

# FOCUS ON EDUCATION



Quarterly newsletter of Lyme-Old Lyme Schools  
*A private school experience in a public school setting*

Fall 2024



## Message from the Superintendent & Chair

Dear Members of the Lyme-Old Lyme Communities,

Please take a few minutes to read about the latest happenings in our district, including a pertinent update on the ongoing facilities work happening in our PK-8 schools.

Our students and staff continue to make us proud as the school year continues. There are many upcoming musical events that are open to community members free of charge. We invite you to come see our students in action as you won't be disappointed!

As always, we wish to thank the communities of Lyme and Old Lyme for their ongoing support.

Sincerely,

Ian Neviaser  
*Superintendent of Schools*

Jason Kemp  
*Chair, Board of Education*

## Board of Education Meetings

Please join the Board of Education for the following meetings:

**December 4**, Regular BOE Meeting, 6:30 PM

**January 8**, Regular BOE Meeting, 6:30 PM

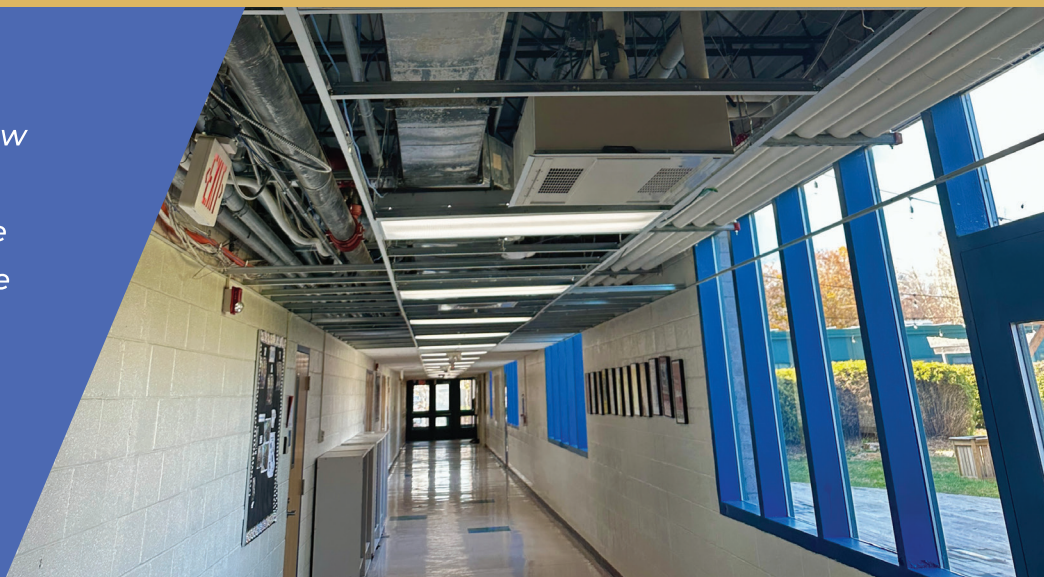
**January 15**, Special BOE Meeting, Budget Workshop, 6:30 PM

**January 22**, Special BOE Meeting, Budget Workshop, 6:30 PM

**February 5**, Budget Forum, 6:30 PM, Regular BOE, 7:00 PM

Meetings are held in the Board of Education Conference Room at Center School, 49 Lyme Street, Old Lyme. Agendas, links to live-streams of meetings, and links to recordings of previous meetings are available at [www.region18.org](http://www.region18.org) under the "District Information" tab.

*These decisions, along with a few other minor adjustments, have allowed the building committee to finalize project costs for Lyme School, Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School, and Center School that are \$119,612 under budget.*



## Update on the PK-8 Building Project

We are pleased to provide an update on the progress of the PK-8 Building Project for which voters approved \$57,555,000 in November of 2022. The project itself is, more accurately, two different projects as they are being supported by two different state grant programs.

Prior to the referendum, the district received an Extension and Alteration grant commitment from the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) for Mile Creek School in the amount of \$9,075,088. Subsequent to the referendum, three district schools (Center School, Lyme School, and Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School) received a separate HVAC/Indoor Air Quality grant from DAS in the amount of \$12,009,717.

