LYME-OLD LYME SCHOOLS

Regional School District #18





in a Public School Setting

Regular Board of Education Meeting

April 3, 2024

Board Present: Jason Kemp, Chair; Anna James, Vice Chair; Christopher Staab, Treasurer; Martha Shoemaker, Secretary; Laura Dean-Frazier; Susan Fogliano; Gavin Lodge; Alexander Lowry

Absent by Previous Arrangement: Scott Brown

Administration Present: Ian Neviaser, Superintendent of Schools; Mark Ambruso, Principal of Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School; Michelle Dean, Director of Curriculum; Melissa Dougherty, Director of Special Services; Kelly Enoch, Principal of Mile Creek School; Allison Hine, Principal of Lyme Consolidated School; Holly McCalla, Business Manager; Jeanne Manfredi, Assistant Principal of Lyme-Old Lyme High School; Ron Turner, Director of Facilities & Technology; Noah Ventola, Assistant Principal of Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School; James Wygonik, Principal of Lyme-Old Lyme High School

Others Present: Heather Saia, RETA Co-President; Chloe Datum and Ada LaConti, High School Student Representatives; 12 community members from LOL

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair Jason Kemp. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

II. Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting and Executive Session of March 6, 2024; Special Meeting and Executive Session of March 12, 2024

MOTION: Mr. Staab made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Dean-Frazier, to approve the consent agenda.

VOTE: the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

49 Lyme Street, Old Lyme, Connecticut 06371

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

III. Visitors

1. Recognition of State Champions (boys basketball, wresting, mock trial team)

Mr. Neviaser reported that the boys basketball team, two members of the wrestling team (Hoshena Gemme and Chase Catalano) and the mock trial team recently won state championships in their respective fields. Members of the boys basketball team and one of their coaches, Brendan McKeever, were present and were recognized for this accomplishment (coaches Brady Sheffield and Phil Fazzino were unable to attend the meeting). Coach McKeever spoke eloquently about the accomplishments and brotherhood of the team.

Hoshena Gemma and Chase Catalano and the mock trial team were unable to attend due to conflicts with the national competitions but will be recognized at the May meeting.

2. Report from Student Representatives

Chloe Datum and Ada LaConti reported on the following activities taking place at the schools:

At LOLHS: March was a fantastic month at the high school. The boys basketball, hockey team, mock trial team, and wrestlers all competed in their state championships with the basketball and mock trial teams both taking home the victory for Lyme-Old Lyme. As well, Chase Catalano and Hoshena Gemme were crowned state champs with Hoshena continuing on to win the New England Championship. The mock trial team will be continuing onto nationals in Delaware for the second year in a row. Student Council hosted their second blood drive of the year which was, once again, a success with the collection of 22 units of blood. Student council also hosted a school-wide roshambo game to celebrate St. Patrick's Day where students challenged each other and teachers in games of rock paper scissors. Juniors took their SATs to finish off the month strong.

At LOLMS: March began with a school-wide dance that brought 200 middle school students together celebrating the winter season. The middle school drama production of Singing in the Rain, Jr. was a smashing success with performances for the elementary and preschool students, middle school students, and three public performances. Congrats to all the performers, stage crew, parent volunteers and directors. Later in the month, 30 middle schoolers attended a student leadership conference in Norwich focusing on communication, collaboration and positive decision-making. The PTO brought back the tradition of activity night including activities such as woodworking, volleyball, karaoke and the famous cake walk. The Into the Arts event will be held on April 5 with over 25 artists and musicians entertaining and educating the students on the value of the arts.

At Lyme Consolidated School and Mile Creek School: Last week fifth grade students from Lyme Consolidated and Mile Creek performed in the District Choral Festival at the high school. This week both schools were treated to assemblies featuring Chief Joseph of the indigenous Maasai tribe of Kenya, East Africa. Students learned about the traditions of the Maasai people.

Last week students at Mile Creek wrapped up four weeks of after-school enrichment classes sponsored by the PTO and engaged in a school-wide vote run by third grade students as a culmination of their study of local and state government. Students voted on names for the trash and recycle monsters created by student leaders to help younger students learn how to properly sort their food after lunch. The Recycle Monster was named Recycle Michael, and the Trash Monster was named Junk Jaws. On Friday, the second edition of the *Wildcat Times* was published by students in grades 3-5. On April 3, fifth grade students performed the musical *Seussical* for students during the day and are performing for families on April 3. Students and staff celebrated by dressing as their favorite Dr. Seuss character. On Friday, the school will celebrate Earth Day. As part of the celebration, students will plant blooming daffodils outside of the library.

Two weeks ago, Lyme School partnered with the National Circus Project. The students and staff welcomed two performers who worked with all students to learn circus skills like juggling, diablo and stilt walking. This culminated with two Friday performances by the fourth and fifth grade students. The lessons the students learned about hard work and perseverance as well as their confidence in presenting in front of an audience are skills that will benefit them throughout their lives. The 5th grade musical, *Granny Awards*, will be performed at 2:00 p.m. and again at 6:00 p.m. on April 4. The fifth grade students have been hard at work learning their parts and can't wait to perform for their families and for the school community.

