

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: February 24, 2020

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; Pamela Blair, Asst. Superintendent for Business; Kathy Celetti, Recording Secretary

Absent: Antonella Raschilla

Recognition of 2020 Grinspoon Winners "Excellence in Teaching Award ":

Mr. Smith and the School Committee recognized and congratulated the four Grinspoon winners. Mr. Smith also read a few comments from each winner's peers. Ms. Moraima Logan-Cangialosi is a new 2nd grade teacher at Meadow Brook Elementary School; Ms. Lori Fallon is a veteran elementary teacher at Mountain View Elementary School; Mr. Joe Hudson is a veteran counselor/behaviorist at Meadow Brook Elementary School and Ms. Kristine Rueger is a veteran social studies teacher at East Longmeadow High School. They will be honored at a banquet at the Log Cabin on Wednesday, May 13, 2020.

Approval of Minutes

2.1 Approval of the February 3, 2020 regular session meeting minutes.

Richard motioned to approve the February 3, 2020 regular session meeting minutes, William seconded the motion.

Chair: Further discussion? Hearing none, a ll those in favo r say aye (4), those oppose say nay (0), that carries (4-0)

Committee/Sub-committee Communications

Student Rep: I attended an Equity and Diversity Committee meeting which CLEE was going to be present, but it's a standing committee now. So we were able to close out with them and come up with what we have been waiting for so long, which is trying to with a possible solution to certain things you might be seeing in data. So now we are waiting on them to give us a final report and then we will go over them. I forget the exact date.

Richard: April 13th

Student Rep : After that we will be discussing that. Most winter sports have ended. We do have some teams in the play-offs, so that's kind of awesome. I believe we have basketball and hockey.

William: Great job by ELEEF at their gala, a couple of weeks ago. They did a phenomenal job. Congrats again to all the award winners. I had the chance to catch up with Michael Fredette at Mapleshade a week ago Friday. I actually witnessed 5th grade students doing 3D printing and robotics. Phenomenal program, I mean there are some really great things going on over there. Kudos to Tim Allen for providing mentors for the 5th grade robotics class. They are interacting with these kids. It was really a great sight to see.

Richard: I attended a couple of athletic events, and a number of meetings, some of them are now on our agenda tonight. Equity and Diversity, like Sophia already mentioned; Collaborative Committee; Grinspoon which we already seen; and the calendar.

Sarah: I had the opportunity alongside Pam and Gordon to begin our conversations with the paraprofessional unit to begin conversations around their contract. So we had our first meeting and a few more scheduled. We were excited by our comments at our first meeting.

Gregory: Just a reminder that tomorrow night we have a meeting with the Town Council for budget.

Opportunities for Visitors to Address the Committee:

Beckett Vigneux, and 8th grader at BPMS come forward to address the committee with regards to the 2020-2021 school year calendar. Beckett is asking that the School Committee reconsider the first week of school. The committee voted for student to start on Tuesday, Sept 1st, through to Friday. In previous years student would start on Tuesday and end on Thursday. Beckett has gathered over 260 signatures from student, staff and parents asking that the calendar remain the way it was previous years (Tuesday - Thursday).

Superintendent's Report:

5.1.1 District-wide Mid-cycle Presentation was presented by Mr. Smith, Ms. Brown and the Leadership Team.

SMART Goal 1: Supporting the Whole Child: Focusing on Academics, Social & Emotional Ed., and Cultural Responsiveness

- All ELPS staff will create a safe, nurturing, and respectful learning/working environment in which students are supported in developing the knowledge, skills (academic and social), and the mindset to become resilient and culturally-proficient citizens.

End of Year Benchmarks:

- 90% or higher of students will report in end-of-year surveys that their school is a safe and comfortable learning environment
- 90% or higher of staff will report in end-of-year surveys that they work in a safe and respectful working environment
- The District chronic absenteeism rate will decrease to under 5%

Prevention Needs Assessment Survey - Grades 8, 10 and 12th

- I feel safe at school (8th - 88%); (10th - 79%) and (12th - 75%)
- At school, I have at least one adult who cares about me (8th - 88%); (10th - 87%) and (12th - 91%)
- Teachers and other staff treat me with respect at this school (8th - 87%); (10th - 84%) and (12th - 87%)
- Adults at my school take quick action when they find out that a student is bullying or being cruel to another student (8th - 73%); (10th - 50%) and (12th - 51%)

DESE Vocal Survey Date for 2019 was presented by Ms. Brown

ELPS work on Multi-tiered System s of Support

- District Management Group
- DESE workshop on MTSS
- Developed an ELPS Team to organize and explain work within the District
- Expanded membership to include voices of all stakeholders, complete self-assessments to assess the systems and structures to foster an effective MTSS
- District MTSS members, attended a second DESE workshop on MTSS

