

LYME-OLD LYME SCHOOLS

Regional School District #18

A Private School Experience



in a Public School Setting

Regular Board of Education Meeting

June 2, 2021

Board Present: Diane Linderman, Chair; Martha Shoemaker, Vice Chair; Jean Wilczynski, Treasurer; Steven Wilson, Secretary; Rick Goulding; Stacey Leonardo; Jennifer Miller; Mary Powell St. Louis; Suzanne Thompson

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; Kelly Enoch, Principal of Mile Creek School; 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; 75 Community Members from LOL

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Chairwoman Linderman. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

II. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Mrs. Shoemaker made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Miller, to approve the minutes of District Budget Meeting of May 3, 2021; Regular Meeting of May 5, 2021; and Executive Session of May 5, 2021.

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

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III. Visitors

1. Invention Convention Honors

Nila Kaczor and William Eydman, Gifted and Talented Teachers, and Dennis Powers, a representative of the Mentoring Corp for Community Development, recognized the following students for their entries in the Invention Convention:

Regional Winners from Mile Creek

Noah Brant with his invention “Earth Quack”

Will McKeever with his invention “The Bass Choice”

Regional Winners from Lyme Consolidated

Cordsen Enman with his invention “The Lego Sweeper”

Noah Rocha with his invention “Fits Like a Glove”

Jonah Scheckwitz with his invention “Cooleo Mask”

Regional Winner from Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School

John Farrell with his invention “Elderberries”

Regional and State Winners from Mile Creek

Lucy Barndt with her invention “Troo Walk”

Woody Goss with his invention “Rapid Rubbish Remover”

Clarissa Mock with her invention the “IMP - Insulated Mobile Pizza Box”

All three students received the Recognized Inventor’s Award at the state level

Regional and State Winners from Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School

Warren Volles with his invention “RenLuft” where he received the Lincoln Financial Foundation Award

CJ Zapatka with his invention “Nail Safely” where he received the Connecticut Safety Society Award

Regional and State Winners who also received an invitation to represent Region 18 at the National Level from Mile Creek

Charlotte Thuma with her invention “The Ornament Arm” where she received the Recognized Inventor Award, the Category Award and U.S. Nationals Invitation

Avery Zbierski with her invention, “QCSR - Quick Cooker Steam Redirector” where she received the Recognized Inventor Award and U.S. Nationals Invitation

Congratulations were also extended to all who participated in this yearly event.

Mile Creek 5th Grade Students

Lucy Barndt

Noah Brant

Woody Goss

Will McKeever

Clarissa Mock
Charlotte Thuma
Avery Zbierski

Lyme Consolidated 5th Grade Students

Cord Enman
Noah Rocha
Jonah Scheckwitz

Middle School 7th Grade Students

John Farrell
Warren Volles
CJ Zapatka

2. CAS Scholar Leader Award

Mark Ambruso, Principal of Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School, presented the Connecticut Association of Schools' Scholar Leader Award to Middle School students Kathleen Walsh and Simon Karpinski. This award recognizes two students from each middle level school in Connecticut who has distinguished herself/himself in scholarship and leadership in school and community. Mr. Ambruso spoke to the various accomplishments of these two students. The students were presented with plaques and congratulated by the Board.

3. History Day Presentation

Jaime Ottaviano and William Eydman, Middle School Teachers, explained that participation in the National History Day Project is completely voluntary and requires a high level of independence and self-motivation. The theme this year focuses on, "Communication in History: The Key to Understanding." Students choose a historical topic related to the annual theme and then conduct primary and secondary research. The project can be presented in one of five ways: Museum-Style Exhibit, Documentary, Website, Performance or Paper.

The following students were recognized for their efforts on the National History Day Project: Kate Walsh*, Simon Karpinski*, Natalie Brandt*, Ada Laconti*, Olivia Kelly, Kanon Ohara, Audrey Speigel, Kelly Sheehan, Nola Slubowski, Marc Burnham, Andrew Clougherty, Kaela Hoss and Drea Simler.

**Competing in National Competition*

4. Lions Club Presentation of LOLHS Scholarships and LOLMS Peace Poster Contest Winner
Beverly Lewis and Phil Parcak, representing the Lyme-Old Lyme Lion's Club, recognized four LOLHS students for their academic prowess, athleticism and community service accomplishments. The following students were presented with \$1,500 scholarships: Lauren Wallace, Megan Cravinho, Connie Pan and Eveliz Fuentes.

