

LYME-OLD LYME SCHOOLS

Regional School District #18

A Private School Experience



in a Public School Setting

Policy and Communications Committee Meeting

May 9, 2023

Committee Members Present: Jason Kemp, Policy Committee Chair; Suzanne Thompson, Communications Committee Chair; Laura Dean-Frazier; 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 6:00 p.m.

Communications Update

Bridget Compagno reported on her efforts to recruit host families for three students from China who will be attending LOLHS next year through the ACES International program. A flyer is being prepared and the June edition of *Events* magazine and social media posts will contain information, amongst other communication efforts.

Mrs. Compagno reviewed changes to the distribution of the *Focus on Education* newsletter due to advertising changes at *The Day*. Distribution of the district's newsletter will remain the same through the next edition, but the newsletter might have to be mailed to residents next year.

Mrs. Compagno reported on the publicizing of the many end-of-year events taking place at all the schools through social media and the newsletter. There will also be one more edition of the Board of Ed newsletter this school year.

On another matter, the committee discussed how school districts are ranked on various websites such as GreatSchools.org or Niche.org. Because some of these sites are based on reviews (vs. state testing results), sometimes the information is not always valid as one or two negative comments can affect a ranking. It was noted that state testing results can be found on the district website here:

<https://www.region18.org/academics/district-testing-profile>

Ian Neviaser, Superintendent of Schools

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Policy Update

At the Board of Ed's annual review of the tuition policy (Policy 5118 Enrollment of Nonresident Students), there was a suggestion that the Board consider reducing or eliminating the tuition charged to staff members who live out of town and send their child(ren) to the Lyme-Old Lyme Schools.

Mr. Neviasser reported that currently six students (out of 20 tuition students) are the children of staff members. They anticipate the same number next year which equates to over \$50,000 in revenue. Mr. Neviasser further explained how this revenue reduces the billings to the towns. He referred to page 39 in the budget book where estimated revenue is reported (\$292,000 in total out of district tuition is projected for 2023-2024). There was discussion on whether staff requests would rise significantly should tuition not be charged or reduced. The committee discussed the pros and cons of reducing/eliminating tuition for staff members. Although there was consensus that this was a good staff recruiting/retention tool, there was a potential of cost increases should the district have to hire additional staff if tuition student enrollment numbers increased significantly. The committee's recommendation was to remain status quo with the tuition policy/charges currently in place.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.