

**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 18, 2017  
TIME: 7:00 P.M.  
WHERE: Superintendent's Conference Room  
180 Maple Street, East Longmeadow

Meeting called to Order by: Deirdre Mailloux, Chair  
Present: William Fonseca; Richard Freccero; Gregory Thompson; Deirdre Mailloux; Gordon Smith, Superintendent of School, Elizabeth Marsian-Boucher, Valerie Annear, Asst. Supt. for Curr. & Instr.; Pamela Blair, Asst. Supt. for Business; Kathy Celetti, Recording Secretary  
Absent: Student Rep

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

**Approval of Minutes**

2.1 Approval of the December 4, 2017 executive session meeting minutes.

**Richard moved to approve the December 4, 2017 executive session meeting minutes, Gregory seconded the motion**  
**Chair: Any further discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor say aye (5), all those oppose (0), that motion carries (5-0)**

2.2 Approval of the December 4, 2017 regular meeting minutes.

**William moved to approve the December 4, 2017 regular meeting minutes, Elizabeth seconded the motion.**  
**Chair: Any further discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor say aye (5), all those oppose (0), that motion carries (5-0)**

**Committee/Sub-committee Communications**

**William:** Great job by the seniors! Senior project was this past Thursday and Friday. I attended both sessions on Thursday. They did a great job! Congratulations to everybody that was in my group. MASC Board of Directors met Wednesday night. A lot of upcoming events for next year. I will get the dates out once they are firmed up to everybody.

**Richard:** I was present for the senior project, very sophisticated some of the examples I saw. I went to the grade 2 concert with Ms. Mailloux at Meadow Brook. I enjoyed the concert. At Mapleshade Mr. Fredette was telling me they had partnered with Malden Elementary School. They are teleconferencing with us, learning how we are doing in Mapleshade and what they want to do in Malden, which I think is fantastic. We are kind of mentoring that school. I did see the Wall of Gratitude at Mountain View which is really wonderful. And the Collaborative Committee has begun the Grinspoon election.

**Greg:** It's worth mentioning that we did apply for Massachusetts School Building Authority Program for the reimbursement for the high school. This is our fourth year trying.

**Deirdre:** So the application went in, in April. Then we had all through the summer waiting and waiting

**Gregory:** Unfortunately we were not accepted into the MSBA Program this year. We will not be going to the town for project. We will have to talk about what we do to go forward.

**Deirdre:** Just to clarify, this was for the CORE Program for a new high school or renovated high school. We do have the process going on for the Accelerated Repair at Meadow Brook. Ms. Boucher, do you want to say anything about the MSBA process and the high school not getting approved.

**Beth:** I'm very disappointed, I understand why they have a process, however, I don't completely understand how a school system that takes care of their buildings, respect what they have, ultimately ends up being punished. Because other schools are condemned, how do you get to that point? I feel that those school systems should be punished by receiving at least less reimbursement money because you didn't put it in in the beginning.

**Gregory:** I agree with those points, wholeheartedly, I am glad you said that. I think now it lies on us and our responsibility to start to make that point to MSBA, because I think we tried to go through the process and we tried to work within the process. But from what they told us we are supposed to be rewarded for lack of a better term on maintaining a building, was all that should happen anyways. It does seem like we are being penalized and that they are funding projects of buildings that people have let go, so clearly they are not maintaining. So I think we need to make a better point to MSBA on behalf of the town to try and state that point. We are trying to play within the rules to maintain our buildings and we've been penalized for that, and you offer other communities that have not maintained their building projects and reimbursement funds. The reality of it is, and we all know this, we can't go without MSBA, so you are caught between a rock and a hard place. We are at their total mercy, until they accept us into the process and they have not again. I think we have to step up our game.

**Deirdre:** I think part of their explanation was or the way some of the other schools got funding was they had overcrowding issues. You know we don't live in a city that we are going to or may never have overcrowding issues. But, to say that we have a building just falling apart.

**Richard:** If they build those 600 units, you may have overcrowding issues.

**Elizabeth:** Yes there is that, but then I also feel like you know when Ms. Renear's lab, multiple times during the course of the year, the students shouldn't even be in the room with the smell that's coming in there. So now what do we do with those students? That's maybe temporary overcrowding. I know that we are trying to make the students comfortable during the lunch period, but there is not enough seating in the lunchroom for our students, they are sitting on the floors. How is that safe? I mean I understand it gives them an atmosphere where they can sit where they want to be and that's a great thing, but that is a type of overcrowding. What about the bubbling water that happen in one of the schools? Coming up through whatever is under our tile asbestos or whatever that used to bubble through. We had to fix that, so if we have that happen again, do we have to close down that room? We did have to closedown rooms as the water was dripping on the kids heads. We can't invest in a roof, are they going to give us money for a new school? So there is this fine line, and it's tricky for us, it's sad, I didn't expect my kids would see a new school, but this is it. The little one might have seen maybe a half of year, it would have been a nice experience for all of our kids.