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Michael Kolar, a member of the Lion's Club, and Thelma Halloran, Art Teacher at LOLMS, recognized middle school students Hoshena Gemme (1st place) and Katherine Zhang (honorable mention) for their entries in the International Peace Poster Contest.

5. VFW Presentation to 2020-2021 Teacher of the Year

Richard Mason, Student Services Committee Chair of the Old Lyme VFW Post 1467, and David Griswold, VFW Commander, presented their annual Teacher of the Year award to the 2020-2021 Teacher of the Year Jonathan Goss. Mr. Mason spoke to the many accomplishments of Jonathan and presented him with a certificate and \$200 to be used towards a project or application in his name as approved by the VFW.

6. Recognition of Retirees

The following staff members, who are retiring in June, were recognized by the Board for their years of service to the district:

Kelly, Craddock, 4th Grade Teacher at Mile Creek School, 38 years of service

Steven Ernst, Music Teacher at Mile Creek School, 21 years of service

Mary Pope, Speech Pathologist at Center School, 15 years of service

Jill Ressler, English Teacher at Lyme-Old Lyme High School, 16 years of service

Kelly Enoch, Principal of Mile Creek School, and Noah Ventola, Assistant Principal of LOLMS, spoke to the many accomplishments of the retirees and each was presented with a gift and framed certificate.

7. Report from Student Representatives

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

At LOLHS: Seniors begin final exams this Friday; underclassmen begin their exams on June 14. Senior awards night will take place on June 3. June 5 is the prom. June 9 is the senior banquet. Graduation will be held on June 11. The senior class would like to thank the Board of Education for its support for the tent. This has made it possible to hold many of the events that, if held inside, would have to be cancelled. Today was EGO Day. The 8th graders had a tour of the high school, participated in a discussion panel and joined the high school students for lunch. The girls tennis team will play in the states on June 3.

At LOLMS: We are wrapping up the school year at the middle school. The middle school athletes had a very successful spring sports season with the completion of baseball, softball and track with over 130 student-athletes participating. The band students held their first concert of the year performing outside for families, while the 7th and 8th grade band represented the middle school in the annual Memorial Day Parade. Band students will also perform for the senior center on June 9. The 8th grade students went to the high school today for their annual orientation as the final part of their transition. The whole school enjoyed an ice cream social today, as well as including the current 9th graders, to help bring closure for that cohort. The 8th graders will have a barbeque next week as they get an opportunity to sign their yearbooks. On June 16, each grade will get to experience field day, and we will say goodbye to the 8th graders at the promotion ceremony on June 18.

At Lyme Consolidated School: Students in grades 3, 4 and 5 finished up the SBAC testing on May 20; students in grades 3 and 4 took the OLSAT test today. The results from both assessments help determine eligibility for the GAT/E program. Circus Week was a huge success thanks to Bonnie Ambruso and all the 5th grade performers. The fifth graders displayed their newly acquired circus skills at the week ending final performance. This event was held outside on Friday morning, allowing all students and the parents of the fifth graders to attend. On June 1, a Spanish fiesta was held for the fifth graders. Thanks were extended to Michele Tackett for providing this cultural experience. On June 3, the fifth graders will be performing their musical *It's Saturday* virtually. The annual fifth grade field trip will look differently this year; they will spend the day at Camp Hazen doing a wide range of activities. Field Day is scheduled for June 10, and the fifth grade ceremony will be held on June 17.

At Mile Creek School: During the month of May, and continuing into June, students have experienced virtual field trips including those to the zoo and Mystic Aquarium. The second grade students had an outdoor visit from the Connecticut River Museum staff. Kindergarten students will be taking a trip to White Sands Beach. Second grade students will attend an Author's Day Celebration on June 16. State testing has been completed, and students in grades 3 and 4 will take the OLSAT test this week. Results from this test assist in determining eligibility for the GAT/E program. On Friday, all students will participate in a virtual Summer Learning Pep Rally. The guest speaker for the rally is Rob Surette, a speed-painter and public speaker known for inspiring audiences with his paintings and motivational messages. Next week events at Mile Creek include Spirit Week and Field Day. Fifth grade students have a lot of special events coming up including their class picnic, the fifth-grade musical, and their promotion ceremony. Last week students in fifth grade had their end of the year fiesta with Senora Tackett. Many thanks to Mrs. Tackett for providing this fun, cultural experience for students.

