

LYME-OLD LYME SCHOOLS

Regional School District #18

A Private School Experience



in a Public School Setting

Policy and Communications Committee Meeting September 20, 2022

Committee Members Present: Jason Kemp, Policy Committee Chair; Suzanne Thompson, Communications Committee Chair; Anna James; Martha Shoemaker; Steven Wilson

Administration Present: Ian Neviaser, 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

Mrs. Compagno distributed a document to the committee members that listed the various communication vehicles that will be used to publicize the November 8, 2022 bond referendum.

Focus on Education Newsletter

Board of Education Monthly Newsletter

Fact Sheets

Social Media

Website

Press Interviews

Public Meetings

School Newsletters

Sponsored Articles

Board of Education Meetings

It was noted that the voter postcard should be included on this list.

Mrs. Compagno reviewed the timeline of communications from September 20 through November 7. Currently, there are two public meetings scheduled (one at Lyme Consolidated School on October 10 and one at Mile Creek School on October 24). The committee discussed whether they should schedule a third public meeting at the Middle School. These public meetings will include a tour of the buildings and have Zoom capability. Follow-up discussion centered on the importance of not advocating for the project during the tour of the buildings and just reporting the facts. Mrs. Thompson suggested that they also give a presentation at the Lymes' Senior Center.

Mrs. Compagno reviewed the first of a series of fact sheets for the November 8 bond referendum on the PreK-8 Facilities Project. These fact sheets, to be mailed to all in-town residents and out of town taxpayers, included information on the ballot verbiage, the proposed improvements to the facilities, voting information, where to find more information on the project, and dates for public meetings.

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The committee members provided feedback on the fact sheet and recommendations were made such as adding grant and state reimbursement information and how to obtain absentee ballots.

Mrs. Compagno updated the committee on what will appear in the second and third fact sheet which includes the chronology of the work done to get to the referendum and the financial process and implications.

Policy Update

Mr. Neviaser reviewed recommended changes to several District policies:

Policy 9325 Meetings of the Board of Education

The recommended change included requirements for those making public comment during a Board of Education meeting which would require them to state their name and address of residence. In addition, those wishing to inform the Board of Education in writing regarding a particular issue, “such written material shall be presented to the Board Chairperson 72 hours in advance (*previously 10 days*) of the meeting in question to allow ample time for all Board of Education members to receive said written material prior to the stated meeting date.” In addition, “written material addressed to the Board of Education will be included in the minutes of the following regular or special meeting only when it is received by the Board clerk and includes the sender’s full name and address.”

Policy 5145.52 Harassment Prohibition Policy

Mr. Neviaser reported that changes to this policy were made by the district’s legal counsel. Mr. Neviaser reviewed the language appearing in this policy to be removed and in its place the following verbiage would be added: “If a complaint involves allegations of discrimination or harassment based on reasons such as gender/sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation, including sexual harassment, such complaints will be handled under Policy 5145.44, Title IX - Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment.”

Policy 5145.44 Title IX - Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment

Mr. Neviaser reviewed the language additions to this policy based on the change to Policy 5145.52 (above).

These policies will be brought to the full Board of Education at their October 5 meeting for a first reading.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.