LYME-OLD LYME SCHOOLS

Regional School District #18

A Private School Experience *in a Public School Setting*

Regular Board of Education Meeting
September 4, 2024

Board Present: Jason Kemp, Chair; Anna James, Vice Chair; Christopher Staab, Treasurer; Martha Shoemaker, Secretary (Remote); 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: Olivia Hersant and Heather Saia, RETA Co-Presidents; Chloe Datum and Ada LaConti, High School Student Representatives; 15 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 of August 7, 2024

MOTION: Mr. Staab 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. Invention Convention Recognition

Michael Beaudette of Mentoring Corps for Community Development (MCCD) presented books to last year's Invention Convention winners.

Winter Hampton-Dowson - Glow Soap
Colton Schroder - Thermal Life Jacket
Taylor Rooney - Puppy Pulsation!
Max Garvin - EZ Socks

2. Report from Student Representatives

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

At LOLHS: The 2024-2025 school year is off to a great start at LOLHS. To kick off the year, incoming freshmen came to visit the high school at the freshman picnic where they met their homeroom teachers and received a tour of the school from members of the student council, while their parents learned more about what having a student at the high school is like. Students arrived ready to learn on the first day of school where they met as a grade to hold class meetings, went over expectations with administration, and received new Chromebooks before heading off to their first classes. Fall sports have begun with many having already played their first game. Clubs will begin to meet in the next few weeks, and auditions for the fall play, *The Theatre Department*, will begin on September 5. Parents are invited to meet their students' teachers on September 12 for back to school night, and Student Council is hard at work planning the upcoming homecoming dance. We are looking forward to another great year at LOLHS.

At LOLMS: Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School welcomed the new 6th graders on August 26 with the traditional orientation followed by the ice cream social sponsored by LYSB. A special thanks was extended to Ron Turner, Brian Howe, the facilities and custodial staff, and the summer paint crew for making the building look and feel amazing. Additionally, the middle school students and staff look forward to the use of the newly renovated greenhouse along with the community partnership with the Lyme-Old Lyme Food Share Garden. Students and staff arrived rejuvenated from summer break. Students are becoming acclimated to the middle school *Wildcat Way*, actively participating in getting to know each other and ready to engage in critical thinking. Students received Chromebooks on their second day and academics are full speed ahead. Athletics are undergoing tryouts with clubs beginning in the upcoming weeks.

At Lyme Consolidated School and Mile Creek School: At both Lyme and Mile Creek, the first days of school have flown by as we navigate the rollups to new grade levels and welcome the incoming kindergarteners and students new to the District. We are grateful to the custodial and maintenance staff for all of the hard work they put into making the schools look so wonderful for the first week of school. The academic work of this school year has begun while we are simultaneously establishing the important routines and expectations that will support learning in classrooms around the school for the remainder of the year. At Mile Creek, students have adjusted well to having lunch in the classroom and

utilizing temporary spaces for art, music and library classes. At both Lyme and Mile Creek, assemblies will be held on September 6 which will give the students and staff an opportunity to gather together as a school community and to share the expectations for whole school assemblies.

In the Preschool Program: We are off to a great start at Center School. We began the year by providing families with tours of Center School on the day before school opened. The tours introduced students and families to the classrooms, playground, and all of the preschool facilities. On September 4, students walked to the Phoebe Griffin Noyes Library to meet the children's librarian, and we are looking forward to our first visit from the Connecticut Audubon Society later this month for a lesson exploring weather. In the classrooms, we are making new friends, learning classroom routines, and having fun. During the month of September, the themes are "all about me" and "apples." We are learning the letters A and B, we will read a variety of fall-themed books including *The Seasons of Arnold's Apple Tree*, and we will learn about the AB pattern in math. We are looking forward to celebrating International Dot Day on September 17 by wearing dots to school, and we are excited to have families visit the classrooms for Center School's open house, which is scheduled for September 26. A special thanks to Ron Turner, the facilities staff, and the summer paint crew for all their hard work this summer. The building looks fantastic.