ELPS work on Social Emotional Learning

ELPS Equity and Diversity Steering Committee

- Working with the Center for Leadership and Educational Equity (CLEE)
 - Building the Steering Committee's capacity to define equity through use of data, collective perspectives to identify challenges and identify key areas to continue improvement to guide ELPS in supporting every student.
 - Equity audit report and action plan due in spring

ELPS Community Partnerships/Outreach

- EL IT Department
- River Valley Counseling
- EL Youth Safety Committee
- NCCJ
- New DPH Health Grant
- Bay Path University
- Elms College

Elementary School Action Plan

- Social Emotional Learning
- Girls Code (after-school program)
- Peer Mentor (STEM)
- 3 R's for Bullying Prevention (Read, Write, Redo) (Recognize, Report, Refuse) (Respect, Reflect, Repair)

BPMS Action Plan

- Thursday Advisories
- Mid-year Student Feedback Surveys
- Staff book study "Fostering Resilient Learners"
- SAM process
- Unify Against Bullying with Student Council (BPMS was awarded Bullying Grant)
- Mentors
- Attended MTSS Conference
- School-based MTSS Team bi-weekly meetings
- Focused solely on lowest 25% 7th and 8th graders
- Building new support system (iReady)
- Teams working directly with smaller group students
- Monthly meetings with teachers (next steps with individual students)

ELHS Action Plan

- MTSS - ongoing work
- Establish roles and structure of MTSS Team
- Identify varying levels of support/interventions we currently have
- Create 1:1 caseload meetings
- Create SEL supports for students with our SEL teachers
- Create bi-weekly CARE Coordinator meeting with counselors/administrators
- Introduce MTSS to whole staff using blueprint
- Collaboration with BPMS to identify students needing support as transitioning freshmen
- Create team support model for 9th grade
- Work to identify academic screeners for 9th and 10th graders
- Work to identify universal screeners for social emotional needs

SMART Goal 2: Instructional Practice

- 100% of ELPS teachers will engage students in relevant and innovation 21st Century learning experiences to ensure that all students are prepared to contribute responsibly and succeed in a global community

End of Year Benchmark:

- 90% or more of ELPS staff report understanding of elements within a 21st Century Learning Environment
- ELPS Professional Development
- Personalized Learning - Lexia; ST Math; i-Ready Reading; Increase Home Usage;

Elementary School Action Plan

- Coding
- Maker Breaker
- PLTW Courses
- Escape Bloom
- ELA Boot Camp

BPMS Action Plan

- Standards-based grading practices
- Envisions curriculum pilot
- i-Ready
- Mastery Connect for data analysis
- Collaborating writing instruction with ELA teachers/literacy coach
- Writing and administering MCAS-style Open Responses
- Piloting JogNog and Albert IO
- Move to Lexia Power-up for web-based instruction
- Guided reading in i-Ready, Kids A-Z, Newsela, Reader's theater for fluency and prosody
- ST Math

ELHS Action Plan

- Digital Learning
- Continue support for staff and students with 1:1 initiative through IT Dept., through student IT interns
- Restructuring department head meetings, adding conferences
- Plan PD for HS run by NCCJ to support District Equity and Diversity Committee
- Continue to utilize staff meetings to discuss MTSS model and their roll in different tiers
- Coordinate PD on five core competencies of social and emotional learning

SMART Goal 3: Continuous Learning and Achievement

- All students will be challenged and supported to achieve a high standard of academic performance and growth through the implementation of a standards-based instructional program aligned to MA Curriculum Frameworks

End of Year Benchmark:

- Maintain Aggregate Student Growth within the Typical Growth Range of 40% - 60%

- Meet State Targets on Student Achievement as set by the state
- Elementary Scheduling work with DMG
Overall Goal: Protect CORE instruction for teachers and students
Goal #1 Establish collaborative planning time for elementary teachers
Goal #2 Provide an intervention block for students
Short term Goals
- Determine on the standards/measurement topics that are most important for students to master
 - Revise proficiency scales for selected standards/measurement topics
 - Outline "Habits of Work and Learning" related to SEL
 - Solicit and incorporate feedback from staff
- Long term Goals
- Create and facilitate quality PD for colleagues
 - Determine the scope of sequence
 - Choose/create assessments we can utilize to determine mastery
 - Educate families using a variety of modes
 - Use proficiency scales and assessment data collaboratively with colleagues during collaborative to determine scores
- BPMS Action Plan - Learning and Achievement
- One-to-one
 - Robotics
 - Makerspace
 - DLCS
- ELHS Action Plan- Continuous Learning and Achievement
Ongoing:
- Departments have identify/utilize programs that provide feedback about students in their classes (CER work within the Science Dept.); (Albert Io work within the Math and Science Dept.); (CommonLit work within the English Dept.)
- Next Steps this Year:
- Create structured teams (FAR Approach) for 9th and 10th grade teachers in MCAS-related courses
 - Create department driven structures and protocols to have formative data discussions MCAS-related courses