In the Preschool Program: Preschool will spend the last few weeks of school reviewing all their successes and learning. Students will study the lifecycle of plants and read many books to support the theme. The preschoolers have already visited the big tent where their end of the year preschool celebration will take place on June 16. The students in preschool had a fabulous year and thank everyone for keeping them safe and learning.

The student representatives were presented with a gift for their service at the monthly Board meetings and wished the best as they graduate from Lyme-Old Lyme High School.

Bella Hine made the following statement to the Board of Ed: *Ellie and I both just wanted to say thank you for supporting our education over the past 13 years. Being student representatives here on the Board of Education has opened our eyes to the important role the Board of Education plays in supporting our teachers and students. Thank you for this opportunity to be student representatives and learn and grow in this position.*

8. Public Comment

Christina Steiner read the following statement advocating that mask wearing not be mandated:

We "Hope" they come off soon, is not enough in regards to when these masks can come off our kids. I firmly believe that my son's social and emotional well-being is on the line. So, I hope you can understand why I need better answers than that. I'd like to understand how these determinations for masks are being made and what scientific evidence will be looked at to make the determinations. If transmission rates remain low, is Region 18 willing to say masks aren't required? What number is low enough to keep the masks off? And, what number would be high enough to require use again? Or, is this all going to be up to DPH to create guidance (which by the way, has no regulatory bearing). And, DPH has explicitly written back and said that these decisions should be determined locally. So, they have passed the buck to Region 18.

To date, despite numerous requests of our government officials, no one has pointed to any scientific numbers or evidence for masking kids. It's purely "public safety" and "the kids aren't vaccinated" and "Governor Lamont says" types of responses. Yet, that was not the goalpost until it was the goalpost. I am sick of hearing responses like that, and don't think it's unreasonable to ask for some metrics and dates that people can be accountable to uphold as to when these masks come off our kids. When the pandemic was at its height, any risk of potential social and emotional problems was outweighed with the risk of vulnerable adults catching COVID and the need to keep our children in school safely. However, those risks have severely diminished, as most parents and teachers are now vaccinated if they want to be. It's time to pay attention to the other factors at play here and do what's best for our kids. For some parents, that will be continuing to mask their children until a vaccine is approved for the younger population. For others, they will choose to remove the mask and feel safe regardless of vaccines being available for their kids. And quite frankly, either decision should be respected. This should be a parent's decision as we know what is best for our child. Not to mention, we have no guarantee that this vaccine will be approved for use in children. So, if it's not, what happens? Do our kids just stay masked forever because they aren't eligible to receive a vaccine? This all seems a little silly. I'd like to more fully understand how these decisions will be made and what information gets taken into consideration as they are made.

Chelsea Yester, a parent of a preschool student, read the following statement advocating no mask wearing at the preschool level when school begins again in the fall:

My name is Chelsea Yester, and I am a soon to be mother of three with my youngest in PreK. I am 100% in favor of ceasing mask mandates for the fall 2021 school year regardless of vaccination status or eligibility. Many local parents, most who are afraid to speak up and go against the grain, have reported children with increased anxiety and behavioral issues from the masks. In addition, everyone saying "children are handling it so well" do not understand that the little ones have not yet developed the part of their brain that is able to communicate things like, "I'm nauseous, I'm exhausted, I'm feeling unwell" or anxious due to masks. They just act up, mostly at home! Or, like my poor daughter, end up with major meltdowns as soon as she gets back into my car. As a registered nurse, I am knowledgeable about viruses and their survival rates as well as their contagion factors...why, I ask, are we forcing these kids to hide smiles, expressions, laughter with a piece of cloth which is half the time being worn improperly and

ultimately just a show piece for others to feel safe?