3. Public Comment

John Flick, a resident of Old Lyme, commented on the potential overruns on the PK-8 Building Project. He noted his many years of experience in finance (retired CFO) and working with supply chains. Mr. Flick asked how a major architectural contractor working on public sector projects was unaware of state funded programs that would not cause a bubble in HVAC projects across the state that would then result in higher inflationary costs. If this is incompetence, then the taxpayers of this district will bear the consequences. If the contractor knew about these potential overruns, did they advise the district and what did those discussions entail which then allowed the district to go forward and risk large overruns on those projects.

IV. Correspondence

There was no correspondence to report.

V. Administrative Reports

1. Superintendent's Report

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

Vacancies 2024-2025	
Instructional Assistants	All Levels
Maintenance	Systemwide
4th Grade Teacher	Mile Creek School
Campus Security Monitor	Main Campus

Appointments			
Name	**Position**	**Location**	**Effective Date**
Cari Jacobsen	5th Grade Teacher (long-term substitute for Francesca Fenner)	Mile Creek School	August 22, 2024
Anna Brouwer	Special Education Teacher	LOLHS	August 22, 2024
Elise Beauprez	Kindergarten Teacher	Mile Creek School	August 22, 2024
Alexandra Clarke	Instructional Assistant	Lyme School	August 26, 2024
Jodi Laurenza	Instructional Assistant	Center School (Transition Program)	August 26, 2024
Morgan Libero	Speech and Language Pathologist	Mile Creek School	August 22, 2024
Brady Sheffield	Instructional Assistant	LOLMS	August 26, 2024
Karen Kook	Instructional Assistant	LOLMS	August 26, 2024
Ty Dean	Instructional Assistant	LOLMS	September 3, 2024
AnnMarie Szerejko	Instructional Assistant	LOLHS	September 3, 2024

Resignations/Retirements			
Name	**Position**	**Location**	**Effective Date**
Pam Hurley	Speech and Language Pathologist	Mile Creek School	August 19, 2024
Rebecca Tate	4th Grade Teacher	Mile Creek School	August 22, 2024
Alissa Helene	Instructional Assistant	Lyme School	August 16, 2024

Mr. Staab noted that he recently reviewed staff resignations over the last four years, and he found that there were double the amount of resignations this past year vs. the previous three years. He voiced concern over losing talented teachers, and he asked if there were initiatives in place to retain staff. The superintendent discussed exit interviews that glean information on those who resign and their efforts to retain talent. He did note situations out of the district's control in which staff leave the district's employ such as teachers looking for positions that the district does not have available, shortage of teachers statewide that opens up more opportunities, relocations out of state, change in family dynamics, etc.

Mrs. Dean-Frazier asked about the pay rate for instructional assistants and whether they were competitive for the area. The top step is $22.26 per hour for instructional assistants. Mr. Neviaser discussed how they have been hiring former teachers as instructional assistants and the advantage that this adds to the classrooms.

Mr. Kemp noted that at the recent staff convocation a photo was taken of many LOL alumni who are current staff members.

Mr. Neviaser reviewed the September enrollment report which reflected a total of 1,280 students in-house. While there have been reductions in enrollment at the preschool (28 less than last year) and high school level (23 less), there have been significant increases at the elementary level at both Mile Creek (24) and Lyme School (9 more). The middle school remains at same level as last year. Mr. Neviaser also reported that we have 562 total K-5 students which is eight students away from a maximum combined capacity of 570 at both schools.

Per Policy 4112.8/4212.8 *Relatives or Spouses as District Employees*, Mr. Neviaser officially notified the Board of Education that the district has recently hired Ty Dean, son of Michelle Dean, as an instructional assistant at LOLMS. Mrs. Dean is not involved in supervision or evaluation of this position. Per this policy, *Persons related by blood or marriage to a member of the administrative staff of Lyme/Old Lyme Public Schools shall not be appointed to a position in a line relationship involving evaluation and supervision of the position. Family members or spouses may be employed in the same department or work location if approved in writing by the Superintendent of Schools and with notification to the Lyme/Old Lyme Board of Education.*

Mr. Neviaser gave a recap on the first week of schools, i.e., adjustments being made to bus routes after several issues during the initial opening of school. Routes are still being adjusted and revised routes will be posted on the website by September 6. The good news is that they have a full fleet of bus drivers.

2. Business Manager's Report

Mrs. McCalla reviewed the Executive Budget Summary as of August 31, 2024. Fluctuations of note: The district spending is on track with last year with nothing of significance to report. The differential in special education spending year over year correlates to timing of invoices and student needs as presently presented.