In the Preschool Program: In March the preschool welcomed families for a stem activity in which we built leprechaun traps out of recycled materials, and we built lunar landers with our book buddies. The students also visited the middle school to see this year's production of Singing in the Rain, Jr. The middle school performers were excellent. In April, we are looking forward to learning about spring and oviparous animals. Among lots of books, we will read Chickens Aren't the Only Ones and An Extraordinary Egg. We will take a "clean up" walk to celebrate Earth Day. We will learn the letters X, Y, and Z, and we will learn about symmetry and sequencing in math. During science instruction, we will do egg-speriments. On April 5, we will show our school spirit with silly hair day and, later in the month, we will celebrate Pirate Day because X marks the spot. The color of the month is purple, the shape is an oval, and Lucy Arnold is the artist of the month.

3. Public Comment

Charles Giessen, an Old Lyme resident and father of a 2.5 year old daughter with a September 4 birthday, voiced his disagreement with the new state legislation that that would prohibit her from attending preschool in 2025 because she did not make the September 1 cutoff date for those turning four years old. He voiced support for these school entry decisions being made in consultation with parents.

IV. Correspondence

There was no new correspondence to report this month.

V. Administrative Reports

1. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Neviaser reviewed the April personnel report which reflected the following:

	icancies 23-2024
Instructional Assistants	Various Levels
	24-2025
Assistant Principal (.5 FTE) and	Mile Creek School
Teacher (.5 FTE)	
Secretary in School Counseling	LOLHS
Department	
Science Teacher	LOLMS
Special Education Teacher	LOLHS
Social Studies Teacher (long-term	LOLHS
substitute position)	
Elementary Teacher	Mile Creek School

	Appoin	tments	and the second s
Name	Position	Location	Effective Date
Kelliann Regan	Physical Ed/Health	LOLHS	August 22, 2024
	Teacher		
Deborah Hartman	Tutor (was IA)	Lyme School	March 13, 2024
Nicole Gorman	1st Grade Teacher (long-	Mile Creek School	April 1, 2024
	term substitute)		
Madeline Lemay	2 nd Grade Teacher	Mile Creek School	March 25, 2024
	(long-term substitute)		
Tiffany Goss	Instructional Assistant	Lyme School	April 1, 2024
Eileen Wildermann	Family and Consumer	LOLMS	August 22, 2024
	Science Teacher		
Eilis Welsh	Speech Pathologist	Mile Creek, LOLMS	April 29, 2024
		and LOLHS	
	Resignation	ns/Retirements	
Name	Position	Location	Effective Date
Kathryn Brown	Tutor	Lyme School	March 7, 2024

Mr. Neviaser reviewed the April enrollment report which reflected a total of 1,298 students in-house, an increase/decrease of one student from last month this time.

Mr. Neviaser gave an update on the progress towards the district goals.

Curriculum

Continue to document/revise curriculum in accordance with the five year Curriculum Revision Cycle.

 Departments/teams are reviewing the curriculum revision cycle, mapping a timeline for curriculum renewal and requests for summer hours for curriculum revisions/professional learning in phases 1 and 2. On March 8, teachers with professional learning goals related to curriculum documentation used time to continue the process.

Human Resources

In alignment with state guidelines, utilize the PDEC committee to revise the teacher evaluation plan, communicate new expectations, and provide introductory training to all certified staff.

• PDEC had an extended collaboration block to continue developing language and documents.

Community

Collaborate with the community via regular updates in an effort to maintain and enhance school-community relationships.

- Maasai tribe visiting all schools.
- Joint Department of Disabilities Services (DDS) meeting with Old Saybrook for parents of students with disabilities.
- LYSB's 38th Annual Youth Art Show Opening Reception at the Lyme Academy of Fine Arts.

Facilities

In preparation for construction to begin in the summer of 2024, develop strategies to minimize classroom disruption, adhere to the approved budget and design, and continue to maintain existing facilities via the five-year plan.

- Pre-construction meeting for bleachers.
- Meetings with CSDE for PK-8 project.

Sustainability

Develop "Green Teams" at each building to identify, address, and support student-driven sustainability initiatives.

- LOLHS. Bat box was installed behind the school. 4R Q&A for WLYM will be "aired" just before Earth Day on April 22. Students will volunteer at Rocky Neck Runfest event on April 21 and will participate in a roadside cleanup (near 95 on ramp on Lyme Street) on April 28. Currently seeking a replacement volunteer for plastic delivery to Big Y on Saturday mornings.
- Lyme School. Partnering with Trust for Public Land to raise money for New York City community schoolyards. We will split the proceeds of a Coin War between the grades to donate to helping create a green space for 145Q Joseph Pulitzer Magnet School located in Queens, New York and help create our very own garden at Lyme School.
- Mile Creek School. Students voted on names for the trash and recycle monsters created by
 student leaders to help younger students learn how to properly sort their food after lunch. The
 Recycle Monster was named Recycle Michael, and the Trash Monster was named Junk
 Jaws. Student leaders are currently collecting bids in order to purchase two hand dryers to replace
 the use of paper towels in two of the student bathrooms.