I would like to wrap up with the most recent bill signed by our president: “Any person who declines to wear a mask or face covering because of a medical condition shall be exempt from this order and any requirement to wear masks in Sector Rules or other rules issued by the Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD), but only if such person provides written documentation that the person is qualified for the exemption from a licensed medical provider, the Department of Developmental Services or other state agency that provides or supports services for people with emotional, intellectual or physical disabilities, or a person authorized by any such agency. Such documentation need not name or describe the condition that qualifies the person for the exemption.” Notice this bill does not state a primary care physician or medical doctor must be the one to issue such an exemption. At the beginning of the school year, I asked the school district and nurse to provide a medical exemption form for masks and I was told there was none. When I then asked again recently, I was told there is still no form and was questioned as to why my daughter (who appeared to be fine in a mask during school) suddenly would need one? Not only is this private medical information but it shows our district’s lack of preparedness in dealing with this situation. Although I am urging you to use common sense regarding this age group and masks for fall of 2021, I am also informing you that my daughter will be attending without a mask, and a letter of exemption if absolutely necessary, regardless of vaccination status. Please consider that many others in our district will be taking this route when making your decisions regarding masks for this coming school year.

Mrs. Linderman noted that there would be Board discussion later in the meeting on the American Recovery Plan as the district is required under this plan to submit a Safe Return to In-Person Instruction to the State Department of Education by June 23. The district’s recommendation in the plan is to only require masks for all students, staff and visitors should public health measures dictate such a need. Absent the necessity for such, no masks will be required.

Rachael Maginess (via Zoom) advocated for following the recommendations of the Department of Public Health and to adjust to what is happening in the fall regarding decisions on whether to mandate masks and not make decisions at this point in time.

Ellen Calkins (via Zoom) commended the school district for their involvement in the Witness Stone Project.

The following were submitted as public comment but the community members were not present at the meeting but asked that their comments be made part of the record:

My name is Sarah Chard and my son is only 3 and was waitlisted for the 3 year old preschool, so he won’t be attending LOL schools next school year. But he will be in preK the following year, 2022. Masks need to be removed or determined to be completely optional especially for the younger children and their educators. Facial expression is a lot of a youngster’s communication. At such a young age, wearing a

facial covering (in my opinion) can desensitize a child from understanding common non-verbal communication. My son has no problem wearing a mask for short periods of time. But I fear what it will do to him in the long run not seeing people he isn't familiar with smile at him or see smiles of approval from teachers and classmates. It is important for teachers and classmates to be able to communicate with facial expressions, such as a stern look for a child doing something that is not okay or a large smile for a job well done. No one has hard data on the impact of facial coverings in young children's non-verbal communication. And it truly worries me. For example, children are taught to use smile faces, frown faces or a grimace to express how much something hurts at the doctor's office. Children need to be exposed to non-verbal communication from more than just their "bubble" at home. I hope the board of education takes this concern into consideration when determining how the LOL school district will handle the mask mandates in the future. Thank you for your time. Sarah Chard

My name is Annette Hubbard. I moved to Old Lyme 10 years ago. We chose this town based on the school system. We did some research on different towns and decided that Old Lyme fit our needs and what we wanted in the educational development of our children: having the board of education, the teachers and staff, and all the employees that always have the children's best interest at heart. I believe that keeping our children masked any further would be a detriment to them and of zero benefit. I have 3 children currently in the school system, one who is in pre-K and off to kindergarten, one who is in 2nd grade and my oldest who is currently a junior. My junior started her first day of school last year and opted to remote learn because there was no way she was wearing a mask all day. Her returning to school in the fall with her class will directly fall in the decision made by you, the board of education. If the mask mandate is not lifted, she will probably opt to have her last year as a homeschool student. She will miss all the senior year activities and another year of not being around her friends in school. My two younger ones are where my fear really lies. They are not learning how to read facial cues and need real human interaction with their peers. Please consider the testimonies from everyone here tonight. We are here because we have the best interest of not only our children, but of every child that lives here in our wonderful town. Thank you.

IV. Administrative Reports

1. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Neviasser reviewed the June personnel report which reflected several new hires for the 2021-2022 school year. The majority of the vacancies have now been filled with the exception of two elementary teacher positions.

Mr. Neviasser reviewed the June enrollment report which reflected a total of 1,311 students in-house, an increase of three students from last month this time.

