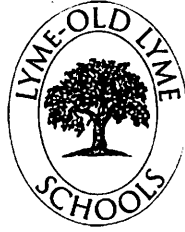


# LYME-OLD LYME SCHOOLS

*Regional School District #18*

*A Private School Experience*



*in a Public School Setting*

## **Regular Board of Education Meeting**

March 3, 2021

*Board Present:* Diane Linderman, Chair; Martha Shoemaker, Vice Chair; Steven Wilson, Secretary; Stacey Leonardo; Mary Powell St. Louis; Suzanne Thompson

*Present Via Telephone:* Jennifer Miller; Jean Wilczynski

*Absent by Previous Arrangement:* Rick Goulding

*Administration Present:* Ian Neviaser, Superintendent of Schools; Mark Ambruso, Principal of Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School; James Cavaliere, Principal of Lyme Consolidated School; Michelle Dean, Director of Curriculum; Melissa Dougherty, Director of Special Services; Holly McCalla, Business Manager; Jeanne Manfredi, Assistant Principal of Lyme-Old Lyme High School; Ron Turner, 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:* Isabella Hine and Ellery Zrenda, High School Student Representatives

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

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

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

MOTION: Dr. Powell St. Louis made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Leonardo, to approve the minutes of Special Meeting and Regular Meeting of February 3, 2021 as presented.

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

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### III. Visitors

#### 1. Report from Student Representatives

Isabella Hine and Ellery Zrenda reported on the following activities taking place at the schools:

*At LOLHS:* The Art Department once again is making its mark on the art world. In this year's Scholastic Art Competition, LOLHS students took home four of the eight Gold Keys awarded in the state. Gold and Silver Keys were won in drawing, mixed media, ceramics and glass. Only four portfolios from the State of Connecticut are being sent to the national competition. Two of the four are from Old Lyme. Senior Connie Pan was awarded the Gold Key for the best portfolio in the state. Connie Pan also has been named as a National Merit Finalist. The Mock Trial team finished the virtual trial season as the third best team in the state. This is the fourth year in a row that the team has placed in the top three. Senior Kate Cheney was named the state's Most Outstanding Attorney. On March 24, the juniors will take the SAT's, and the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders will take the PSAT's. Congratulations were extended to Leslie Traver from the Business Department who was named the 2020-2021 Cybersecurity Teacher of the Year.

*At LOLMS:* At the middle school, winter sports have begun with both boys and girls basketball starting as well as the winter running club. New clubs are starting up in the next few weeks including the pottery club and girls volleyball. Under the direction of art teacher Thelma Halloran, and in collaboration with the ELA and Social Studies teachers, students researched and completed an informational and artistic cube that documented the accomplishments of black Americans. The individual cubes were assembled to create a school-wide mural in celebration of Black History Month. To celebrate Read Across America Day, the 8th grade students recorded book readings for the preschoolers. Most recently, high school students zoomed with individual grade-levels to talk about social media use. We continue to focus on helping students learn how to navigate social media in a kind and respectful way.

*At Lyme Consolidated School:* On February 12, the students at Lyme School participated in Healthy Heart Day. The students raised a total of \$8,610 for the American Heart Association. On March 2, the students celebrated Read Across America Day. Students and staff wore their pajamas and brought their favorite stuffed animal to school. The entire day was full of rich reading activities. A big thank you to Margaret Dewey, media specialist, for putting together such a fabulous day of reading. This year's CAS Elementary Arts Celebration will honor two fifth-grade students for this special award: Addy Morosky for the visual arts and Renee Viera for the performing arts. This event will be held on March 30 with the students; their parents; Jennifer Pitman, art teacher; and Melissa Rostkoski, music teacher, attending the virtual celebration. Starting on March 3, students in grades 3, 4 and 5 will begin to use the cafeteria for lunch. Each grade level has their own scheduled time. The next virtual Town Meeting will be held on March 19. Four fifth-grade boys, who belong to Cub Scout Pack 32, organized a school-wide food drive for the Shoreline Soup Kitchen in Old Lyme. The Lyme School students donated 616 pounds of non-perishable food items. Many thanks to Colin Discordia, Alistair Hampton-Dowson, Holden Leonardo and Charles McEwen.