**At 8:45PM Richard moved to take a 10 minute recess, William seconded the motion.
At 8:55PM the Committee entered back into Open Session**

Assistant Superintendent of Business Report :
5.2.1 High School gift donation from Ohiope Prints was presented by Ms. Blair

**Richard moved to accept the HS gift donation from Ohiope Prints in the amount of \$158.67 , William seconded the motion.
Chair: Any further discussion, hearing none, a ll those in favor say aye (4), those oppose say nay (0), that carries (4-0)**

5.2.2 Birchland Park gift donation from Dr. Margolis, Wilbraham Orthodontics was presented by Ms. Blair.

**William moved to accept the BP gift donation from Dr. Margolis for \$800.00 , Richard seconded the motion.
Chair: Any further discussion, hearing none, all those in favor say aye (4), those oppose say nay (0), that carries (4-0)**

5.2.3 Acceptance of FY20 MASS Cultural Council STARS Residency Grant was presented by Ms. Blair

**Richard moved to accept the FY20 MASS Cultural Council STARS Residency Grant for Meadow Brook for \$5,000 , William seconded the motion.
Chair: Any further discussion, hearing none, all those in favor say aye (4), those oppose say nay (0), that carries (4-0)**

Old Business:
6.1 Discussion of the FY21 budget that was presented by Mr. Smith.
Ms. Blair, Asst. Superintendent for Business gave a breakdown of the Circuit Breaker Payment History from 2013 - 2020 and our FY21 Level Services Budget.
6.2 2020-2021 School Year Calendar with placement of half-days was presented by Mr. Smith.
Sarah: There are eleven half days that students are missing academic time. We should look at the Oct and April half-days which fall on a Friday before a long weekend. Maybe move them mid-week.
Also suggested was the half-day before Thanksgiving, possibly making that a full-day no school so that Thanksgiving break is three full-days and not two and half day. Move that day to end of the school year extending it an extra day. Bring calendar back next meeting.

New Business:
7.1 Mr. Smith presented his Mid-cycle Review
SMART Goal #1 (Team Goal)
During the 2019-2020 school year, the ELPS Leadership Team will conduct a book study on the book, Innovate Inside the Box: Empowering Learners Through UDL and the Innovator's Mindset, by George Couros and Katie Novak, with a focus on learning strategies to ensure authentic learning continues throughout the District for all students despite challenges presented from budget constraints, State mandates, and continued accountability system changes. Katie Novak is an Asst. Superintendent in the Groton-Dunstable Public School District in MA. She will be the keynote speaker for ELPS Nov 5th PD day. George Couros was a keynote speaker last year on an ELPS PD day.
SMART Goal #2 (Individual Goal)
Continue to build strong partnerships with all Town Dept. and other organizations to improve programming & support offered to ELPS students.

7.2 ELHS Principal Search Process Outline was presented by Mr. Smith
Interview Committee: Coordinated by Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

- (1) Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment
- (2) School Committee members (selected Feb 24th meeting)
- (2) ELPS Administrators
- (4) ELHS Unit A members (ELEA will conduct a lottery)
- (1) ELHS Support Staff
- (1) ELHS Unit E member (ELEA will conduct a lottery)
- (2) ELHS parents

- (2) ELHS students (Full-committee named by Feb 27th)
- Tentative Timeline
- Posting (Feb 4th - 27th)
 - Committee Preparation (Feb 24th - Mar 2nd)
 - Interviews (week of Mar 9th - subject to change)
 - Finalists selection (week of Mar 16th - subject to change)

Committee for Finalists: Coordinated by Superintendent of Schools

- Superintendent
- Asst. Superintendent for Business
- (1) School Committee member
- ELEA Representative
- Student Representative to the School Committee

Tentative Timeline

- Committee preparation (week Mar 9th - 16th)
- Public Interviews (week of Mar 23rd)
- Learning walk with Superintendent at ELHS (week of Mar 30th)
- Final reference checks and hiring decision (week of Apr 6th)

Richard moved to approve the Principal Search process, Sarah seconded the motion.

Chair: Any further discussion, hearing none, all those in favor say aye (4), those oppose say nay (0), that carries (4-0)

7.3 Request by Willie Ross School for the Deaf to host the 2021 Academic Bowl at ELHS was presented by Mr. Smith

William moved to approve the request from WR to host the 2021 Academic Bowl at ELHS , Sarah seconded the motion

Chair: Any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor say aye (4), those oppose say nay (0), motion carries (4-0)

Chair: Thank you ELCAT

William moved to adjourn at 9:59P.M., Sarah seconded the motion.

Chair: Any further discussion? All those in favor say aye (4), those oppose (0), motion carries (4-0)

Minutes Recorded by: Kathy Celetti

Respectfully submitted by: Superintendent Smith

Signature