- Center School. Students repurposed and reused recycled materials in two stem projects, and they watered and cared for the seeds they planted when the Audubon Society visited.
- LOLMS. Eco-Warriors visited Hammonasset State Park to learn about environmental health (water quality) as measured by the population shifts of marine animals of Long Island Sound and went on a River Quest Connecticut River boat trip to learn about population changes of the eagles, ospreys and other wildlife including causes and consequences. Eighth grade student Aiden Guidi helped to write a grant to the Lyme-Old Lyme Land Trust to help install a pollinator garden next to the front entrance of Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School and also to provide a pollinator plant seedling giveaway in June. His grant was accepted with a \$600 donation.

Board of Education

Attend professional development opportunities offered through CABE including the CABE/CAPSS Convention and the state-mandated new BOE member workshop.

- Susan Fogliano attended a CABE webinar on legislation that could possibly impact education.
- Laura Dean-Frazier attended "Read Across America Day" at Lyme Consolidated School.

2. Business Manager's Report

Mrs. McCalla reviewed the Executive Budget Summary as of March 31, 2024. Fluctuations of note: There are fluctuations on spend to budget in some of the line items, but the overall spend to budget is down slightly year over year. For example, contingency spending is lower by about \$110,000 this year versus last year.

Year To Date Revenue Report

	2022-2023 Received	2023-2024 Received YTD
Town of Old Lyme	\$27,521,402	\$19,710,598
Town of Lyme	\$5,918,777	\$4,537,434

Mrs. McCalla reviewed the Contingency Maintenance Report. There was increased spending on a well pump replacement for the main campus. A purchase order for \$2,500 was originally opened and reported in January, but erroneously closed in February, now reopened for March. Balance stands at \$140,810.

VI. Educational Presentation

LYSB – Results of Drug and Alcohol Survey

Mary Seidner, Director of the Lymes' Youth Service Bureau, and Bonnie and Lucas Smith of B. Weyland Smith Consulting LLC, gave a presentation on the Youth Voices Count Survey recently administered to Lyme and Old Lyme middle and high school students. A copy of their presentation is attached to these minutes for informational purposes.

Questions and comments followed the presentation and included the following subject areas: aggregating grades 6-12 responses as well as individual group responses (middle and high school); prescription drug definition on survey (non-medical use for purposes of getting high); request for more data on students'

comfort level seeking help (family and school); gambling data; legislation of marijuana and perception around marijuana; statistics on suicidal thoughts; and female input on emotional questions vs. males.

VII. Chairman & Committee Reports:

- a. Facilities. No report.
- b. Finance. No report.
- c. Communications. Mrs. Dean-Frazier reviewed the minutes of the March 12 meeting of this committee. The next edition of the Focus on Education newsletter will be published in mid-April. The district budget referendum is publicized using various communication vehicles. A district video is being put together by Bridget Compagno, Director of Communications and Marketing, along with Alex Roth, a former student. Mrs. Compagno publishes teacher profiles on a routine basis and averages about two posts per week on social media. There will be many end-of-year activities that will be highlighted.
- d. Policy. Mrs. James reported that the Policy Committee reviewed two policies which are being presented under New Business for Board review and approval: Policy 5112 Ages of Attendance/Admissions/Placement and Policy 5141.5 Suicide Prevention and Intervention.
- e. LEARN. No report.
- f. LOL Prevention Coalition. No report.
- g. PreK-8 Building Committee. Mrs. Fogliano reported that the superintendent has applied for an extension with the state for the \$12 million grant for HVAC work which they believe will be granted. Timing is critical as HVAC construction deadline is December 2025. Mrs. Fogliano also reported that she and the superintendent met with the Old Lyme Zoning and Planning Commission on needed waivers for the Mile Creek School project, but that because of a busy agenda that night, they will have to return on April 8. Mrs. Fogliano is being diligent in keeping abreast of information needed to get waiver approval. The budget process and bid packages were also discussed; it was noted that the entire HVAC project will be bid at once. The estimated timeline for construction commencement is July/August. Follow-up discussion centered on the day to day traffic jams at Mile Creek School at drop-off and pick-up times and strategies and difficulties for alleviating this traffic.

VIII. New Business

1. Annual Review of Tuition Policy/Rate

Per policy #5118, the Board is required to set a tuition rate for non-resident students by May 30. These are the current tuition rates:

- A) Tuition Student Rates
- Grades 9-12 \$19,000
- Grades 6-8 \$17,000
- Grades K-5 \$15,000
- Grade PreK \$10,000

- B) Students attending under Attendance Agreements (unless a multiple-year agreement to provide education facilities is entered into with another Board of Education)
- PK-12 \$30,000
- C) Children of current staff members will be charged 50% of the applicable tuition.
- D) Children of active military parents will be charged 80% of the applicable tuition.
- E) Foreign students attending under an F-1 visa as required by SEVIS will be charged 150% of the applicable tuition.
- F) Multiple students from the same family attending together will be required to pay the following amounts:
- 1st child– 100% of the applicable tuition
- 2nd child–75% of the applicable tuition
- 3rd child– 50% of the applicable tuition
- Any additional children will be charged 50% of the applicable tuition.

Mr. Neviaser recommended that the tuition rates remain as currently in place.

MOTION: Mrs. Shoemaker made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. James, to approve the tuition rates for the 2024-2025 school year as presented.