*At Mile Creek School:* On March 2, students celebrated Read Across America Day. The students wore stripes in honor of Dr. Seuss, had guest readers, engaged in a door decorating contest, and had “drop everything and read time” in each classroom. At each grade level, students engaged in a variety of additional activities related to the celebration of reading. Last week two fifth grade students were chosen to be the 2021 Elementary Celebration of the Arts Award Recipients. Each year two students are chosen from the fifth-grade class for this special honor based on outstanding ability in the performing or visual arts, as well as maintaining a high level of citizenship and cooperative skills. This year’s recipients are Noah Brant for the visual arts and Jonah Filardi for the performing arts. On March 30, they will participate in a celebration with their parents; Steven Ernst, music teacher; and Joya Helander, art teacher.

*In the Preschool Program:* This month the preschool themes are Dr. Seuss, St. Patrick’s Day and spring. Preschool participated in the Read Across America Day on March 2 with virtual recorded stories read by 8<sup>th</sup> grade students from LOLMS. Students will be learning about the letters P, Q, R and S, the color white and the shape of a diamond. Math will focus on the study of robots to teach counting, shapes and patterns. Students will be studying space and learning more about cultural celebrations. March 17 is Please Wear Green Day, and rumor has it the leprechaun will be back at Center School playing tricks on the students and teachers. Hopefully, the preschool will catch him this year in their fabulous handmade traps. World Down Syndrome Day is March 21 and, through generous donations, classrooms will receive a book to read and all students will receive colorful socks to wear to recognize the day.

## 2. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

## IV. Administrative Reports

### 1. Superintendent’s Report

Mr. Neviaser reviewed the March personnel report which reflected several vacancies and the resignation of a maintenance worker and an instructional assistant.

Mr. Neviaser reviewed the March enrollment report which reflected an in-house population of 1,302 students, an increase of seven students from last month this time.

Mr. Neviaser reported that they are in the midst of preparing the budget edition of the *Focus on Education* newsletter for mailing out to the community. Mr. Neviaser and the business manager, Holly McCalla, are also in the process of presenting the budget to the Boards of Finance in both towns.

Per policy 3280, Mr. Neviaser reported and thanked the Old Lyme Rowing Association for their donation of a 2006 Vespoli gold racing single for the crew program.

The month of March is Connecticut Board of Education Member Appreciation Month. Mr. Neviaser recognized the Board members for their dedicated service to the communities.

Mr. Neviaser gave an update on the progress towards the district goals.

Curriculum. *Provide a rigorous educational experience for students, in all modes of instruction (remote or in-person), that is in alignment with the high standards and expectations of the communities we serve.* Very cognizant of efforts that staff have put forth so there are no new initiatives per se based on staff survey results.

English Language Learners consultation through LEARN at the high school is continuing.

Blended learning training through LEARN – invitations sent to all new teachers, mentors and department leaders.

Preparing for Professional Development Day on March 12

Human Resources. *Provide additional support for staff to ensure existing and new employees have the resources necessary to perform the duties of their jobs at the highest level possible.*

Supporting staff for herculean efforts for both in-school and remote teaching.

Cupcake truck provided for staff enjoyment on March 12.

End of year celebration for staff in lieu of staff recognition dinner is being planned. Mr. Neviaser recommended school end for students on Friday, June 18, and hold staff celebratory luncheon on Monday, June 21.

Community. *Support the social emotional needs of students and staff, with emphasis on self-care and community responsibility during this time of uncertainty.*

Planning for end of year events and trying to keep it as “normal” as possible: renting tent for graduation, NHS induction, senior reception, end of year celebrations, etc.

Appreciation of staff in the form of donations of gifts or services from the community being considered.

Facilities. *Monitor and evaluate five-year facility, safety, and technology plans to ensure appropriate improvements and maintenance of buildings, grounds, and infrastructure in line with recommendations from the DPH and the CSDE.*

Met with another representative from a company that has experience with Brockfil composite for turf field.

Met with Kevin Fuselier of Milone and MacBroom to review the planning of the turf field construction. Gym floor at Lyme Consolidated School is complete; pictures will be included in the next edition of the *Focus on Education* newsletter.