Mr. Neviasser reported on the following facilities improvements being planned this summer:

- Synthetic Turf Field
- Lyme Tennis Courts
- Playground Center School

- Playground Mile Creek
- Playground Lyme
- Gym Floor Middle School
- High School Soundfield System Upgrade
- Mile Creek Gym Sound System
- Mile Creek Cafeteria Sound System
- Mile Creek Outdoor Classroom
- Middle School Outdoor Classroom
- Bonded Project Study
- Waste Treatment Membrane Replacement
- Middle School Cafeteria AC
- Lyme Front Steps **
- Center School Roof Warranty Extension **

** Pending approval

2. Business Manager’s Report

Mrs. McCalla reviewed the Executive Budget Summary as of May 31, 2021. Fluctuations of note: Line item spending as a percent to budget is beginning to even out year over year with a small differential of 83.5% last year to 82.3% to budget this year. In dollars, this is \$760,000 less than last year.

Year To Date Revenue Report

	2019-2020 Received	2020-2021 Received YTD
Town of Old Lyme	\$27,556,679	\$23,589,034
Town of Lyme	\$6,579,421	\$6,665,123

Mrs. McCalla reviewed the Contingency Maintenance Report. There was an additional expenditure of \$22,200, split among campus schools, to replace membrane and associated parts in wastewater treatment. Account balance now at \$104,629.

V. Educational Presentation

There was no educational presentation scheduled.

VI. Chairman & Committee Reports:

Mrs. Linderman spoke to various professional development opportunities for board members, the majority of which are offered by CAFE. Mrs. Linderman also noted that strategic planning will take place in the fall.

- a. *Facilities.* Dr. Goulding reported on the very busy summer of facilities improvements that will be taking place. He commended Ron Turner, Director of Facilities and Technology, for his efforts on these updates. He reviewed the facilities-related action items on the agenda.
- b. *Finance.* No report.

- c. *Communications*. Mrs. Thompson referred to the minutes of the May 19, 2021 Communications Meeting when the committee discussed the summer edition of the *Focus on Education* newsletter.
- d. *Policy*. Mrs. Shoemaker referred to the two agenda items related to policy review and approval.
- e. *LEARN*. Mrs. Linderman reported that LEARN is working on their budget and hiring of staff.
- f. *LOL Prevention Coalition*. Mrs. Shoemaker reported that this group met two weeks ago and are gearing up for summer work.
- g. *Sustainability*. Mrs. Miller reported that they will be sunsetting this committee. They will continue their various initiatives such as zero food waste, use of non-disposables, etc. There is an action item later in the meeting to add an annual goal regarding sustainability to the Region 18 Board of Education goals.

VII. New Business

1. Superintendent Appointment of Designee(s) per Policy 2131.1

Each year the Board is asked to appoint a designee(s) to act in the absence of the Superintendent as necessary. Mr. Neviasher explained that it is useful to have the Board designate two individuals for the rare occasions when both the Superintendent and Director of Curriculum are unavailable. Mr. Neviasher recommended the Board approve Michelle Dean, Director of Curriculum, and Melissa Dougherty, Director of Special Services, as designees for this purpose.

MOTION: Mrs. Wilczynski made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Wilson, to designate Michelle Dean, Director of Curriculum, and Melissa Dougherty, Director of Special Services, as the designees to act in the absence of the Superintendent per Policy 2131.1.

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

2. Participation in State and Federal Grants

Mr. Neviasher explained that each year the Board is asked to approve application for all state and federal grants. These include those for special education as well as remedial, staff development and other entitlement grants. A single motion authorizes the administration to apply for all that the District is eligible as well as any additional grants deemed appropriate by the Superintendent.

MOTION: Dr. Goulding made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Shoemaker, to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to apply for, receive and otherwise act as the legal representative of Regional School District No. 18 in connection with the following State and Federal Grants along with any other grants he deems appropriate:

Adult Education

Handicapped Preschool Incentive – Section 619 Education of the Handicapped Act

National School Lunch Program

Open Choice Attendance

Title I Improving Basic Programs

Title II Teacher and Principal Training and Recruiting

Title VI Part B of the Education of the Handicapped Act PL 94-142

Carl D. Perkins

School Transportation

Science and Technology

Investing and Personal Finance

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

3. Food Service Management Contract

Mrs. McCalla explained that each June the Board needs to renew the food service management contract. This year, the district was due to go out to bid, however, the USDA granted a one year bid waiver to districts that chose to extend an additional year. It was recommended keeping Chartwells as the food management company for next school year.

MOTION: Mr. Wilson made a motion, which was seconded by Dr. Goulding, to approve the food service management contract between Region 18 and Chartwells for the 2021-2022 school year.

