

# EAST LONGMEADOW SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES



## District Mission

"Our mission in the East Longmeadow Public Schools is to promote achievement and accountability in all endeavors as we educate today for the challenges of tomorrow"

DATE: December 16, 2019  
TIME: 6:00 P.M.  
WHERE: Superintendent's Conference Room

Meeting called to Order by: Gregory Thompson, Chair

Chair stated that this meeting is being both audio and video taped, and asked if anyone else was taping the meeting.

Roll Call: Student Rep; William Fonseca; Richard Freccero; Sarah Truoiolo; Gregory Thompson; Gordon Smith, Superintendent of Schools; Antonella Raschilla; Pamela Blair, Asst. Superintendent for Business; Kathy Celetti, Recording Secretary

### Approval of Minutes

2.1 Approval of the November 18, 2019 regular session meeting minutes.

**William moved to approve the November 18, 2019 regular session meeting minutes, Richard seconded the motion.**  
**Chair: Any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor say aye (5), those oppose say nay (0), motion carries (5-0)**

2.2 Approval of the November 18, 2019 executive session meeting minutes.

**Richard moved to approve the November 18, 2019 executive session meeting minutes, Sarah seconded the motion.**  
**Chair: Any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor say aye (5), those oppose say nay (0), motion carries (5-0)**

2.3 Approval of the November 27, 2019 executive session meeting minutes.

**Sarah moved to approve the November 27, 2019 executive session meeting minutes, Richard seconded the motion.**  
**Chair: Any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor say aye (5), those oppose say nay (0), motion carries (5-0)**

2.4 Approval of the December 4, 2019 executive session meeting minutes.

**William moved to approve the December 4, 2019 executive session meeting minutes, Sarah seconded the motion.**  
**Chair: Any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor say aye (5), those oppose say nay (0), motion carries (5-0)**

2.5 Approval of the December 9, 2019 executive session meeting minutes.

**Richard moved to approve the December 9, 2019 executive session meeting minutes, Sarah seconded the motion.**  
**Chair: Any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor say aye (5), those oppose say nay (0), motion carries (5-0)**

### Committee/Sub-committee Communications

**Student Rep:** Student Advisory Committee met and had a discussion on Model Congress. Aiden who is a member of the Student Advisory Committee knew a lot about this, I believe he is a member of Model Congress and that is run by Mr. Phelan. He made us aware that they submitted six final draft bills that will be presented and argued at AIC. The bills are: Nuclear Energy for a cleaner future; license in order to fire and execute with guns act; assault weapons interdiction act; horse racing regulation act; community college grants for students; and minor dietary supplement approval. As you can tell, there is an array of different things that the bills are dealing with. I thought that was just a great example of something that students are working together in, achieving great things. Six bills is a pretty good amount. Also, we had the senior semi on December 6<sup>th</sup>. I am actually a part of the junior class council, so we kind of used this junior semi as an opportunity to use the ticket sales and profits that we might make off of those to try and make tickets for a prom less expensive. So that is kind of the goal for this year, because we want to make that as little money as possible. So that was great, we actually had our class president make a speech before the dance started about just how much he loves the class and how great we all are together. It was a great thing!

**Richard:** Sofia, how much longer do we have you coming here? Now that you are in swim season, are you going to be able to continue coming? So Grace isn't going to come at this point now?

**Sofia:** That is something we would discuss more at the Student Advisory Committee.

**William:** Last Thursday, I had a chance to partake in the judging of the senior projects. It was another great day, the group that I had, did a phenomenal job. This program has grown so much over the years, it's amazing, and it was really a good day.

**Richard:** Two things, very enjoyable National Honor Society ceremony back in November. Secondly, I'm going to second what Bill said about the senior projects. I told Mr. Maccarini who runs this, that these are the best presentations I've seen in nine years. It seems like it's evolving, and the students are putting in with more requirements and forcing them to really hone in on their presentations. It was very impressive. Both with the quality and presentation. It was wonderful all around.

**Sarah:** Last week I was attending an event through my work in Springfield and I was able to see Heather Brown and Tim Allen and a few members of the Birchland Park staff. At that event where curriculum associates was working to showcase i-Ready. How we can really be a partner in the multi-tiered systems of support that DESE is supporting. It was really nice to see representation from East Longmeadow there and to be able to talk to Heather and Tim and some of the faculty as well. A lot of great information was dispersed. I was able to kind of by chance stop in on the Professional Development day over at Meadow Brook. I was able to see some of the work around ST Math and educators were getting some PD around a little bit of work around the phonics pilot and the paraprofessional PD that was happening, so that was really a nice opportunity to check in on a school that I am partnered with.