VOTE: the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

2. Increasing Educator Diversity Plan

Section 10 of Public Act 23-167 states in part, "Sec. 10. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2023) (a) Not later than March 15, 2024, each local and regional board of education shall submit the increasing educator diversity plan described in subsection (a) of section 10-220 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, to the Commissioner of Education for review and approval. "Mr. Neviaser noted that the district received a waiver to submit their plan by April 15, 2024.

Mr. Neviaser reviewed the plan which requires Board approval before submission to the Connecticut State Department of Education.

MOTION: Mr. Lodge made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Lowry, to approve the Educator Diversity Plan as presented.

The Board discussed ways to recruit a more diversified staff including advertising outside of Connecticut. Mr. Neviaser noted the difficulty of this as teachers have to have Connecticut certification. Mr. Neviaser also reviewed how this plan was put together (LEARN provided basic template and input was sought from other districts and the admin team to tweak it). Discussion followed on ways to track the success of the Educator Diversity Plan.

VOTE: the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

3. Nonrenewals of Non-Tenured Staff

As is annual practice to ensure compliance with state statute, and in accordance with Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-151(b), which gives authority to the Superintendent to determine whether a non-tenured teacher should be offered a contract for the subsequent school year, Mr. Neviaser recommended the nonrenewal of all non-tenured teachers.

MOTON: Mr. Staab made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Dean-Frazier, that pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151, the Region 18 Board of Education non-renew the teacher contracts of the non-tenured teachers at the end of the 2023-2024 school year as recommended by the Superintendent. Further move that the Superintendent of Schools be directed to communicate this action of the Board in writing to named staff members and to reinstate teachers included in the 2024-2025 budget and as determined by the Superintendent in the event that the budget passes at referendum on May 7.

VOTE: the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

4. Tuition Student Requests

Mr. Neviaser reviewed a request for attendance in the PreK-4 program for the 2024-2025 school year noting that priority for enrollment goes to residents first. Approval would be contingent on enrollment numbers for this program. He also reviewed a request for attendance at LOLHS for the 2024-2025 school year (9th grader).

MOTION: Mrs. Shoemaker made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Staab, to approve the tuition student request for the PreK-4 program for the 2024-2025 school year contingent on enrollment numbers and to approve the tuition student request (9th grader) at LOLHS for the 2024-2025 school year.

VOTE: the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

5. Policy Review

Policy 5112 Ages of Attendance/Admissions/Placement

Mr. Neviaser reviewed the changes recommended by CABE for Policy 5112 due to new legislative changes in the date (September 1) that children must turn five-years-old to enroll in kindergarten. Mr. Neviaser voiced support for this change because of the large age gaps in kindergarten classes and children who are not ready for kindergarten at age four. Mr. Neviaser noted that they will follow this legislation but will review waivers for kindergarten entry requests by the parent (Request an Exemption to Public Act 23-208 Establishing an Age 5 Kindergarten Cutoff Date of September 1). Mr. Neviaser noted that there are clear cut age requirements for preschool entry (4 by September 1) and waivers are not a consideration.

MOTION: Mr. Staab made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Dean-Frazier, to waive the second reading and approve Policy 5112 Ages of Attendance/Admissions/Placement as presented.

VOTE: the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Policy 5141.5 Suicide Prevention and Intervention

Mr. Neviaser reviewed the CABE revised version of this policy which incorporated information on the 988 crisis line being made available in school and district offices for those in emotional distress and/or having suicidal ideations. Follow-up discussion included the importance of professional development training in this area.

MOTION: Mr. Staab made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Dean-Frazier, to waive the second reading and approve Policy 5141.5 Suicide Prevention and Intervention as presented.

VOTE: the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

IX. Old Business

There was no old business to report.

X. Executive Session

1. Interview of Candidate for the .5 FTE Assistant Principal Position

Mrs. James made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Lodge, to move into executive session for the purpose of interviewing the candidate for the assistant principal/teacher position at Mile Creek School. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. Adjournment

The regular meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m. upon a motion by Mrs. James and a second by Mr. Lodge.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Shoemaker, Secretary



Lyme-Old Lyme Youth Voices Count Survey Results, 2023



B. WEYLAND SMITH

Background

- Transitioned to Youth Voices Count Survey in 2023, from prior survey partner.
- December 2023, students from Lyme-Old Lyme public schools, in grades 6-12, participated in the Youth Voices Count Survey on youth lifestyles, substance use, mental health, and related risk and protective factors.
- The survey was completely anonymous, no identifying information was collected.
- Students were provided an instructional video informing them of confidentiality, right to opt out and resources if the survey brought up uncomfortable feelings.

Analysis

Subgroup analysis is performed by race/ethnicity, and gender to allow for Lymes' Youth Services Bureau and other organizations to utilize the data to target groups experiencing greater behaviors of concern.

The full survey report includes analysis of these statistically significant demographic differences.

