LYME-OLD LYME SCHOOLS

Regional School District #18

A Private School Experience ***in a Public School Setting***

Regular Board of Education Meeting
June 5, 2024

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

Absent by Previous Arrangement: Susan Fogliano

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; 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; 95 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
MOTION: Mr. Staab made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Lodge, to approve the consent agenda which included the following items:

- Participation in State and Federal Grants
  To authorize the Superintendent of Schools to apply for, receive and otherwise act as the legal representative of Regional School District No. 18 in connection with the following State and Federal Grants along with any other grants he deems appropriate:
  Adult Education
  Handicapped Preschool Incentive – Section 619 Education of the Handicapped Act

National School Lunch Program
Open Choice Attendance
Title I Improving Basic Programs
Title II Teacher and Principal Training and Recruiting
Title VI Part B of the Education of the Handicapped Act PL 94-142
Carl D. Perkins
School Transportation
Science and Technology
Investing and Personal Finance

- Superintendent Appointment of Designee(s) per Policy 2131.1
  To designate Michelle Dean, Director of Curriculum, and Melissa Dougherty, Director of Special Services, as the designees to act in the absence of the Superintendent per Policy 2131.1.

- Food Service Management Contract
  To approve the food service management contract between Region 18 and Chartwells for the 2024-2025 school year.
  AND
  that pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or by non-school organizations and groups.

  Also, the Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that the following conditions are met:
  1. The sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend.
  2. The sale is at the location of the event.
  3. The food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store.

- Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of May 1, 2024; Executive Session of May 1, 2024; District Budget Meeting of May 6, 2024; Special Meeting of May 8, 2024; Special Meeting of May 22, 2024

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

III. Visitors

1. CABE Communications Awards

Seth Klaskin, on behalf of the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, presented communication awards for the district's social media platforms, the district website, and the high school's *Wildcat News* newsletter.

2. Recognition of Mock Trial Team, Boys and Girls Crew Teams, Girls Track Team and Girls Tennis Team (state champions)

The Board recognized the Mock Trial team and their coach, Laura Nelson, for their state championship season.

The Board recognized the boys and girls crew teams and their coaches Paul Fuchs, Leo Pelletier, Dale Hoxie and Candace Fuchs for their state championship season.

The Board recognized the girls track team and their coach Jan Merrill for their state championship season.

The Board recognized the girls tennis team and their coaches Lauren Rahr and William Rahr for their state championship season.

3. Recognition of Retirees

The following staff members were invited to the meeting and were recognized for their years of service to the district:

Michael Dauphinais, Speech Pathologist at LOLMS and LOLHS, 25 years of service

Paula Gaudet, Science Teacher at LOLMS, 24 years of service

Jackie Grady, Family and Consumer Science Teacher, LOLMS, 39 years of service

Glynis Houde, Secretary in Counseling Department at LOLHS, 18 years of service

Suzanne Isacson, Library Aide at LOLMS and LOLHS, 22 years of service

Leslie O'Connor, Special Education Teacher at LOLHS, 25 years of service

Billy Rayder, Physical Ed / Health Teacher at LOLHS, 49 years of service

4. Report from Student Representatives

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

At LOLHS: May at the high school was a fantastic month. The Wildcats had many successes, starting off

with the Mock Trial team traveling to Delaware to compete in the National Mock Trial Competition. The girls crew, track and tennis teams all won their respective state championships, with softball making it to the semifinals, and girls lacrosse competing in their finals this Saturday at Sacred Heart University. May was also a month of recognizing accomplishments, with the underclassmen and senior awards nights as well as Old Lyme Players night, World Language National Honor Societies Induction Ceremony, Senior Banquet, and the Spring Sports Banquet. In addition, 59 students received the National Financial Literacy Certification, a great achievement for the Wildcats. We also celebrated the end of school with spirit week and field day. Although field day had to be inside due to weather, students still had a great time, especially at the student vs. teacher basketball game. Seniors finished finals today and are looking forward to graduation on June 7. Underclassmen begin finals tomorrow, which will continue through next week. Thanks for a great year!

At LOLMS: The middle school is wrapping up its school year. We had great end of year performances from both the band and chorus. We had our end of year dance where the PTO provided special treats for the 8th graders. This dance was attended by over 80% of the student body. The 6th grade is traveling to Avery Point and working with Project O. The 7th grade went to Lake Compounce, the public library and Meigs Point. The 8th grade held their annual lock-in event at the high school and will travel to Ocean Beach next week. The spring sports teams finished strong, and the students put forth tremendous effort on the end of the year SBAC and NGSS assessment. The 8th grade promotion will take place on June 12 at 8:30 a.m.