Mrs. Miller voiced concern over food waste and suggested that the contract include the sustainability goals of the district. Mrs. McCalla will keep that in mind when developing the RFP that will be developed next year when they go out to bid on the food service management contract. Mr. Neviasser noted that they can request that Chartwells follow district initiatives.

Mrs. Shoemaker asked that feedback be sought (possible survey) from the students and parents on the food service.

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

4. First Read of Policy 6114.81 Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness

Mr. Neviasser reviewed the recommended changes to this policy as reviewed and accepted by the Policy Committee. In short, the policy is being revised so that it does not just pertain to the COVID-19 pandemic and the verbiage is more in-line with all emergencies and disasters.

The Board wordsmithed the policy. This was a first read of this policy and Board action was not required.

5. Lyme School Front Entry Replacement Project

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

The front concrete entry stairs to the Lyme School have degraded to the point where repairs are necessary.

The concrete is crumbling exposing rusted rebar, and the railings are rusted and pitted.

Repairs were scheduled in the five-year facility plan; however, the availability of contingency funding provided the opportunity to accelerate the repairs and complete at the end of the school year.

The District sought comparable commercial quotes from vendors who have completed quality work for the district in the past and received three proposals.

G. Donovan Associates	\$ 87,300
O&G Construction	\$175,377
Noble Construction	\$119,970

With approval, the project will begin in June after school is completed. The budgeted funds will be applied to other projects in the five-year facilities plan.

MOTION: Mrs. Shoemaker made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Wilczynski, to award G. Donovan Associates a contract to renovate the concrete front entry stairs at the Lyme School for a value of \$87,300.

The Board posed questions and Mr. Turner addressed the warranty on work, age of stairs, and the wide variations on the quotes.

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

6. ViewSonic Digital Display Boards

Ron Turner provided the following background information on this agenda item:

The addition of these 40 display boards is the second phase of the school district's long-term technology plan to replace the existing Smartboards and projectors.

The ViewSonic digital display boards are being purchased using the pre-bid PEPPM state cooperative contract pricing.

The district contacted two other vendors to confirm the discount pricing value from CBS, and the results are as follows:

- Audio-Video Corporation \$240,080
- Valley Communications \$129,348
- CBS \$101,920

This purchase value is in the anticipated range for the 21/22 FY budget.

MOTION: Mr. Wilson made a motion, which was seconded by Dr. Goulding, to award CBS the supply of 40 ViewSonic display boards for \$101,920.

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

7. Desktop and Display Board Computer Purchase

Ron Turner provided the following background information on this agenda item:

The addition of these 100 units includes the multi-phase replacement of outdated desktops and a processor for each of the new ViewSonic boards.

Mr. Turner contacted two vendors for initial quotes. CT Comp applied the State of Connecticut contract purchasing price and CBS applied the CREC cooperative pricing, but the district was able to purchase directly from the manufacturer, Lenovo, for the best pricing for the District.

- CT Comp \$90,900
- CBS \$89,159
- Lenovo \$67,595

This purchase value is in the anticipated range for the 21/22 FY budget.

MOTION: Mrs. Wilczynski made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Shoemaker, to award Lenovo the supply of 100 ThinkCentre desktop computers for \$67,595.

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

8. Facilities Bond Study Project

Ron Turner provided the following background information on this agenda item:

The District solicited proposals from design firms to develop a facilities study reviewing interior and exterior building conditions, site needs, and a mechanical, electrical, and plumbing assessment for Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School, Center School, Lyme School, and Mile Creek School. The assessment considers a review of existing conditions, assessment and evaluation of the buildings, and future budget cost estimation. The District received six bids which are as follows:

QA&M	\$45,850
NCA	\$47,500
Moser Pilon Nelson	\$158,400
TSKP Studio	\$88,000
Geddis Architects	\$49,000
Tecton Architects	\$92,000

Bids were evaluated, design agents interviewed by the Facilities and Finance Committee, and references checked. The Facilities and Finance Committee recommends QA&M be contracted for the bonded project study.

MOTION: Mrs. Miller made a motion, which was seconded by Dr. Goulding, to award QA&M Architects the contract for a facilities study and construction cost estimation of the Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School, Center School, Lyme School, and Mile Creek School for \$45,850.

