

LYME-OLD LYME SCHOOLS

Regional School District #18

A Private School Experience



in a Public School Setting

Policy and Communications Committee Meeting

May 10, 2022

Committee Members Present: Jason Kemp, Policy Committee Chair; Suzanne Thompson, Communications Committee Chair; Laura Dean-Frazier; Anna James; Steven Wilson

Administration Present: Ian Neviasser, Superintendent of Schools

Others Present: Bridget Compagno, Director of Communications and Marketing

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

Communications Update

Bridget Compagno, Director of Communications and Marketing, updated the committee on recent press coverage related to district news including Mark Ambruso, Principal of LOLMS, being named Middle School Principal of the Year by the Connecticut Association of Schools; James Cavalieri's upcoming retirement as Principal of Lyme Consolidated School; and Allison Hine being named Mr. Cavalieri's replacement in that position. Mrs. Compagno anticipates that *The Day* will do a more in-depth story on Mrs. Hine when school begins again in the fall.

Mrs. Compagno reported that at this time of the year *The Day* also runs "senior profile" stories which highlight the accomplishments of students from area high schools. LOLHS senior Avery Wyman, an accomplished musician, will be the subject of one of these profiles.

Mrs. Compagno reported that there will be three more staff profiles written before the end of the school year. These can be found online at <https://www.region18.org/staff/staff-profiles>.

Mrs. Compagno reported that the summer edition of the *Focus on Education* newsletter will be published in July with the focus on the high school graduation, an end of year update, and an alumni profile. Two more Board of Education newsletters will also be published before the end of the school year.

Mrs. Compagno reported that she is meeting with representatives from *The Day* to discuss moving in the direction of more online and digital print.

Mrs. Compagno reported on the development of a promotional video for the district's website which will showcase the campus, staff, students, programs, etc. This initiative should be completed by the end of the school year.

Mrs. Compagno reported that she is attending a NESPRA (New England School Public Relations Association) conference on May 16. She stated that she hopes to gain feedback from other professionals working in the same capacity in a school setting including best practices for social media.

Mrs. Thompson made a suggestion that photos gathered for social media purposes be shared with the schools for use in the yearbooks.

Mrs. Thompson reported that they have found someone to volunteer for Trex (plastic film) collection over the summer months so that the other volunteers can take a well-deserved break.

Policy Update

The committee continued their review of the district's current student policy #5132 *Dress and Grooming*. This policy was coming before the committee because many students feel the district's dress code policy should be addressed and revised because students feel that what is currently written is not equitable as it focuses mostly on female attire. Mr. Neviasser distributed a proposal written by a group of high school and middle school students entitled *LOLHS Dress Code Guidelines and Revisions*. Mr. Neviasser reported that he and the high school administration met with the students to discuss their proposal. There was consensus reached that many of the issues raised can be addressed by the administration who will ensure that all teachers will have a uniform understanding of the dress code throughout the district to ensure consistency.

Mr. Neviasser stated that he did not think the current Board policy was outdated or inappropriate but he did recommend one change to the policy which eliminated verbiage citing examples of inappropriate clothing. In place of that wording, he suggested the use of wording in the students' proposal of "clothing should not reveal anything that should be covered by an undergarment." There was committee consensus to bring this policy change to the Board of Education for a first reading at the June Board meeting.

On another matter, Mr. Neviasser reported on legislation which requires districts to have a policy on student enrollment in AP courses. Mr. Neviasser noted that many schools require testing to get into AP classes which is not a practice at LOLHS where AP courses are open to all students. Mr. Neviasser will research this topic and give an update at the June 14 committee meeting.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.