	2024-2025 Received YTD
Town of Old Lyme	$3,911,463
Town of Lyme	$882,409

Mrs. McCalla reviewed the Contingency Maintenance Report. There have been no expenditures, and the balance remains at $200,000.

VI. Educational Presentation

1. Review of Educator Evaluation Plan and Update on Curriculum Revision Cycle

Michelle Dean, Director of Curriculum, gave an update on curriculum renewal with the following highlights:

- All Phase 1 and 2 curriculum slated for renewal in 2023-2024 were completed with the exception of a few due to leave of absences or retirements.
- Meetings with all 2024-2025 Phase 1 and 2 Department Leaders are in progress to provide orientations to process/create timelines.
- Teachers in Phase 1 or 2 have professional development monies from the Curriculum Office to support curriculum review and enhancement.

The Board was provided with the entire Curriculum Revision Cycle Document for their review.

Mrs. Dean also gave a presentation on the Teacher Evaluation and Support Plan which gave information on the contributing members of the PDEC Committee, their objective, timeline, main components, professional learning goals, effective educator practice, mid-year check-in, end of year meetings, corrective action, and dispute resolution.

A copy of Mrs. Dean's presentation is attached to these minutes for informational purposes.

Questions and comments from the Board followed on the following subjects: the personnel involved in evaluating teachers; the schedule for formal and informal evaluations; example of goals; feedback on lack of rankings; strategies for reduction in time commitment to paperwork; learning goals and focus areas; and formal observation cycle for new teachers.

MOTION: Mrs. Fogliano made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. James, to approve the Educator Evaluation Plan.

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

VII. Chairman & Committee Reports:

a. *Facilities*. No report.
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 reviewed a document she drafted on PK-8 Building project acronyms which is attached to these minutes for informational purposes. Mrs. Fogliano also presented a project timeline from November 8, 2022 through September 2024, also attached to these minutes for informational purposes. Some significant highlights of this report include:

May 2024 - First State of CT DAS PCR meeting to approve Electrical Panels, Switchgear, etc., for Mile Creek School Project Phase 1 to go out to bid as quickly as possible due to lengthy supply chain issues with these items. (By June 17 BC Committee Meeting, approval granted by State, bids went out, and lowest bidder came in at $400,000. This was $65k less than estimates.)

June 2024 - SPA & Downes begin second CT DAS PCR process for remaining schematics for Mile Creek School Project Phase 2, beginning with a checklist from the State on June 18. **Approval for the bulk of the MCS project did not come from the State DAS until August 28.**

July 2024 - Downes prepares bids for construction packages that do not require State of CT DAS approval, which are the bulk of the remaining three school projects (excluding Mile Creek School). Bids go out for materials and labor in categories like HVAC systems, General Trades (like masonry, painting, electrical), and Sitework (like excavation, paving and landscaping).

August 2024 - Bids returned to the Building Committee for the three schools (LOLMS, Lyme School, Center School) for review reflecting $7.7 million overestimates on the HVAC, General Trades and Sitework. At the August 19 BC Meeting, after suggestions offered by SPA and DCC on our path forward, the BC agreed to send a working subcommittee to multiple weekly meetings with Adm, DCC and SPA to search for solutions.

September 2024 - Repackaged bids sent out after the August 19 BC meeting are expected back on September 12, and our next BC meeting is on September 16 for review. Any material recommendations made by the BC to alter the scope or expenditures on this project will come to the full BOE for approval.

Mr. Neviaser stressed that no decisions have been made; the working subcommittee, along with the design team, will come back with recommendations for value engineering. The Building Committee will then make a recommendation to the full Board of Ed.

Mr. Staab asked if this will cause a delay in the schedule to complete the HVAC work for the three schools (Center, Lyme and LOLMS) by the end of 2025 and have any effect to the bonds they have taken out. Mr. Neviaser responded that neither would be affected.

Mr. Kemp and Mrs. Fogliano stressed that the Building Committee is working diligently to deliver this project within budget, and they asked that the community respect the process and not speculate on decisions that have not been made. The Building Committee will make their recommendations to the Board of Ed who have final decision-making authority. Questions on the project should be directed to the Superintendent and/or Board Chair.

It was noted that the working subcommittee meetings do not have to be posted as this group is creating work products for others to make decisions on.