**Gregory:** I am proud to announce that after several years of trying, we've been invited into the Massachusetts School Building Authority for the CORE project, eligibility process. So that means we begin to start talking about what to do with this building, the high school. Lots of work to come, many votes, discussions with the town, certainly more information to come. Good news at least from the state side that the potential is there for to receive some grant money for a new building. Happy for all the hard work that everybody has done.

**Mr. Smith:** It was a group effort, thank you.

**Gregory:** In the end, it's still up to the voters of this town, a lot of work still to be done. But the next step, we've got there, so thank you all for your help on that.

### Superintendent's Report:

#### Assistant Superintendent of Business Report :

5.2.1 Ms. Blair presented the FY20 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Financial Report.

**Richard moved to approve the FY20 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Financial Report as presented by Ms. Blair, William seconded the motion.**  
**Chair: Any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor say aye (5), those oppose say nay (0), motion carries (5-0)**

### Old Business :

6.1 The 2020-2021 school calendar was discussed. Mr. Smith said that as requested by the school committee, he did a staff and parent survey based on the

following three questions.

- Current schedule used for the first week of school: ELPS Staff Convocation Assembly is on Monday, August 31<sup>st</sup>; with the first day of school for students on Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup> and student go to school on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, with Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup> off before the Labor Day weekend. (three days for students).
- A revised schedule for the first week of school: ELPS Staff Convocation Assembly is on Monday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, the first day of school for students is Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, and students go to school Tuesday through Friday before Labor Day weekend (four day week for students).
- A revised schedule for the first week of school: ELPS Staff Convocation Assembly is on Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, the first day of school for students is Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, and students go to school Wednesday through Friday the Labor Day weekend. (three day week for students).

**87.6% of staff voted for** : Current schedule used for the first week of school: ELPS Staff Convocation Assembly is on Monday, August 31<sup>st</sup>; with the first day of school for students on Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup> and student go to school on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, with Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup> off before the Labor Day weekend. (three days for students).

**8.8% of staff voted for** : A revised schedule for the first week of school: ELPS Staff Convocation Assembly is on Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, the first day of school for students is Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, and students go to school Wednesday through Friday the Labor Day weekend. (three day week for students). This was based on 226 responses.

**50.67% of parents voted for** : Current schedule used for the first week of school: ELPS Staff Convocation Assembly is on Monday, August 31<sup>st</sup>; with the first day of school for students on Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup> and student go to school on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, with Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup> off before the Labor Day weekend. (three days for students).

**32.12% of parents voted for** : A revised schedule for the first week of school: ELPS Staff Convocation Assembly is on Monday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, the first day of school for students is Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, and students go to school Tuesday through Friday before Labor Day weekend (four day week for students).

**17.20% of parents voted for** : A revised schedule for the first week of school: ELPS Staff Convocation Assembly is on Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, the first day of school for students is Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, and students go to school Wednesday through Friday the Labor Day weekend. (three day week for students). This was based on 744 responses.

**Richard moved to approve the draft calendar #1 (students go to school Tuesday - Thursday with Friday off), William seconded the motion.**

**Chair: Any further discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor say aye (2), those oppose say nay (3), motion does not carry (2-3)**

**Sarah moved to approve the draft calendar #2 (students go to school Tuesday - Friday), Antonella seconded the motion.**

**Chair: Any further discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor say aye (3), those oppose say nay (2), motion carries (3-2)**

#### **New Business:**

7.1 Request from East Longmeadow Rec Dept. for use of ELHS on Sunday, January 26, 2020 from 6AM-6PM for a wrestling tournament was presented by Mr. Smith.

Richard: I like how they named the tournament after Mr. Robert Mazzariello.

**Richard moved to approve the wrestling tournament named after Mr. Robert Mazzariello on Sunday, January 26, 2020, Sarah seconded the motion.**

**Chair: Any further discussion?**

**Chair: I think we should revisit this policy. Any further discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor say aye (5), those oppose say nay (0), motion carries (5-0).**

7.2 Request to waive Policy GCGA-R for a long-term substitute at Mapleshade for the "Speech Language Pathologist" position was presented by Mr. Smith. Mr. Smith said that we are having a hard time getting a sub for the daily sub rate. Dr. Welch is requesting we waive the initial 30-day period for substitute compensation and pay the substitute at Bachelors Level 1

**William moved to approve the request to waive the 30 day per Policy GCGA-R for the Long-term sub at Mapleshade for Speech Language Pathologist, Richard seconded the motion.**

**Chair: Any further discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor say aye (5), those oppose say nay (0), motion carries (5-0)**

**Chair: Thank you Sofia and Mr. Maki**

**William moved to adjourn at 6:35 P.M. and go into School Committee Professional Development, Sarah seconded the motion.**

**Chair: Any further discussion? All those in favor say aye (5), those oppose (0), motion carries (5-0)**

Minutes Recorded by: Kathy Celetti

Respectfully submitted by: Superintendent Smith

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Signature