Met with representative from Fuss and O’Neill (environmental engineer) regarding possible effect of runoff from turf field to surrounding water systems; opinion is that there is no need for testing as there is a natural system in place to catch runoff. A formal opinion on this matter is forthcoming.

Board of Education. *Provide resources to support students and staff through a variety of different means during this time of uncertainty.*

Negotiations with AFT union completed.

Support for February vacation - nice break for mental health and airing of buildings.

Budget process continuing.

Mrs. Miller commended all involved in the recent negotiations with the AFT union. She also commended the staff, administration and Board of Ed for the proper planning that took place last summer which led to full in-person learning during the entire 2020-2021 school year. Mr. Wilson also commended the Superintendent for his leadership during a successful school year of in-person learning.

Mr. Neviasser reported that many staff are getting vaccinated now that Ledge Light Health District has provided a vaccination signup solely for educators beginning this weekend at Foxwoods.

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

Mrs. McCalla reviewed the Executive Budget Summary as of February 28, 2021. She noted that spending year to date is on track with last year to date. She reminded the Board that these numbers do not yet include the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) Grant reimbursement of \$343,000.

Fluctuations of note:

Salaries: includes February 26, 2021 payroll which was not included in last year to date.

Special Education: lower year over year placement costs.

Transportation: billing differential due to collapsed/reduced routes.

Debt Service: due to refunding from January 2020 and payment movement to August.

## **Year To Date Revenue Report**

	2019-2020 Received	2020-2021 Received YTD
Town of Old Lyme	\$27,556,679	\$17,426,770
Town of Lyme	\$6,579,421	\$4,032,251

Mrs. McCalla reviewed the Contingency Maintenance Report. There was \$20,170 in new spending for the campus water treatment plant. The balance is currently \$130,902.

## **V. Educational Presentation**

### **1. Technology Update**

Michelle Dean, Director of Curriculum, gave a presentation on curricular integration of technology. This report included information on the various learning management systems; the use of Zoom; external tools and innovations; pedagogy; and ISTE Standards for students and teachers. A copy of this presentation is attached to these minutes for informational purposes.

## **VI. Chairman & Committee Reports**

Mrs. Linderman asked the Board to share their thoughts on how to best honor the Lyme-Old Lyme staff at the end of the school year. There was much support for Mr. Neviasser's recommendation to hold a staff celebration luncheon on June 21 under a tent which will be rented and on school grounds for the high school graduation.

Report of Committees:

- a. *Facilities*. Discussion ensued on the hiring of Fuss & O'Neill to study the runoff from the artificial turf field and possible water treatment solutions.
- b. *Finance*. No report.
- c. *Communications*. Bridget Compagno, Director of Communications and Marketing, is working on student recruitment and digital advertising initiatives.
- d. *Policy*. No report.
- e. *LEARN*. Mrs. Linderman reported on LEARN's expansion to their Ocean Avenue facility. She also noted that LEARN is assisting area districts with technology needs.
- f. *LOL Prevention Coalition*. Mrs. Shoemaker reported that a task force has been formed to discuss the possible legalization of marijuana in the State of Connecticut. Mrs. Shoemaker also reported on a community conversation scheduled for March 9 at 7:00 p.m. (via Zoom) with the featured speaker being John Daviau, a Community Psychologist and Prevention Specialist. The subject of the meeting is "What is Today's Pot?...A Community Conversation about Marijuana and Our Youth." Mrs. Shoemaker also reported that over 30 community members participated in last month's Prevention Coalition meeting. Mrs. Linderman noted that one of the benefits of Zoom meetings seems to be higher attendance due to the convenience of attending the meeting from home.
- g. *Sustainability*. Mrs. Miller gave the following progress update of this committee:
  - Education Workstream
    - Greenleaf school certification fall 2021
    - Opportunities for progressive clubs from elementary through high school
    - Increased marketing of common awareness principles
  - Renewables Workstream
    - Exciting times for electric vehicle buses within 2-5 years
    - How to incorporate additional curriculum
  - 4Rs Workstream
    - Skip the Straw Day February 26
    - 2200 lbs. of plastic film collected and delivered to Trex for composite decking materials
    - Old Lyme Big Y is our partner – they have agreed to continue to accept our film throughout the year and Trex will count our weights through next year – so let's keep going.

