LYME-OLD LYME SCHOOLS

Regional School District #18

A Private School Experience *in a Public School Setting*

Regular Board of Education Meeting
August 7, 2024

Board Present: Jason Kemp, Chair; Christopher Staab, Treasurer; Martha Shoemaker, Secretary; Scott Brown; Laura Dean-Frazier; Susan Fogliano (remote); Gavin Lodge

Absent by Previous Arrangement: Anna James;s Alexander Lowry

Administration Present: Ian Neviaser, Superintendent of Schools; Michelle Dean, Director of Curriculum; Melissa Dougherty, Director of Special Services; Holly McCalla, Business Manager; Ron Turner, Director of Facilities & Technology

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 of June 5, 2024; Executive Session of June 5, 2024; Special Meeting of June 20, 2024; Special Meeting of July 16, 2024

MOTION: Mrs. Shoemaker made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Lodge, to approve the consent agenda as presented.

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

III. Visitors
1. Report from Student Representatives

These reports will begin in September when the students return. Mr. Staab asked how the student reps are selected. Mr. Neviaser explained the process for selection.

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

IV. Correspondence

There was no correspondence to report this month.

V. Administrative Reports

1. Superintendent's Report

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

Vacancies 2024-2025	
Instructional Assistants	All Levels
Special Education Teacher	LOLHS
Special Education Teacher	Lyme School

Appointments			
Name	**Position**	**Location**	**Effective Date**
Joyce LaSorsa	Payroll Clerk Secretary (part-time)	Central Office LOLHS	June 24, 2024
Mary Beth Schreindorfer	Instructional Assistant	Mile Creek School	August 26, 2024
Taylor Hudak	Mathematics Teacher	LOLHS	August 22, 2024
Matthew Watts-St. Germain	Special Education Teacher	LOLHS	August 22, 2024
Michael Regan	Social Worker	Mile Creek School	August 22, 2024
Anna Koproski	Library Aide	LOLMS/LOLHS	August 26, 2024
Deborah Beauprez	Instructional Assistant	Mile Creek School	August 26, 2024
Elise Beauprez	Instructional Assistant	Lyme School	August 26, 2024
Mary Bauchmann	Instructional Assistant	Lyme School	August 26, 2024
Angelo Granell	Custodian	LOLHS	August 5, 2024
Ashley Ross-Shelley	Instructional Assistant	LOLHS	August 26, 2024
Brianna Graham	Instructional Assistant	LOLHS	August 26, 2024
Nora Anderson	Instructional Assistant	Mile Creek School	August 26, 2024
Cari Jacobsen	5th Grade Teacher (long-term substitute)	Mile Creek School	August 22, 2024

Resignations/Retirements			
Name	**Position**	**Location**	**Effective Date**
Meagan Suarez	Instructional Assistant	LOLMS	June 7, 2024
Althea Caulkins	Instructional Assistant	LOLMS	June 14, 2024

Melissa Curylo	Instructional Assistant	Mile Creek School	June 13, 2024
Sharon Hallahan	Physical Therapist	Districtwide	June 30, 2024
Mindy Pollack-Pope	Part-Time Secretary	LOLHS	June 13, 2024
Susan Miller	Secretary	Central Office	June 30, 2024
Courtney Strekel	Instructional Assistant	Mile Creek School	June 13, 2024
Caroline Powell	Instructional Assistant	Center School	June 24, 2024
Christina Cain	Special Ed Teacher	Lyme School	June 27, 2024
Emily Macione	Special Ed Teacher	LOLHS	August 31, 2024
Abby Pinney	Kindergarten Teacher	Mile Creek School	July 16, 2024

Mr. Neviaser reported that there are currently 336 students enrolled at Mile Creek School for the 2024-2025 school year with two pending enrollments. The ending enrollment in June was 312.

Mr. Neviaser reported that the AP scores are in and are off the charts as noted below.

Year	Avg. Score	Percentage 3+
2021	3.6	83%
2022	3.5	81%
2023	3.8	87%
2024	**4.0**	**95%**

In addition, 15 subjects had a 100% pass rate. AP Calculus had no scores lower than 4's and 5's for a class average of 4.44.

Mr. Neviaser reviewed the results of the recent borrowing of bonds/notes for the PK-8 project (summary attached to these minutes for informational purposes).

Mr. Neviaser reported on the completed summer 2024 projects:

- Middle School auditorium carpet was replaced
- Middle School stage floor was sanded and refinished
- Center School exterior painted
- Lyme Consolidated exterior painted
- Lyme Consolidated exterior basketball court repaved
- Main campus water tank cleaned and repaired
- Mile Creek, High School, and Middle School gym floors recoated
- Bleacher work on main campus ongoing with completion at end of August
- Copiers updated throughout the buildings
- Middle School greenhouse repairs in process with anticipated completion for August/September
- All playground mulch replaced and refreshed
- New scoreboard and shot clocks installed at Middle School
- Upgrades to all kitchens including installation of outdoor cooler behind high school
- New student Chromebook fleet at the High School

2. Business Manager's Report

Mrs. McCalla reviewed the Executive Budget Summary as of July 31, 2024. Fluctuations of note: Since the school year just began, there are year over year discrepancies which will eventually even out as invoices are realized and encumbrances for spending entered. This time of year has no typical expectation except in salaries, which are pretty much spot on from last year.

	2024-2025 Received YTD
Town of Old Lyme	$934,486
Town of Lyme	$210,816

Mrs. McCalla reviewed the Contingency Maintenance Report. There has been no spending and the balance is $200,000.

VI. Educational Presentation

There was no educational presentation scheduled.