VIII. New Business

1. Goals for 2024-2025

Based on the Board's feedback from the August retreat, the administration has developed draft goals for this school year which Mr. Neviaser presented and reviewed with the Board.

Curriculum

Utilize Panorama to track and monitor progress across all domains in order to make informed decisions about individual student programming.

Human Resources
In alignment with state guidelines, implement the newly created Region 18 Educator Support Plan and gather feedback on the process to inform any plan revisions for year two.

Community
In order to streamline communication to our students and families, evaluate school and district processes to determine the most efficient and effective methods of disseminating information.

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

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

Board of Education
Attend professional development opportunities offered through CABE including the CABE/CAPSS Convention and other statewide board of education activities.

MOTION: Mrs. Fogliano made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Lodge, to approve the Goals for the 2024-2025 school year.

Mr. Lowry voiced concern that they are putting the sustainability goal solely on the students and questioned whether they should open the door to making this goal more building and/or staff driven. Mr. Neviaser discussed the many people who are involved with green initiatives. Mrs. Dean-Frazier suggested adding "staff and community driven" as well to this goal wording.

AMENDED MOTION: Mrs. Fogliano amended her motion to approve the Goals for the 2024-2025 school year with the following new wording for the Sustainability Goal: Maintain and expand "Green Teams" at each building to identify, address, and support student, staff and community-driven sustainability initiatives. Mr. Lowry seconded the amended motion.

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

2. Tractor Lease
Ron Turner, Director of Facilities and Technology, provided the following background information on this agenda item: this new tractor will replace the existing John Deere tractor which is over twenty years old. This tractor is vital to the day to day needs of the District buildings and grounds personnel and will be utilized for a number of tasks on campus including snow removal, mowing, materials moving, and athletic field maintenance. The unit will be purchased under Kahn Tractor's State of CT DAS

Procurement contract #17PSX0118. This annual lease purchase value is included in the FY 2024/25 approved budget, and the value is less than anticipated.

MOTION: Mrs. Fogliano made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Dean-Frazier, to award Kahn Tractor of Franklin, Connecticut a contract to supply a KUBOTA model L6060HSTC tractor for $68,573.32 including associated financing costs. This purchase will be distributed over 4 years at $17,144 per year with a lease to own contract.

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

3. Server Upgrade

Ron Turner provided the following background information on this agenda item: the addition of these servers aligns to consolidation and support date strategies throughout the next five to seven years. There have been significant price increases with Broadcom VMware subscription fees along with looming end of support dates for the District's existing HPE equipment and VMware architectures. This server refresh will allow the District to consolidate and expand resources on two more powerful and accommodating physical server hosts while reducing our subscription fees with Broadcom for the foreseeable future. The Servers are being purchased using the HPE NASPOVP CT-13PSX0208-MNNVP-134 State of Connecticut pre-bid contract pricing. This purchase value is included in the fiscal year 2024-2025 approved budget.

MOTION: Mr. Staab made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Lodge, to award Connecticut Computer Services, Inc., a contract to supply, configure and deploy two replacement HPE servers for the value of $63,500.

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

IX. Old Business

There was no old business to report.

X. Executive Session

There was no need for an executive session.

XI. Adjournment

The regular meeting adjourned upon a motion by Mrs. James and a second by Mr. Staab.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Shoemaker, Secretary

Curriculum Update

2024-2025

All Phase 1 and 2 curriculum slated for renewal in 2023-2024 were completed with the exception of a few due to leave of absences or retirements.

Meetings with all 2024-2025 Phase 1 and 2 Department Leaders are in progress to provide orientations to process/create timelines.

Teachers in Phase 1 or 2 have professional development monies from the Curriculum Office to support curriculum review and enhancement.

You can access the Curriculum Revision Cycle Document HERE (under 24-25 tab) or through the Curriculum Website.

2024-2025

Teacher Evaluation and Support Plan

2024–2025

Thank you to all contributing members of PDEC

Heather Saia, Co-Chair

Michelle Dean, Co-Chair

Crystal Adanti

Rebecca Bocian

Patricia Cournoyer

Karen Duhamel

Kelly Enoch

Allison Hine

Deborah House

Dawn Kelley

Jeanne Manfredi

Noah Ventola

Objective:

Using the guiding principles upon which the new Teacher Support and Evaluation Plan is based, staff will become oriented to the new systems.