Response Rate

Sample Response Rates	Sample Count	Population Count	Response Rate (%)
Grade 6	90	93	96.77%
Grade 7	86	92	93.48%
Grade 8	81	87	93.10%
Grade 9	88	94	93.62%
Grade 10	77	91	84.62%
Grade 11	75	98	76.53%
Grade 12	85	112	75.89%
Grades 6-8	257	272	94.49%
Grades 9-12	325	395	82.28%
Grades 6-12	582	667	87.26%

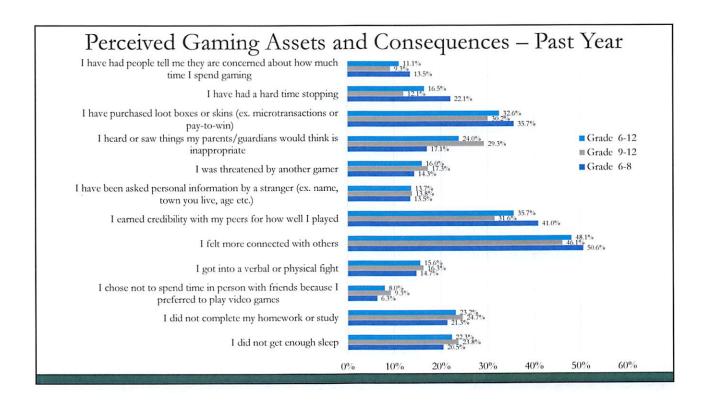
Demographics

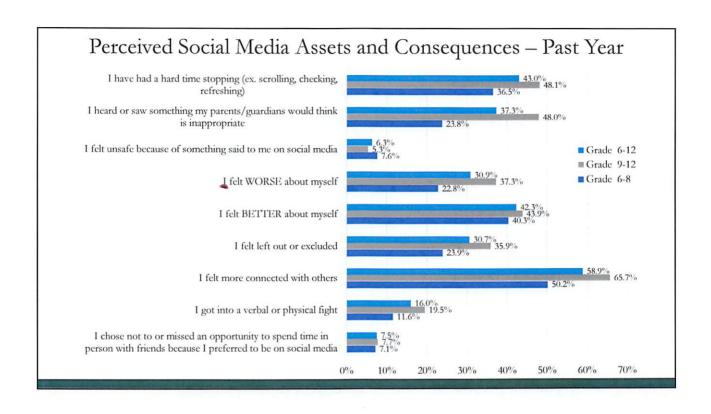
Race/Ethnicity Category	Percent Grades 6 thru 12
White	81.79%
Hispanic or Latino	7.56%
Asian	4.98%
Black or African American	0.52%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0.52%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.17%
Other (2 or more races selected or race not Hispanic)	3.26%
Not Specified	1.20%

Male	287
Female	270
Prefer Not to Say	23

*2 did not provide a response

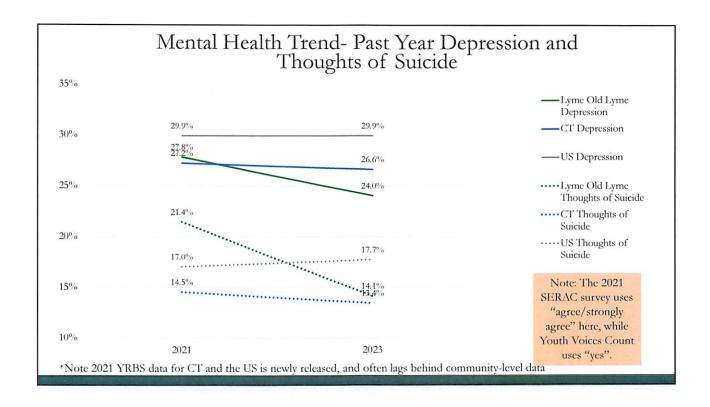
Youth who selected "Prefer not to say" represent about 4% of students and demonstrate more statistically significant risk factors for behavioral health concerns that those who identified as male or female.