**VII. New Business**

1. Healthy Food Certification

The following background information was provided on this agenda item: [Section 10-215f](#) of the Connecticut General Statutes requires that each local board of education or governing authority for all Connecticut public school districts participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) must take action annually to certify whether all food items sold to students will or will not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards. This includes all NSLP public schools, regional educational service centers, the Connecticut Technical High School System, charter schools, inter-district magnet schools and endowed academies.

**MOTION:** Mrs. Thompson made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Wilson, that pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources including, but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or by non-school organizations and groups.

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

**MOTION:** Mr. Wilson made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Leonardo, that the board of education or governing authority will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held.

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

## **2. AFT Contract**

Mr. Neviaser reviewed the changes to the AFT contract that have been tentatively agreed upon by both the AFT and Negotiations Committee. He noted that changes to the contract are budgeted. The AFT will vote on the contract on March 12.

Several Board members who were involved in the AFT negotiations commended the process and all those involved and thanks were extended to all participants.

**MOTION:** Mrs. Miller made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Shoemaker, to approve the AFT contract for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024 as presented.

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

## **3. Policy Review and Update**

Mr. Neviaser reported that the Policy Committee is recommending two policy updates (Title I and Special Education) based on CAFE’s latest guidance. The Board reviewed the recommended policies. As this was

a first read of these policies, Board action was not required. The second reading of these policies will take place at the April meeting.

#### 4. Water System Administrator Contract

Ron Turner, Director of Facilities and Technology, gave the following background information on this agenda item: Whitewater is the current provider of onsite and remote support for the water systems at the main campus and Lyme school and has been under contract with the District in this capacity for approximately six years.

For the above value, \$18,433.84 is applied to water, and \$53,787.21 is applied to wastewater.

The staff of Whitewater are very familiar with the buildings and systems, and they have been extremely responsive and efficient during their weekly inspections and calls for service.

This contract keeps the same compensation from the current five-year plan and after the escalation terms in the current contract, the value at year five will be \$83,420.52. The value of the contract is in the anticipated range for the current budget and was appropriately included in the 21/22 FY budget.

MOTION: Mrs. Thompson made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Leonardo, to award Whitewater, Inc. a five-year service contract to continue to provide water system administration and waste water oversight for the District for the cost of \$72,221.05 annually and to waive the bidding process.

The Board discussed the contract. Mr. Turner explained why he was recommending waiving the bidding process due to the good standing this company has with the district and quality of work performed.

Due to the original motion not including the pricing detail over the five-year contract, the motion was amended by Mrs. Thompson, which was seconded by Mrs. Leonardo:

AMENDED MOTION: to award Whitewater, Inc. a five-year service contract to continue to provide water system administration and waste water oversight as presented and to waive the bidding process.

VOTE: the Board voted in favor of the motion with all voting in favor with the exception of Mrs. Miller who opposed the motion. Motion passed 7-1.

#### 5. 2021-2022 Budget

Mr. Neviaser explained that due to significant savings in the health insurance line item for next year (10% reduction), the 2021-2022 budget now reflects an increase of .73% (reduced from 1.95%) for a total budget of \$34,966,548. This new figure would require Board approval. Mr. Neviaser noted that the district's membership in the Eastern Connecticut Health and Medical Cooperative was a big factor in the decline in health insurance costs.

Mr. Neviaser reviewed the following information on the proposed 2021-2022 budget:



Comparisons of the district's increase (0.73%) vs. those of surrounding towns. Asterisk denotes declining enrollment.

Old Saybrook *	0.26%
Guilford *	1.49%
Madison *	1.40%
Waterford *	1.55%
Westbrook	3.17%
East Lyme	4.05%
Stonington	8.9%

#### Historical Perspective

2019-2020	\$35,084,758	
2020-2021	\$34,711,631	-1.06
2021-2022	\$34,966,548	-0.34

The change over two years (from 2019-2020 to 2021-2022) is - \$118,210 or - 0.34%.