**Mr. Smith:** To Mr. Thompson's point in terms of being caught. The Accelerated Repair reimbursement is 55%, so it's 55¢ on the dollar. It is an excellent point. You really do want that if you want to do a comprehensive project somewhere. You want to look at their support.

**Gregory:** Well it's irresponsible and unrealistic for us to think that we could go to the town and say we want you to fund \$120 million dollar project when potentially next year we could receive \$65 or \$70 million dollars of that reimbursement. It's just not going to happen, so you are at the total mercy of the MSBA. We followed the rules; we have maintained our buildings which is responsible for the kids that are here now. We are penalized for it; I don't know maybe we make a bigger stink. Invite them out here and then go out to some of those meetings out there.

**Elizabeth:** I'd be curious to see how many Western MA Schools got in.

**William:** There were no schools in the Western end of the state.  
**Elizabeth:** Ms. Smith has been working with MSBA Diane Sullivan  
**William:** She's caught in the middle, she is the liaison. It is the Board of Directors at MSBA that ultimately make the decisions.  
**Gregory:** It's not from lack of trying; you know we have done everything we have been asked to do. We have followed all the rules we have been given, all the documentations, answered all the questions,  
**Deirdre:** looked at other Statement of Interest  
**Gregory:** Up for another day, a discussion soon, then we will try to figure out what to do going forward. The other option is to come up with a different strategy.  
**Deirdre:** I also want to mention on December 6<sup>th</sup> was the HS Winter Concert. I know a couple of you were there. Another great performance put on by our music department. They had some really great songs, so lively, it was just great. Also I want to mention because we are coming up on our winter break, January 7<sup>th</sup> the HS is doing their exam study night again at the library. January 7<sup>th</sup>, from 5-9PM students can go into the library, have some quiet study time or study group. I know that they will have some snacks provided at the library. I know they have done this a couple of times before this and it's been very popular.  
**Mr. Smith:** Last year was the first year, but did it twice during the year.  
**Deirdre:** Great idea, student's loved it. Everyone was well behaved. I hope a lot of the kids take advantage of it, because it's just a great resource to have in town.  
**Mr. Smith:** Nice partnership with our library.  
**Elizabeth:** Birchland Park had their concert, which I thoroughly enjoyed. I feel bad I can't do the daytime stuff as much anymore, but I did enjoy that. ELEEF is going to start kicking it up in January, getting ready for their event coming up in February.  
**Gregory:** Mentioned ELEEF monopoly  
**Elizabeth:** They are \$30, I mean when they are gone they are gone. We play it often and we all want "STRIPES"

**Opportunity for visitors to Address the committee** - No one wished to address the committee

**Superintendent's Report:** None

**Assistant Superintendent of Business** : None

**Assistant Superintendent for Curr. and Instruct.**

Ms. Annear gave an update on the curriculum renewal cycle. Next year renewal will be "6-12 Math; 6-12 Foreign Languages and 6-8 Science. Using a prioritized list, the district will work to fill budget requests that meet the highest priorities for each department. Ms. Annear said that last year the district was able to meet 85-100% of department requests. However, it's important to note it was possible with the one time addition of \$50,000. It will be difficult to meet all needs without this funding.

**Old Business** : None

**New Business**

7.1. Mr. Smith presented a draft Budget Development Timeline for FY2019.

Building Level meetings:

- December through January, school council meetings will discuss FY19 budget development and building needs
- December through January, department heads and faculty will discuss budget development process and building needs with staff.

School Committee Budget Development meetings: (subject to change based on Town Budget Development timeline)

- December 18, 2017 (overview of process and timeline)
- January 8, 2018 (Review Town Budget information and possible parameters) (Review identified needs and potential challenges)
- January 22, 2018 (Review preliminary budget information)
- February 5, 2018 (Finalize preliminary budget information for discussions with Town Manager and Town Finance Director)

**William moved to adjourn at 7:40 PM, Elizabeth seconded the motion.**

**Chair: Thank you Mr. Maki**

**Chair: All those in favor please say aye (5), oppose (0), that carries forward (5-0)**

Minutes Recorded by: Kathy Celetti

Respectfully submitted by: Superintendent Smith

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Signature