August 2024

Orientation to all certified staff after Convocation

Sept. 9

Building Admin./Member of PDEC share Goal Setting process and paperwork

Oct. 7

Building Admin./Member of PDEC share the Observation process and paperwork

Nov. 4

Building Admin./Member of PDEC share Dispute Resolution/Corrective Action Process

Main Components



Educator self-reflection and goal setting



On-going observation of practice and feedback



Tiered levels of support, as needed



Artifacts/evidence of goal achievement



Focus on educator growth (no ratings)



Reducing burden of paperwork and initiatives

Effective Educator Practice

Educators will participate in an observation cycle with their evaluator that is grounded in the CCT Rubrics and centered around actionable feedback.



- Tenure cycle: Three year evaluation cycle: Formal (1yr.), Informal (2yrs.) as defined in the plan.
- Non-tenure cycle for first two years of service in Region 18 as outlined in the plan.
- Formal observations require pre/post observation paperwork and meetings with and feedback from evaluator.
- Informal observations are 7-10 minutes and require the evaluator to provide written or verbal feedback.

Professional Learning Goals

Using the CCT Rubric, educators will identify an area of growth.

- Mutually agreed upon learning goal(s) between teacher and evaluator.
- Indication of how new learning will be acquired and guided.
- Two indicators that demonstrate evidence of growth.
- Tenured teachers may choose 1,2,3 year growth goal.
- Goal(s) set by October 15th, mid-year and end of year meetings.



Mid-Year Check-in

The Mid-Year Check-In is an opportunity to share progress on learning goals

- Opportunity to share learning goal progress and/or adapt goal as needed to make more relevant or meaningful.
- Opportunity for reciprocal feedback between educator and evaluator.
- Informal meeting meant to be a brief checkpoint.



End of -Year Meeting

By close of school, educators and evaluators meet share reciprocal feedback related to learning goals/educator practice.

- Educator comes prepared with evidence of new learning, application of new learning and impact of new learning on teaching/learning.
- Educator comes prepared with End of Year Summative Report (self-reflection on goals/practice).



Corrective Action

Should an educator require more support outside the evaluation and support model, a tied system of support will be utilized for targeted growth in the identified area(s). This process should include a representative of the educator's collective bargaining unit.



- Tier I is the foundational process that all certified educators participate in outlined in the Evaluation and Support Plan.

- Tier II & III are mutually agreed upon goals/support/outcomes between educators, evaluators, and collective bargaining units. Notice of concern will be provided for any major concerns that may not fall the need for tiered support through the evaluation and support model.

Dispute Resolution

Should mutually agreed upon goals, measures of accomplishment, feedback or other aspects of the support plan not be met, a dispute resolution process may be initiated.

- A sub-committee of the PDEC will comprise the team determining outcomes of the dispute resolution process.
- It is encouraged that prior to convening the PDEC sub-committee, all parties have made efforts to discuss the difference in opinion and seek common understandings of the issues.



Oct. 11

Prof. Learning Day: Finalize learning goals/Meetings with evaluator

Faculty Meeting: Prepare for Mid-Year Check-ins

Dec. 9

April 28

Faculty Meeting: Prepare for End of Year Check-ins

End of year meetings and end of year reports completed

June 16

This has been a big picture overview of the main components of the process. Building administrators and PDEC members will support the deep dive into the sections and associated paperwork.

Questions

?

September 9th faculty meeting build: Goal Setting Deep Dive

Continue presernation for future new staff orientaitons

PreK-8 Building Project Acronyms Cheatsheet

RD #18 BC = Building Committee appointed by BOE in early 2023

DCC = Downes Construction Company
(responsible for construction drawings, bidding, & manage all contractors)

SPA = Silver, Petrucelli & Associates
(creates designs on which construction is based & regulatory approval lead)

OLZBA = Old Lyme Zoning Board of Appeals
(first stop when applying for variances on a project, like addition to MCS, requires notice to abutters prior to application, at first ZBA meeting we make application, 30 days later public hearing, then to Zoning)

OLZC = Old Lyme Zoning Commission
(30 days between acceptance of application and a public hearing)