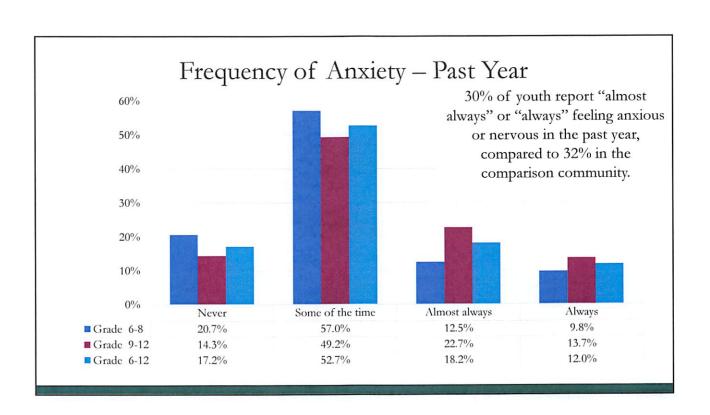


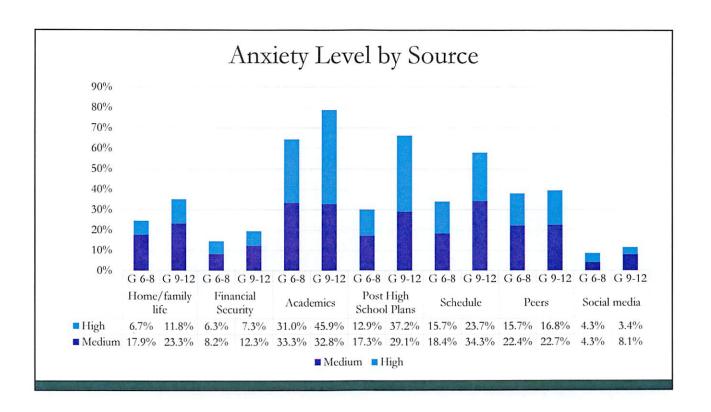


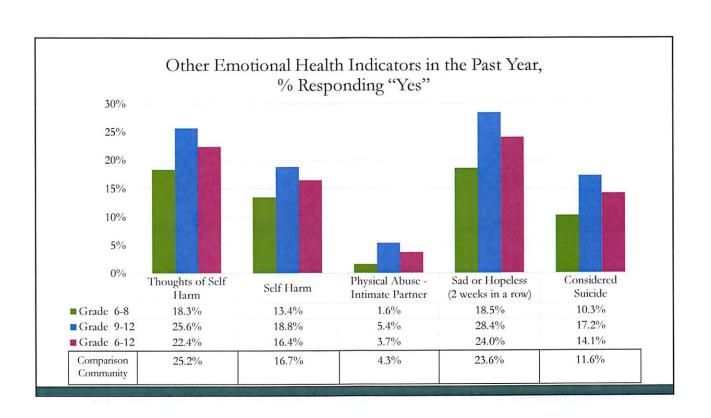
Emotional Health

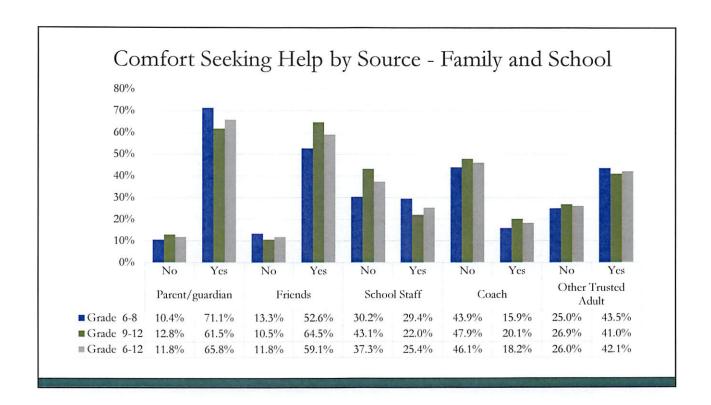
B. WEYLAND SMITH





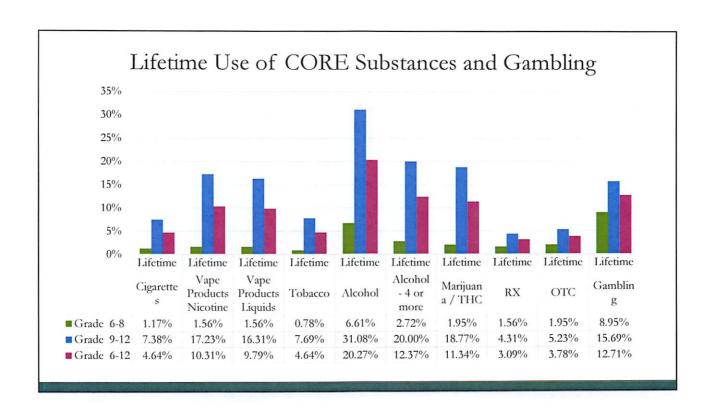


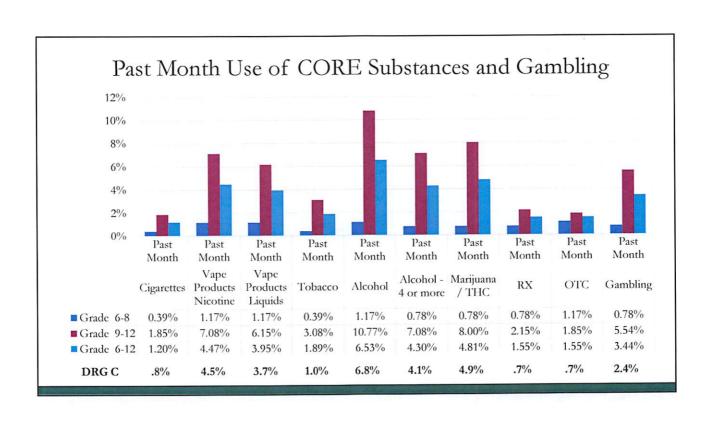