Mrs. Linderman and Mrs. Miller, who were involved in the interviews of the architects, spoke to the positive interview with QA&M. This study will take place over the summer into early fall and will include surveys and focus group input. A referendum will have to be determined based on the outcome of the study. The plan is to start construction during the 2023-2024 timeframe.

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

9. Center School Roof Warranty Extension Project

Ron Turner provided the following background information on this agenda item:

The existing deck roofing at Center School was installed by Gold Seal Roofing in 2002 and is nearing the end of the warranty period. As the district plans to add solar panels to Center School, this proposed work will extend the warranty and protect the roof to allow the panels to remain for their contracted time. If the roof was redone during the solar contract period, this would add a considerable cost to the solar project.

As Gold Seal holds the roof warranty, they are considered a sole proprietor and must complete the job themselves to ensure continuity of the warranty coverage.

This roofing maintenance will be funded by FY20/21 surplus funding.

MOTION: Mrs. Shoemaker made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Wilczynski, to award Gold Seal Roofing and Sheetmetal, Inc., a contract to complete roof seam sealing and related maintenance at Center School to extend the roofing warranty for \$38,200.

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

10. Footing Installation for Artificial Playing Surface

Ron Turner provided the following background information on this agenda item:

The District received the proper approvals from the Town of Old Lyme to include the base structures for the future addition of field lighting to the turf field project.

This addition will be completed as a change order by Mountain View, and geotechnical evaluation is scheduled for the field surface.

It should also be noted that the District is receiving a credit of \$16,022.38 due to a change in materials for the field's stone base.

MOTION: Dr. Goulding made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Shoemaker, to approve a change order by Mountain View Landscapes to add five MUSCO light tower bases to the synthetic turf field project for a value of \$134,979.

It was clarified that that this motion approves installing the footings and not lighting which would require a future approval process. The installation of footings now will negate the hefty cost to install them in the future and eliminate the need to dig up the field. There was additional clarification that this field will be used as a practice and competition field and will help alleviate the use of the grass fields.

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

11. ARP Reopening Plan

Mr. Neviasher explained that in order for the district to access the \$651,120 that has been allocated to Region 18 under the American Recovery Plan (ARP /ESSER III), the district must submit the *Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan* to the CSDE by June 23, 2021. One key component of the plan is to get public feedback and commentary on this plan. A copy of the plan will be sent home to all families and shared with the two towns. It will also be posted on the district website. Feedback can be sent to lolreopening@region18.org.

Mr. Neviasher reviewed the wording in the plan regarding wearing of masks in the fall: *The Lyme-Old Lyme Schools will only require masks for all students, staff and visitors should public health measures dictate such a need. Absent the necessity for such, no masks will be required.* Mr. Neviasher reported that the district will be monitoring health metrics and seek advice from the health department and the district's medical advisor. Mr. Neviasher noted that masks will be allowed for those still wishing to wear one.

Additional discussion on the subject involved the importance of following local health guidelines ensuring students and staff safety with the goal of having a normal school experience; medical exemptions; vaccination mandates; adjustments to custodial/cleaning staff's schedule; and the high vaccination rate in the Lyme-Old Lyme community.

VIII. Old Business

1. Sustainability Committee Recommendation

Per the presentation of the Sustainability Committee made at the May 5 Board of Ed Meeting, Jennifer Miller, Chair of this Committee, asked for approval of their recommended motion.

MOTION: Mrs. Miller made a motion, which was seconded by Dr. Goulding, to add an annual goal regarding sustainability to the Region 18 Board of Education goals in order to actively engage Region 18 in the transition towards a clean energy future through a comprehensive education program, reduced waste stream and energy efficiency measures within all energy sectors including electricity, heating and transportation phasing out all fossil fuels onsite by 2030.

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

2. Policy Review: Bidding Requirements

MOTION: Mrs. Shoemaker made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Wilczynski, to approve Policy 3324.1 *Bidding Requirements*.

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

3. 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

Upon motion by Dr. Goulding and seconded by Mrs. Shoemaker, the Board voted unanimously to move into executive session for the purpose of discussing the Superintendent's evaluation and the 2021-2022 contracts of the Business Manager, Director of Facilities and Technology and the Superintendent. Mr. Neviasser was invited to attend the executive session.

X. Adjournment

The regular meeting adjourned upon a motion by Dr. Goulding and a second by Mrs. Shoemaker at 8:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Wilson, Secretary