

LYME-OLD LYME SCHOOLS

Regional School District #18

A Private School Experience



in a Public School Setting

District Budget Meeting

May 1, 2023

Board Present: Steven Wilson, Chair; Mary Powell St. Louis, Vice Chair; Christopher Staab, Treasurer; Suzanne Thompson, Secretary; Laura Dean-Frazier; Anna James; Jason Kemp; Jennifer Miller

Absent by Previous Arrangement: Martha Shoemaker

Administration Present: Ian Neviaser, Superintendent of Schools; Holly McCalla, Business Manager

Others Present: Lynn Warren, Moderator; four community members

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman Steven Wilson. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Jennifer Miller read the call of the meeting.

Notice is hereby given of the Annual Budget Meeting and Vote for the Regional School District No. 18 to be held at Regional School District No. 18, Board of Education Conference Room at Center School, 49 Lyme Street, Old Lyme, Connecticut at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, May 1, 2023 to act upon the following:

1. To adopt a budget of \$35,844,345 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 as recommended by the Regional School Board.
2. To conduct such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

By vote of the Regional School District No. 18 Board of Education, the vote on item number 1 shall be by check off and paper ballots in the Towns of Lyme and Old Lyme on May 2, 2023 between the hours of 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. pursuant to Section 7-7 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Voting will take place at the following locations: in the Town of Lyme, at the Town Hall, 480 Hamburg Road, Lyme, Connecticut and in the Town of Old Lyme, at the Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School, 53 Lyme Street, Old Lyme, Connecticut.

Ian Neviaser, Superintendent of Schools

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Mrs. Dean-Frazier made a motion, which was seconded by Dr. Powell St. Louis, to nominate Lynn Warren as the moderator of the meeting. There were no further nominations. The vote on the motion was unanimously in favor.

Lynn Warren explained the qualifications for voting at the referendum and the specifics relative to voting in each town. The meeting was opened up for comments and questions.

Sheryl Shyloski, an Old Lyme resident, voiced concern over the lack of attendees at this budget meeting and general lack of interest on an important matter of how children are educated. Mrs. Shyloski reported that she met with the superintendent and business manager that afternoon, and they addressed her various questions on the proposed budget. She noted that she was pleased that the GPS systems for the buses were being included in the budget, and she stated that she would be voting for the budget the following day.

Mr. Neviaser explained that the GPS tracking system would allow parents/students to know the location of the buses and would assist them on better timing of when to be at the bus stop. It was noted how beneficial this would be during the winter months.

Tom Grant, an Old Lyme resident, asked about the debt service financing (current and upcoming). Mr. Neviaser reported that the district tries to refinance bonds when rates are favorable. They will be bonding the PreK-8 Building Project which will occur after they hire an architect and project manager, \$12,000,000 of which is being reimbursed by the State of Connecticut in HVAC grant money, significantly reducing the cost to the towns. A Building Committee has been formed to oversee this project.

Mr. Grant also asked about monies spent/saved for energy efficiencies. Mr. Neviaser and Ms. Miller reviewed cost savings measures in place to reduce the use of fossil fuels and offset the district's carbon footprint by 2030, many of which will occur during this building project, i.e., use of geothermal energy and solar panels (30% reduction in electric usage). Mr. Neviaser also reported that the district has locked in at a lower rate for heating oil for the next several years.

There being no further questions or comments, the District Budget Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m. to referendum the following day at the Lyme Town Hall and the Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School in Old Lyme from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. upon a motion by Mr. Kemp and a second by Mr. Staab.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Thompson, Secretary