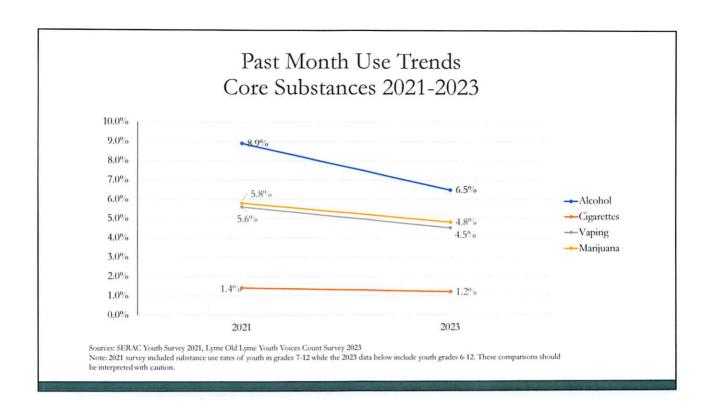


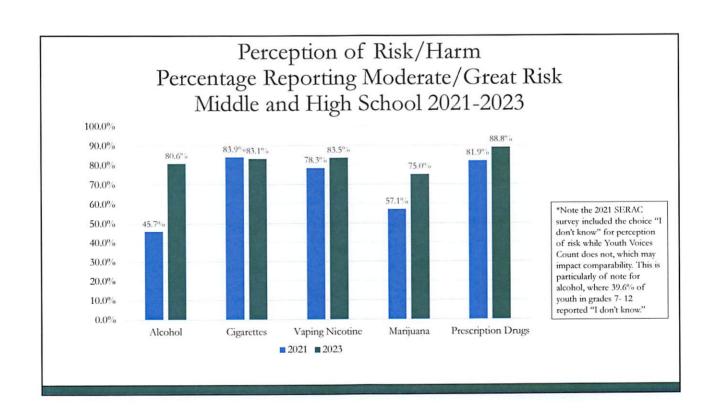
Substance Use and Perceptions

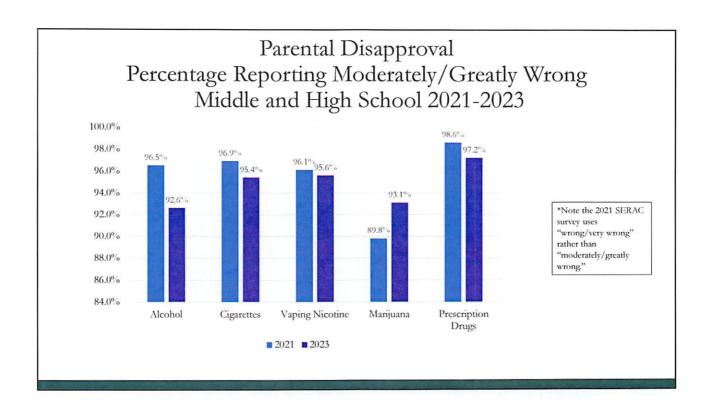
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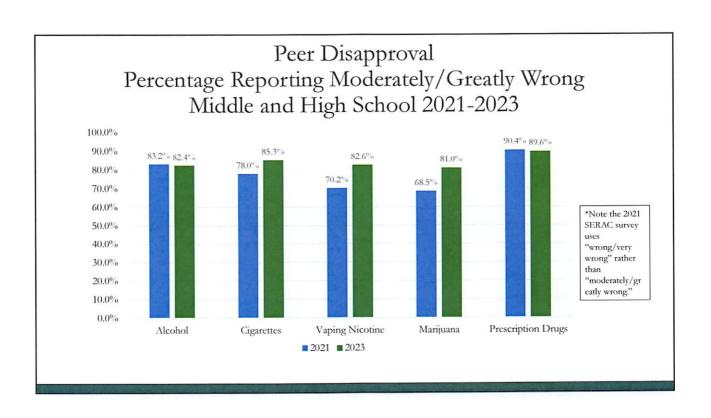