#### History

- Since 2012, the average budget increase has been 1.43%.
- During that same time period, the district returned an average of \$757,245 to the towns. This amounts to roughly 2.2% of the annual budget.
- In terms of expenditures, this means that the district has been averaging a NEGATIVE 0.77% budget annually.

*(Numbers above do not include the proposed 2021-2022 budget.)*

Impact to Towns = 0.6% shift in percent of total census for billing from Lyme to Old Lyme due to shift in enrollment. Because of refund from fund balance, the net billings to the towns will have a negative budget impact relative to billing.

MOTION: Mrs. Wilczynski made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Thompson, to revise and approve the 2021-2022 budget of \$34,966,548 (.73% increase).

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.

#### IX. Executive Session

There was no need for an executive session.

**X. Adjournment**

The regular meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m. upon a motion by Mr. Wilson and a second by Mrs. Shoemaker.

Respectfully submitted,

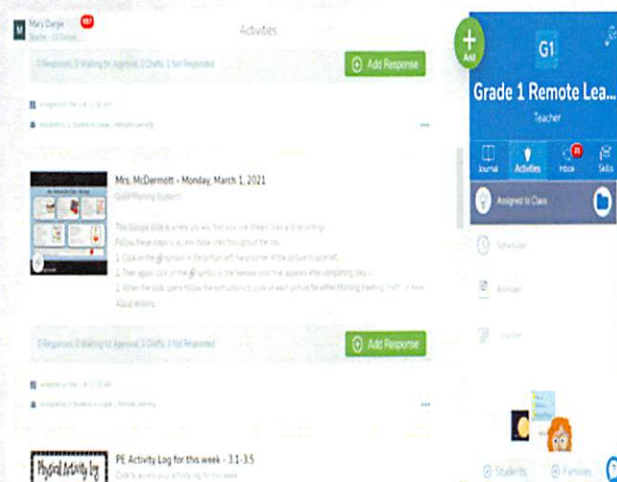
Steven Wilson, Secretary

# Region 18

## Curricular Integration of Technology

### Learning Management Systems

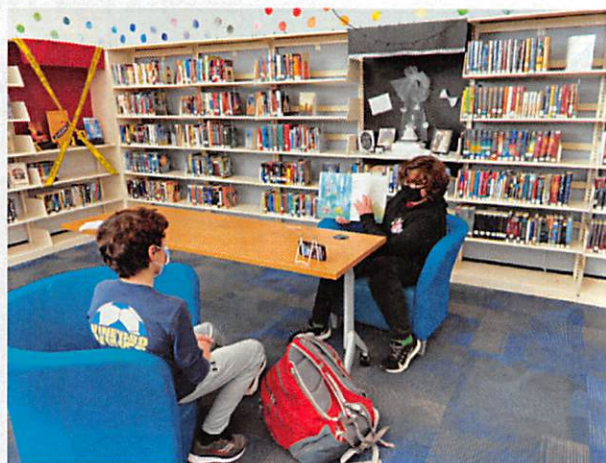
- Coursework/live links/recordings
- Seamless sharing of documents in Google Classroom
- Discussion boards, quizzing and importing of grades to Power School
- Embedded/compatible tools / resources
- Use of K-5 Remote Learning Classrooms
- Increased student and staff fluency and transferable skills



## Keeping it Real: Using Zoom

- Video recording/conferencing
- Small group instruction/Reading groups
- Connections between live/remote students
- Break out room discussions
- Polls, chat boxes, screen shares
- Counseling/Parent, student college planning meetings
- Class meetings/extra curricular

### 8th Grade Pre-School Reading Buddies



## External Tools and Innovations

- Virtual Reality trips
- Jamboard
- Pear Deck
- Desmos
- Kami
- Padlet
- iMovie
- Simulation APPs
- Adobe products
- GeoGebra

### Virtual REality Goggles





## Pedagogy

- Flipped Classroom
- Station Learning/lab rotations
- Real time monitoring of student work/progress
- Increased opportunities for immediate feedback for learning
- Increased opportunities to turn data into information
- Transformational teaching/learning

## GeoGebra Graphing Calculator Lesson



## ISTE Standards - for Students (*and* Teachers)

### How have the ISTE Standards for Students evolved?

