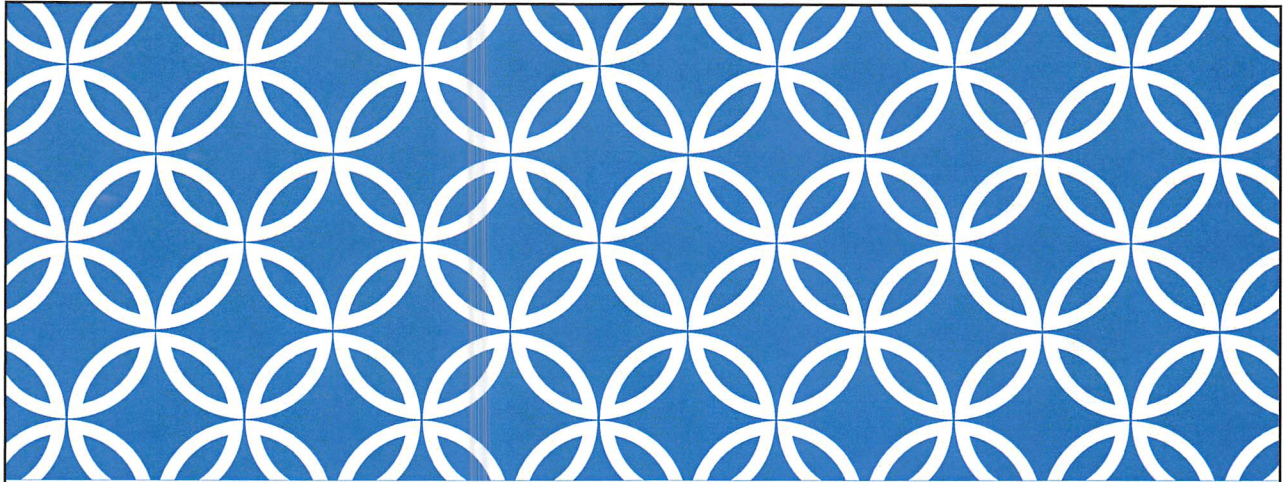
But we do want fiscal responsibility and we want you, the Board of Education, to represent us, the taxpayers. That's why you were elected. As a Board, you can take the pre-k expansion out of the budget since it was put in under false pretenses. Then you'll have time to explore how to add universal pre-k in a cost effective manner, with realistic logistics, minimal impact on the taxpayers and no negative effect on local businesses.

As a Board of Education concerned with children who may not be receiving pre-k exposure prior to kindergarten, you can change the lottery system, that we all know is not a blind lottery, to give preference to those families who have financial hardship and may not be able to afford sending their children to pre-school. We already as a community have accepted that the peer program is paid for by the taxes. So, make an adjustment to your acceptance of peers to ensure that those children most in need are taken over those who can afford to send their children to preschool.

Give us a budget that we can support on May 7<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you.

Mona Colwell



## R18 SCIENCE UPDATE

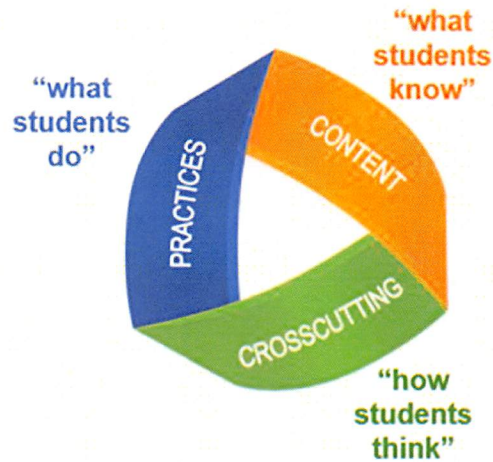
Objective: Inform BOE of current NGSS implementation status and proposed course of study at the high school.

### NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE STANDARDS (NGSS)

- 2011- National Academy of Sciences, began by developing the Framework for K–12 Science Education
- 2013 - Next Generation Science Standards released for adoption
- 2015 - Connecticut adopted the NGSS and released suggested timelines to school districts for implementation
- 2018 - Robust and continuous professional development offered across the state to support administrators and teachers in NGSS

## 3 DIMENSIONAL LEARNING

1. Balancing new content, science and engineering practices, and background knowledge.
2. Engaging students in inquiry, problem identification/solving, and critical thinking using phenomena-based units/lessons.
3. Shifting teacher roles.



## K-12 IMPLEMENTATION STATUS 2018 - 2020

- LOLHS: Full implementation of NGSS curriculums in full-year science classes; on-going PD for teachers as needed/requested; summer curriculum review/revising.
- LOLMS: NGSS 2018 unit pilot in grade 8 for curriculum selection. Full NGSS curriculum implementation 6-8 in 2019-2020 with embedded onsite PD/coaching.
- LOL Elementary Schools: First formal PD/NGSS introduction January 2018. Focus on embedding NGSS practices into current units of study; access to multiple resources aligned/designed for NGSS inquiry; NGSS steering committee 2019-2020 to choose resources/make recommendations regarding NGSS scope and sequence/PD needs.

## NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE ASSESSMENT

- Students assessed in grades 5, 8, 11
- High stakes accountability for districts
- Assesses life science, physical science, and earth/space science
- Assesses science and engineering practices
- Assumes and assesses students background knowledge and understanding of cross cutting concepts across all science content areas

[NGSS sample question grade 5 - Waves](#)

## NGSS REALIZATIONS

- 5-10 years before transition to NGSS is fully understood once implemented
- Appreciate little shifts: “2D learning is better than 1D learning”
- Aligned resources do not necessarily mean ‘designed’ resources
- Transition affects teachers, students, and parents
- NGSS requires an investment in time, people, and resources
- NGSS state assessment necessitates a closer look at high school science course sequencing



## LOLHS SCIENCE COURSE STATISTICS

45% of juniors take PHYSICS in 11<sup>th</sup> grade

90% of students take PHYSICS by the time they graduate

20% of juniors take AP CHEMISTRY or AP BIOLOGY in 11<sup>th</sup> grade

1-2 students per year take PHYSICS and an ECE/AP science course simultaneously

## HS COURSE PROPOSALS

### **Starting with the class of 2023:**

- All entering 9<sup>th</sup> graders will take BIOLOGY as their entry-level science course.

### **Starting with the class of 2024:**

- All entering 9<sup>th</sup> graders will take PHYSICS in 11<sup>th</sup> grade

2019-2020: We will work on scope/sequence for an APPLIED PHYSICS course with the goal of co-teaching opportunities between the science and technology ed. departments.