

# LYME-OLD LYME SCHOOLS

*Regional School District #18*

*A Private School Experience*



*in a Public School Setting*

## **Policy and Communications Committee Meeting**

**February 7, 2023**

*Committee Members Present:* Jason Kemp, Policy Committee Chair; Suzanne Thompson, Communications Committee Chair; Laura Dean-Frazier; Anna James; 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 6:01 p.m.

Mr. Neviaser explained the difference between meetings that are public and open to the press and community members (such as Board of Ed meetings) vs. ones that are private meetings where attendance at the meetings is inclusive to those invited (such as the one that recently took place with representatives from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and discussion on the main campus oil spill took place).

Mr. Neviaser updated the committee members on the results of tests done on seven wells on properties in close proximity to the main campus where the oil spill occurred. They have received results on five of the wells, all coming back clean except for one on the opposite side of Lyme Street which was not related to the oil spill. They are still waiting on results for two other wells. Ron Turner, Director of Facilities and Technology, has called all the residents of these properties and will follow up with a letter. The district has hired another firm to retest the wells as an extra precaution. As well, a filtering system is being considered for purchase to clean the ground water.

Bridget Compagno reported that the next issue of *Focus on Education* will be coming out in March, the majority of which will be related to the proposed 2023-2024 school budget.

The committee discussed recent articles appearing in the *Connecticut Examiner* on the subject of the oil spill and subsequent meetings with DEEP in which several inaccurate statements were made. There was

***Ian Neviaser, Superintendent of Schools***

***49 Lyme Street, Old Lyme, Connecticut 06371***

***T: 860-434-7238 F: 860-434-9959 E: neviaseri@region18.org www.region18.org***

consensus that it would be unwise to go back and forth with the press on this matter and a lengthy discussion took place on the best way to handle the communications going forward on the oil spill and working with the property owners. Mrs. Compagno briefed the committee on her thoughts which included the development of a fact sheet/newsletter which could go out as a press release. Mrs. Thompson will send Mrs. Compagno contact information on a community member with expertise on this subject matter who might be able to assist.

The committee members also discussed the importance of a better monitoring system for quicker notification about future oil spills/leaks.

There was no need for policy revisions at this meeting.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.