Only the first of these two grants was anticipated in the planning and informational materials provided to the voters at the time of the referendum. The additional \$12 million in grants reduces the amount of local tax dollars necessary to fund the project. These additional grant monies, combined with the lower interest rate environment for bonds and notes, will save our communities around \$16 million.

We are proud of these additional savings this early in the process, yet remain committed to completing the project within the amount authorized at referendum. In order to do so, the Board of Education's Building Committee acted to address what were initially very high bid responses for some portions of the work. Rebidding certain components of the project resulted in over \$3 million of cost reductions. In addition, the committee, with approval from the Board of Education, reassigned the proposed renovation work for the security vestibules at Lyme School, Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School, and Center School from the PK-8 project budget to the board of education's "rainy day" fund at an estimated cost of approximately \$1 million, with such work to be completed on the same schedule as had been originally planned as a part of the PK-8 project.

Upon the recommendation of the building committee, and with the endorsement of the fire marshal, the board of education also approved retaining the existing compartmentalized fire protection system in lieu of adding sprinklers at Lyme School and Mile Creek School.

These decisions, along with a few other minor adjustments, have allowed the building committee to finalize project costs for Lyme School, Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School, and Center School that are \$119,612 under budget.

The committee is currently finalizing bids for the Mile Creek School project. The portion of work relative to Mile Creek is estimated to represent about \$25 million of the total PK-8 project cost.

We share this good news to keep our communities informed and commend those involved for their commitment to completing these projects on time and within the approved budget.

## Join us for these upcoming, free performances:



All events held at the Lyme-Old Lyme High School auditorium.

**Thursday, December 12:** *Lyme-Old Lyme High School Winter Band Concert, 7:00 PM*

**Wednesday, December 18:** *Lyme-Old Lyme Chorus Concert, 7:00 PM*

**Friday, December 20:** *Midday Holiday Band Concert, time TBD, details available on [www.region18.org](http://www.region18.org) soon*

**Thursday, February 6:** *Festival of the Bands Concert, 7:00 PM*



Select Singers will be performing in the community on the following dates:

**Saturday, December 7:** *Homeward Collective, Lyme Street, 2:00 PM*

*Holiday Enchantment, Lyme Art Academy, 3:00 – 5:00 PM*

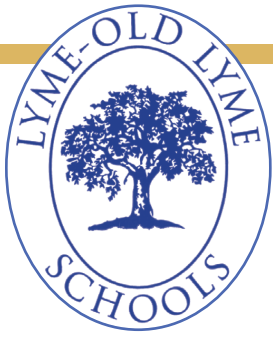
**Sunday, December 15:** *Lessons & Carols Service, South Lyme Union Chapel, 308 Mile Creek Rd., Old Lyme, 3:00 PM*

**Thursday, December 19:** *Lymes' Senior Center at Christ the King Church, 1:00 PM*



## New Bleachers at the Middle School

Bleachers and a paved path to the bleachers have been added to the field between the middle school and high school on the main campus. This improvement is sure to be appreciated by those attending sports and other activities.



Lyme-Old Lyme Schools  
49 Lyme Street  
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#### TEACHER OF THE YEAR



#### Will Allik, Art Teacher, Lyme-Old Lyme High School

Mr. Allik is known for his ability to relate to his students and encourage their talent. One glance into his classroom, full of student art work and interactive technology, demonstrates both his love of art and his love of teaching. Mr. Allik began working for our schools in 2004 and has continually challenged students to push boundaries, ask questions, and to develop their own creative voice.

“Will has gone beyond teaching the curriculum. He has ignited a spark in his students, encouraging them to see the world through a creative lens and to think beyond the conventional,” said Jim Wygonik, principal of Lyme-Old Lyme High School. “He has created an environment where every student feels valued and inspired to explore their unique talents.”

#### Sarah Karpinski, Library Aide, Lyme School and Mile Creek School

Mrs. Karpinski is known as “the book whisperer” among her students and colleagues. The breadth of her knowledge of youth literature allows her to recommend the perfect book to students visiting the library. Karpinski, also an attorney, began working in our schools in November of 2020. Her ready smile, generosity of time, and her kind spirit are well known by both students and staff.

“Sarah is a consistent, positive presence who enhances the joy of learning for all of our students. She brightens the days of so many with her positive presence, friendly demeanor, and “can do” attitude,” says Kelly Enoch, principal, Mile Creek School.

#### EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