In the Preschool Program: May was a busy month in the preschool. The staff and students welcomed the Audubon Society for a final visit. They taught lessons on how birds build nests, feed their young and fly. We reviewed the alphabet with an alphabet picnic during which families contributed snacks that started with the same letter as our name, and we were able to bring our favorite stuffy to share snacks. We took our monthly walking field trip to the Phoebe Griffin Noyes Library, and we participated in a water day during which we played fun (and wet) games outside. The parents are excited to attend the kindergarten orientation, which is planned for June 6, to learn all about the exciting things we will experience next year. We are looking forward to the end of the year celebration, which is planned for Monday, June 10, and we are very excited to start kindergarten in the fall. Thank you for providing us with a wonderful preschool experience at Center School.

5. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

IV. Correspondence

Mr. Kemp reviewed a summary of the correspondence that the Board received over the last month.

Sender	Date	Subject
Christina Amaral	May 13, 2024	Son's interaction with another student at Mile Creek School *

Betsy Ballard	June 5, 2024	Scholar Athlete Award omission *

**The actual correspondence has been omitted intentionally because it contained identifiable student information.*

V. Administrative Reports

1. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Neviaser reviewed the June personnel report which reflected..

Vacancies 2023-2024	
Instructional Assistants	Various Levels
Payroll Clerk	Central Office
2024-2025	
Part-Time Secretary	LOLHS
Special Education Teacher	LOLHS
School Psychologist or Social Worker (.4 FTE)	Mile Creek School

Appointments			
Name	**Position**	**Location**	**Effective Date**
Anjali Petersen	3rd Grade Teacher	Mile Creek School	August 22, 2024
Rebecca Withington	2nd Grade Teacher	Lyme School	August 22, 2024
Richard Smith	Custodian	LOLHS	May 13, 2024
Klever Avendano	Custodian	LOLHS	May 23, 2024

Resignations/Retirements			
Name	**Position**	**Location**	**Effective Date**
Scott Tonucci	Custodian	LOLHS	May 17, 2024
Fawn DeMello	Payroll Clerk	Central Office	May 10, 2024
Vanessa Kusako	Behavioral Tutor	LOLMS	May 13, 2024
Scott Tonucci	Custodian	LOLHS	May 17, 2024
Gabrielle Raulinaitis	Instructional Assistant	LOLMS	May 24, 2024
Lauren Rahr	Mathematics Teacher	LOLHS	June 30, 2024

Mr. Neviaser reviewed the June enrollment report which reflected a total of 1,299 students in-house, no change from last month this time.

2. Business Manager's Report

Mrs. McCalla reviewed the Executive Budget Summary as of May 31, 2024. Fluctuations of note: There are fluctuations on spend to budget in some of the line items, but the overall spend percentage to budget is down slightly year over year.

Year To Date Revenue Report

	2022-2023 Received	2023-2024 Received YTD
Town of Old Lyme	$27,521,402	$24,952,484
Town of Lyme	$5,918,777	$5,744,130

Mrs. McCalla reviewed the Contingency Maintenance Report. There was an expenditure of $9,863 for repair of the alarm control panel at Center School. Balance stands at $133,890

VI. Educational Presentation

There was no educational presentation scheduled this month.

VII. Chairman & Committee Reports:

a. *Facilities*. Meeting next week.

b. *Finance*. Meeting next week.

c. *Communications*. Mrs. Dean-Frazier reviewed the minutes of the May 7, 2024 Communications Committee meeting. Bridget Compagno, Director of Communications and Marketing, is currently working on the "graduation" issues of the Focus on Education newsletter, which will be published in July, as well as several other initiatives. Mrs. Dean-Frazier stressed the importance of improving communication to the community on what is going on in the schools.

d. *Policy*. Mrs. James reported on the Policy Committee review of the policy on student use of electronic and telecommunications devices. This policy, which was slightly revised by the committee, is under New Business for a first read. Mr. Staab asked if an annual review of all policies takes place noting the importance of the policies being accurate and understood by the staff.

e. *LEARN*. Dr. Brown reported on a recent celebration at the Learning Academy, a special education magnet school in New London under LEARN's umbrella, which recently finished some renovations. He also reported that LEARN completed their formal budget estimate for next year, funds directly from revenue with no direct taxpayer contribution.

f. *LOL Prevention Coalition*. No report.

g. *PreK-8 Building Committee*. Mrs. Fogliano was not in attendance but her report on the work of this committee is attached to these minutes for informational purposes. Mr. Staab suggested that a monthly update on the project be published as the renovations get underway.