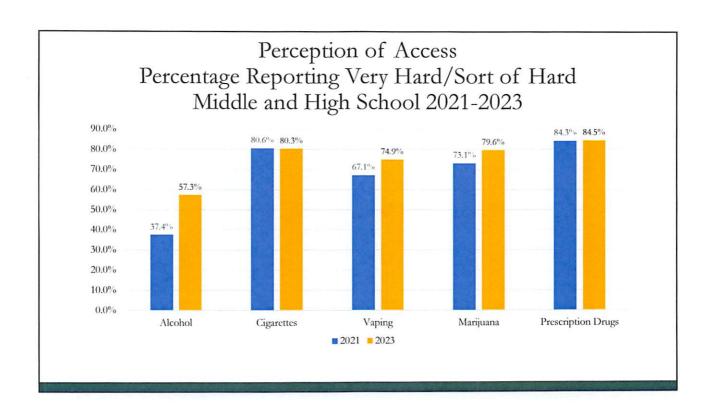


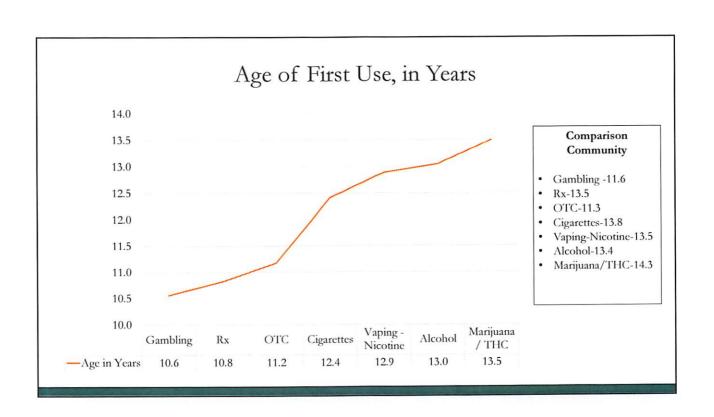


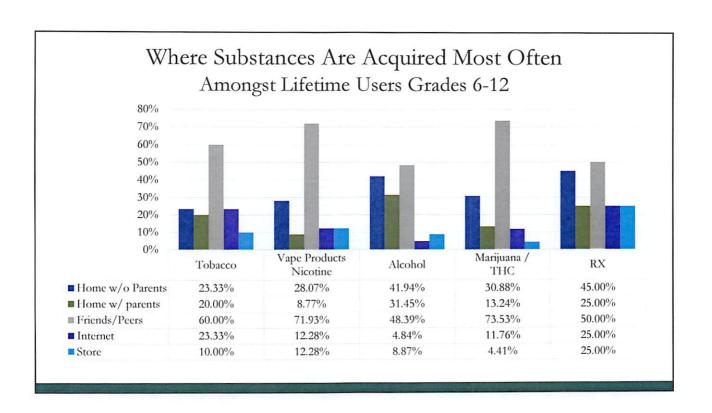


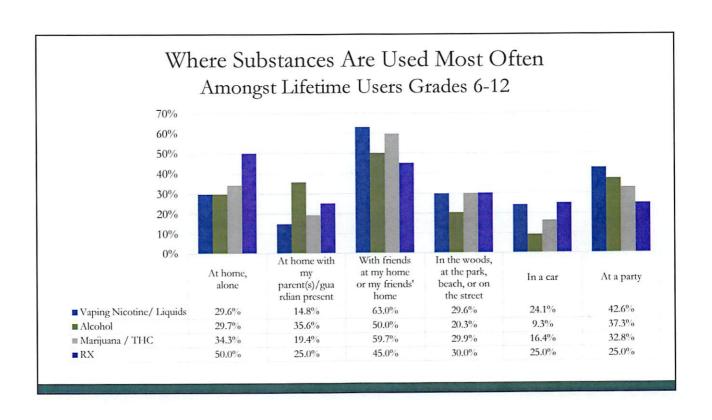


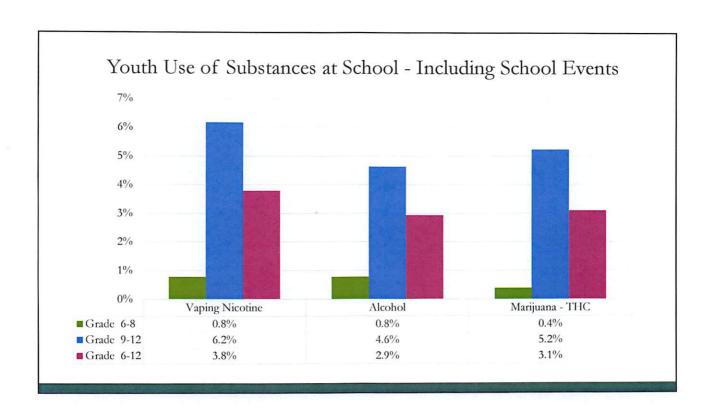


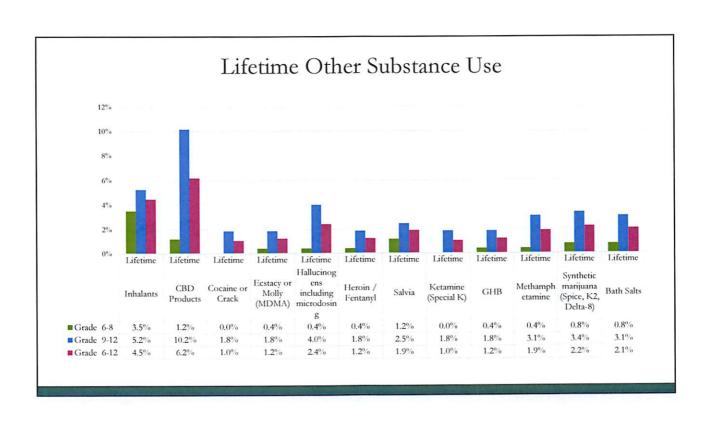












Risk Factors for Any Substances Use Grades 7-12

The following list includes youth reported experiences and perceptions that are statistically associated with lifetime use of any substance use. It is important to note association should not be considered causation.

*Note: these are selected findings, the complete list can be found in the full report.

Lyme-Old Lyme Middle and High School youth who have used any substance in their lifetime are more likely to:

- Sleep less
- Have the following experiences due to gaming: not completing homework, getting into fights
- Have the following experiences due to social media: see or hear something their parents would feel was inappropriate
- Have thoughts of self-harm and have self-harm behaviors
- Have felt sad or hopeless two weeks in a row or more
- Have considered suicide in the past year
- Have less clear family rules for alcohol and gambling
- Perceive less parental disapproval for alcohol, gambling, and prescription drugs
- Perceive less peer disapproval for alcohol, gambling and gaming
- Perceive more use of alcohol by their peers
- Perceive easier access to tobacco and alcohol
- Have experienced housing problems and food insecurity in their lifetime
- Spend more time in after school clubs
- Perceive less teammate disapproval of substance use

Toxic Stress

B. WEYLAND SMITH