State of CT DAS = Department of Administrative Services
(must approve all documents before going to bid on any portion of the Building Project where grants are involved, or in the case of an addition being added to a school building)

PCR = Pre-Bid Conformance Review
*(detailed process in which our architects and construction firm must satisfy all questions from the State OGA **before we can go to bid**). Local officials such as Zoning, ZBA, Fire Marshall, Department of Energy & Environmental Protection, Town Engineers and sometimes local Building Officials must sign off before the State OGA will hold a PCR meeting)*

DD = Design Drawings
CD = Construction Drawings
Scope = Detail of what is included in the construction project
VE = Value Engineering, ways to reduce cost by making different choices of materials or method of construction

GMP = Guaranteed Maximum Price (contractor & RD #18 sign off on after bid acceptance)

PreK-8 Building Project Timeline

"**On November 8, 2022,** the people of Lyme and Old Lyme voted to approve the issuance of bonds in the amount of $57,500,000 to address facilities needs in our schools.

The following will be addressed:

- Replacing and repairing heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning systems at Center School, Mile Creek School, Lyme School, and Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School.
- Bringing these same four schools up to current code compliance for accessibility, safety, security, and other building and fire code requirements.
- Adding additional classroom space to Mile Creek School".

January 2023 - BOE approves BC appointments.

Feb-Nov 2023 - BC takes several months to decide on the overall specific scope of the four school projects.

December 2023 - Notice of OLZBA Application for Variance on MCS project hand delivered in writing to all neighbors and abutters. Meeting held with abutters to review MCS addition and alteration and to answer any questions the public may have.

January 2024 - SPA prepares design documents for OLZBA and OLZC applications.

February 2024 - OLZBA accepts RD #18 Application for MCS project at their monthly meeting, we wait 30 days for the public hearing. Simultaneously, RD #18 submits Application to Approve MCS Project to OLZC (pending ZBA approval). OLZC accepts MCS application, we wait 30 days for that ZC Public Hearing.

Early March 2024 - OLZBA approves variances required for MCS project after a brief public hearing.

March 2024 - With OLZBA approval, OLZC holds Public Hearing on Mile Creek Project. Lengthy questioning by OLZC and the public leads to a continuance until April 2024.

March 2024 – Successfully lobbied for and received extension from State of CT for $12 million in HVAC grants, which require completion of the HVAC systems for Center, LOLMS and Lyme School by 12-31-2025.

April 2024 - Continuing questioning on storm water management and parking/traffic concerns at MCS. OLZC grants approval of the MCS project as presented.

Dec-May 2024 - Continuous refinement of design drawings and construction estimates based on current market conditions and regulatory requirements presented monthly to BC by SPA and DCC.

May 2024 - First State of CT DAS PCR meeting to approve Electrical Panels, Switchgear, etc. for Mile Creek School Project Phase 1 to go out to bid as quickly as possible due to lengthy supply chain issues with these items. (By June 17th BC Committee Meeting, approval granted by State, bids went out, and lowest bidder came in at $400,000. This was $65k less than estimates.)

June 2024 - SPA & Downes begin second CT DAS PCR process for remaining schematics for Mile Creek School Project Phase 2, beginning with a checklist from the State on June 18th. **Approval for the bulk of the MCS project did not come from the State DAS until August 28th.**

July 2024 - Downes prepares bids for construction packages that do not require State of CT DAS approval, which are the bulk of the remaining three school projects (excluding Mile Creek School). Bids go out for materials and labor in categories like HVAC systems, General Trades (like masonry, painting, electrical), and Sitework (like excavation, paving and landscaping).

August 2024 - Bids returned to the Building Committee for the three schools (LOLMS, Lyme School, Center School) for review reflecting $7.7 million overestimates on the HVAC, General Trades and Sitework. At the August 19th BC Meeting, after suggestions offered by SPA and DCC on our path forward, the BC agreed to send a working subcommittee to multiple weekly meetings with Adm, DCC and SPA to search for solutions.

September 2024 - Repackaged bids sent out after the August 19th BC meeting are expected back on September 12th, and our next BC meeting is on September 16 for review. Any material recommendations made by the BC to alter the scope or expenditures on this project will come to the full BOE for approval.

Additionally, bids will now be sent out for the Mile Creek School Project so that the full extent of the "real bottom line" on this PreK-8 Project will soon be known.