VIII. New Business

1. Policy Review

Policy 5131.81 Use of Electronic and Telecommunications Devices

Based on a request by Anna James and the results of the Lymes Youth Service Bureau's recent youth survey which showed excessive time spent on electronic devices by students, the Policy Committee reviewed the district's current policy on use of electronic devices at their May 7 meeting. Some minor changes were made to make the policy more up to date using current technology verbiage. The Board reviewed these recommended changes.

MOTION: Mrs. Shoemaker made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. James, to waive the second reading and approve Policy 5131.81 Use of Electronic and Telecommunications Devices as presented.

Mr. Staab asked if the building level policy is in line with this policy. Mr. Neviaser responded that the administration is cognizant of the fact that school policy should not conflict with Board policy.

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

2. Approval of Psychology Textbook
The Board was presented with this textbook proposal at the May 1 meeting by Michelle Dean, Director of Curriculum.

MOTION: Dr. Brown made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Lowry, to approve the selection of the psychology textbook that was presented at the May 1, 2024 Board meeting.

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

3. Approval of Tuition Student at LOLHS and Center School
Mr. Neviaser reviewed the tuition requests and recommended Board approval of same.

MOTION: Mr. Lodge made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Lowry, to approve the tuition request at LOLHS and Center School for the 2024-2025 school year as presented.

Mr. Staab inquired about disciplinary problems with tuition students. Mr. Neviaser noted that this is addressed in all the tuition contracts that parents sign.

Mrs. Dean-Frazier asked if there was sufficient space at the schools for additional students with the pending building project. Mr. Neviaser noted that there is no planned building project at LOLHS and Center School should not be adversely affected due to lower population next year.

Mr. Neviaser addressed the phases of the building project and the recent communication to the staff. He reported that a majority of the work, with the exception of Mile Creek School, will be done at night which will limit the disruption to the students and staff.

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

IX. Old Business
There was no old business to report.

X. Executive Session

Mr. Staab made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Lowry, to move into executive session to discuss the 2024-2027 AFT Contract, the superintendent's evaluation and the Central Office administrative contracts. The superintendent was invited to attend the executive session. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. Adjournment

The regular meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m. upon a motion by Mr. Staab and a second by Mr. Lodge.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Shoemaker, Secretary

PreK-8 Renovation Project Report for June 5, 2024

As we approach dismissal of students for the summer, there is much information to share on the Renovation Project:

One bit of very good news is that we continue to refine cost estimates, and were able to find savings in excess of $1,700,000 in the last line-by-line review. Kudos to Ian Neviaser and Ron Turner for their hours of scrutiny on the project line items for each school, which resulted in $500,000 of that total savings. To this point, we are within our maximum allowable spend based on best projections.

While we have navigated the Town regulatory processes in Lyme and Old Lyme, there are still a substantial number of hoops to jump through with the State of CT. Whenever school projects receive grant money from the State, the District Administration (along with the architects and construction professionals) must submit plans and attend lengthy Compliance Review Meetings with the Office of Administrative Services on each grant application.

Because we have four designated school projects, with four different grant applications for each (HVAC grants, Priority Grants, Non-Priority Grants, and Security grants for redesign of our vestibules), the PreK-8 Renovation Project has been hampered by continuous requests for more documentation. Without these State approvals, some bid packages cannot go out. (After State approval, there is a 6-8 week time frame for the bidding process itself). The expectation for a June start to construction may not have been realistic from the jump.

Downes Construction is re-designing its phasing plans and workflow to allow for construction throughout the school year(s) with minimal disruption, primarily on second shift and during school vacations. While certain activities like staging to prepare for construction may occur this summer, the Building Committee will keep you well informed as the actual construction schedule shapes up. Be assured that the Building Committee is focused on delivery of the best possible outcomes for the two towns, both in terms of the quality of construction and the bottom line.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Fogliano, BC Committee Chair