

LYME-OLD LYME SCHOOLS

Regional School District #18

A Private School Experience



in a Public School Setting

District Budget Meeting

May 6, 2019

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

Absent by Previous Arrangement: Erick Cushman; Rick Goulding

Administration Present: Ian Neviaser, Superintendent of Schools; Michelle Dean, Director of Curriculum; Holly McCalla, Business Manager

Others Present: Marilyn Warren, Moderator; Mary Jo Nosal, Old Lyme Selectwoman; 8 Community Members

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairwoman Michelle Roche. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Martha Shoemaker read the call of the meeting.

Notice is hereby given of the Annual Budget Meeting and Vote for the Regional School District No. 18 to be held at Regional School District No. 18, Board of Education Conference Room at Center School, 49 Lyme Street, Old Lyme, Connecticut at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, May 6, 2019 to act upon the following:

1. To adopt a budget of \$35,084,758 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020 as recommended by the Regional School Board.
2. To conduct such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

By vote of the Regional School District No. 18 Board of Education, the vote on item number 1 shall be by check off and paper ballots in the Towns of Lyme and Old Lyme on May 7, 2019 between the hours of 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. pursuant to Section 7-7 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Voting will take place at the following locations: in the Town of Lyme, at the Town Hall, 480 Hamburg Road, Lyme, Connecticut and in the Town of Old Lyme, at the Cross Lane Fire House, Cross Lane, Old Lyme, Connecticut.

Ian Neviaser, Superintendent of Schools

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Mrs. Linderman made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Shoemaker, to nominate Marilyn Warren as the moderator of the meeting. There were no further nominations. The vote on the motion was unanimously in favor.

Ms. Warren explained the qualifications for voting at the referendum and the specifics relative to voting in each town. The meeting was opened up for comments and questions.

Beth Sullivan, Old Lyme resident, asked for clarification regarding the staffing needs for the expanded preschool program as what was approved by the Board and what appeared in the budget was different (three teachers and six instructional assistants vs. two teachers and four instructional assistants). Mr. Neviaser explained that the Board approved a third classroom for tuition students should there be sufficient requests from out of town residents for this program. The additional staffing for this classroom would have been funded by the tuition charged. Currently, there are not enough tuition students to fill a third classroom.

Kim Thompson, Old Lyme resident, asked how many students were currently registered for the expanded PreK classrooms and the cutoff for adding a third classroom. Mr. Neviaser reported that there are currently 27 registered with only one of the 27 registered being a tuition request; therefore, the likelihood of a third classroom is minimal.

Mona Colwell, noting that the middle school music teacher's full-time status has been approved by the Board, asked why the proposed budget did not reflect that. Mr. Neviaser explained the budgeting process noting that the communities vote on a number that is proposed to meet the budgeting needs for the next school year. He further explained that the budget number is a best guestimate at the time it is developed and that they don't go back and change the number when changes occur after the Board approves it. He cited other examples of changes that occur after the budget is approved such as health insurance, retirements, etc. Any monies not expended during a school year are returned as a credit to the towns.

Mona Colwell asked about the total number of students that will be served in the preschool for 2019-2020 school year (3 and 4 year olds). Mr. Neviaser reported that approximately 77 children will be served in this program next year.

There were no further comments or questions from the public.

The District Budget Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m. to referendum the following day at the Lyme Town Hall and the Cross Lane Fire House in Old Lyme from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. upon a motion by Mrs. Roche and a second by Dr. Powell St. Louis.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Shoemaker, Secretary