VII. Chairman & Committee Reports:

a. *Facilities*. This group met on June 20 where the committee reviewed the bonding options for the building projects.

b. *Finance*. No report.

c. *Communications*. No report.

d. *Policy*. No report.

e. *LEARN*. No report.

f. *LOL Prevention Coalition*. No report.

g. *PreK-8 Building Committee*. Mrs. Fogliano submitted the following report of this committee since she was attending the meeting via Zoom:

As the Board may be aware, all classroom teachers who are affected by the renovation project have packed up their classroom materials in preparation for construction start, in the event they must teach in a different classroom or have their classroom prepared for night work.

Our first bid package for the Electrical Gear (Switchgear, Generator and Transfer Switch, and Upgraded Electrical Panels) came in lower than anticipated. Downes Construction estimated that the cost would be approximately $465,000, and the low bid came in at $400,000. Good news.

Upon review of our potential borrowing and bonding scenarios with our bonding agent, the Facilities and Finance Committee, the Building Committee, and officials from both towns, we seem to have settled on a borrowing option which provides us with the lowest overall cost over the life of the bond. While there will be an initial few years of "pain," all parties understand what is coming. With any luck, rates will fall slightly.

The following bids have gone out:

- *General Trades*
- *Structural Steel*
- *HVAC*
- *Glass and Glazing*
- *Painting*
- *Acoustical Tiles*
- *Additional Electrical*

The Building Committee will meet again on August 19, and we expect to approve some of those bids at that time. The Superintendent will notify the full Board if any approvals are needed by the BOE beyond that date.

Some aspects of the Mile Creek portion of this project have been held up in review by the State of Connecticut Office of Grant Administration for much too long. Unfortunately, the work included in this project included Demo and Abatement, Fire Protection, and Site Work. We cannot go out to bid on those without State approval. Both our architects and construction firm have responded promptly to all requests for information. Hopefully, by the Board meeting on Wednesday evening, Ian can report this issue is resolved. Those bids were supposed to go out sometime between July 24 and August 20. We are collectively frustrated, and we do not know what impact, if any, this will have on our October start.

VIII. New Business

1. LOLHS Field Trip Request

The Board was provided with a field trip proposal to Costa Rica to take place in August 2025. The proposal included information on the goals of the trip, chaperones, costs, communication itinerary prior to trip, and fundraising details.

MOTION: Mr. Staab made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Lodge, to approve the LOLHS field trip to Costa Rica as presented.

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

2. Increase in Lunch Prices

Mrs. McCalla presented the following proposal to increase school lunch prices: As experienced in all areas, cost of food and paper goods has increased. Reimbursements will be down due to elimination of subsidized free breakfast for all. The PLE Tool determines the required weighted lunch price, and the current weighted lunch price. The current is $3.37 but the required is $3.85. We are proposing a $.25 increase across all tiers which will take the new weighted to about $3.62. The district is not required to increase to the $3.85 amount because the lunch program runs positive.

Previous

ES: 3.00
MS: 3.50
HS: 3.50/4.50

Proposed

ES: 3.25
MS: 3.75
HS: 3.75/4.75

The Board discussed portion size, the program running at a profit, and free and reduced lunch numbers.

MOTION: Mr. Staab made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Lodge, to approve the increase in lunch prices as presented.

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

IX. Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

X. Executive Session

There was no need for an executive session.

XI. Adjournment

The regular meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m. upon a motion by Mrs. Shoemaker and a second by Mr. Lodge.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Shoemaker, Secretary

Regional School District 18, State of Connecticut
$17,335,000* General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2024
$15,140,000 General Obligation Bond Anticipation Notes
August 1, 2024

FY	Projected Bonds Debt Service	Actual Bonds Debt Service	Difference	Projected Notes Interest Only	Actual Notes Interest Only	Difference	Total Difference
2025		$550,350	$550,350				$550,350
2026	$1,992,675	1,547,925	(444,750)	$679,408	$641,663	($37,745)	(482,495)
2027	1,567,700	1,506,175	(61,525)				(61,525)
2028	1,524,200	1,464,425	(59,775)				(59,775)
2029	1,480,700	1,422,675	(58,025)				(58,025)
2030	1,437,200	1,380,925	(56,275)				(56,275)
2031	1,393,700	1,339,175	(54,525)				(54,525)
2032	1,350,200	1,297,425	(52,775)				(52,775)
2033	1,301,825	1,255,675	(46,150)				(46,150)
2034	1,262,900	1,218,100	(44,800)				(44,800)
2035	1,228,300	1,184,500	(43,800)				(43,800)
2036	1,193,700	1,151,300	(42,400)				(42,400)
2037	1,159,100	1,117,900	(41,200)				(41,200)
2038	1,124,500	1,084,500	(40,000)				(40,000)
2039	1,089,900	1,051,100	(38,800)				(38,800)
2040	1,055,300	1,017,700	(37,600)				(37,600)
2041	1,020,700	979,400	(41,300)				(41,300)
2042	986,100	946,200	(39,900)				(39,900)
2043	951,500	913,000	(38,500)				(38,500)
2044	916,900	879,800	(37,100)				(37,100)
2045	882,300	846,000	(36,300)				(36,300)
Total	$24,919,400	$24,154,250	(765,150)	$679,408	$641,663	($37,745)	($802,895)
Premium	$660,611.00	$663,551.27	2,940	$110,068.00	$149,734.60	$39,666.60	$42,606.87
TIC	3.73%	3.29%	-0.44%				-0.44%
NIC				3.77%	3.26%	-0.51%	-0.51%