

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 25, 2019
TIME: 6:00 P.M.
WHERE: Superintendent's Conference Room

Meeting called to Order by: Richard Freccero, Chair

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

Roll Call: Jake Brady, Student Rep, William Fonseca, Sarah Truoiolo, Gregory Thompson, Richard Freccero, Gordon Smith, Superintendent of Schools, Elizabeth Marsian-Boucher, Pamela Blair, Asst. Superintendent for Business, Kathy Celetti, Recording Secretary

Approval of Minutes

2.1 Approval of the February 4, 2019 executive session meeting minutes.

Sarah moved to approve the February 4, 2019 executive session meeting minutes, Elizabeth seconded the motion.

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

2.2 Approval of the February 4, 2019 regular session meeting minutes

William moved to approve the February 4, 2019 regular session meeting minutes, Sarah seconded the motion.

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

Committee/Sub-committee Communications

Student Rep: This week at the high school is "See Something Say Something". This morning on announcements, we started the week with a really strong message on how important it is to, if you see something really bad or potentially harmful taking place it's really important that you say something and report it. Throughout the week we are going to have a series of activities to really spread the message that we are safe in our building, and that this is helping that. The Friday before February vacation we had another Spartan Block. It seems as though students are truly enjoying what activities they are doing in Spartan Block. That's a great experience!

Chair: And our hockey team is in the play-offs this Thursday night.

William Fonseca: Congratulations to all our ELEEf grant winners. Also great job by those putting on the event, it went off without a hitch. It was a great time. The MASC Board of Governors met last week. Planning is already underway for this year's MASS/MASC Conference. It was mentioned there is a possibility of getting Doris Kern Goodwin. She was one of the keynote speakers where I had the opportunity to hear her speak at a conference I attended in Washington. She was very interesting. She has written several biographies about president's going back to the Lyndon Johnson administration. She is also a strong advocate for public education. Day on the Hill is scheduled for Wednesday, May 1st, as I get more information I'll let you know.

Sarah Truoiolo: I have to agree with Mr. Fonseca, ELEEf was a wonderful event. It was really nice to see some of the educators receive the grants and it was very well attended. I had the opportunity to meet Leigh Boland, the Math Coach at Meadow Brook and hear a little bit more about the MB Math Recovery. It was exciting to have that opportunity, to hear what's going on over there.

Elizabeth Marsian-Boucher: ELEEf was great. They have some other events coming up, next time I come in I'll get that for you.

Richard Freccero: I had the pleasure of meeting with Julia Tassinari a 4th grade student at Mapleshade. She wrote me a letter, pretty powerful, "why we should change the school start time", and she was researched based. I did meet with her; it was quite a discussion, quite uplifting. She was kind of intimidating, eye contact right on me. She had an answer, we finally agreed to disagree, that she was right. The change would make a lot of things very difficult. It was quite a wonderful experience, as part of a school committee member, when you have that chance to interact individually like that it was a blast. As I say she was tough.

Opportunity for Visitors to Address the Committee: None

Superintendent's Report:

5.1.1 The District-wide Mid-cycle was presented by the Leadership Team

SMART Goal - 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 resulting in an educational experience that supports the whole child by fostering social, emotional, and rigorous academic skill development throughout all grades.

Key Action Steps - Results to date

- Partnership with Sandy Hook Promise Organization began in Spring of 2018: August 2018-staff from all five schools trained in Safety and Risk Assessment Protocol; all five schools focused on social and emotional learning as the school year opened and have continued this focus throughout this school year with new events and supports
- New ELPS District Diversity and Equity Steering Committee formed in December with 21 members representing students, parents, and staff members from all five schools, administrators and the ELPS School Committee. The committee met for the first time on January 30th, agenda sub-committee met on February 6th and the next meeting is on February 27th.
- ELPS Leadership Team is supporting all staff in understanding and integrating into their instruction wherever possible the five core competencies of social and emotional learning: self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills and responsible decision-making Social & Emotional Learning in MA
 - In the fall PD day we had Trevor Ragan, growth mindset & culture researcher gave a keynote speech, we had breakout sessions on creating a "Safe Place to Learn"
 - We offered 23 workshops with whole-child/SEL/Equity focus
 - We partnered with Bay Path University - Interns from the Counseling Program

Mapleshade: Looking for the Good, Kindness, sent packages to service men and women.

Mountain View: Jungle Tiger, Good Deeds; Growth mindset;

Meadow Brook: Courage Badges; ACT ref; Sensory Path and Tiered Social-emotional Support.

Birchland Park: Diversity Club; No Name Calling week; student survey; School Stats (Disciplinary Notes went down -35%; Suspensions down -70% and SAM Mtgs up +60%.

High School: If students feel emotionally and physically safe, they will do better. Spartan Block; New Guidance Model; Mindfulness/Yoga will be incorporated into curriculum and staff PD days; Partnership with Baystate Medical; EL Board of Health and ELPD.

District SMART Goal - Instructional Practice

- 100% of ELPS teachers will engage students in relevant and innovative 21st Century learning experiences to ensure that all students are prepared to contribute responsibly in a global society.
- Supporting staff in engaging all students with 21st Century skills building

- Trevor Ragan led workshop on “Overcoming Fear”
- George Courou, The Innovator’s Mindset “Empower Learning, Unleash Talent, and Lead a Culture of Creativity, presenting at the March PD
- Twenty five workshops being offered on March PD promoting 21st century skills
 - Cycle of Inquiry Leadership Team, AVMR PD and improved math instruction

Mountain View: Eco Science (skeletons); ST Math (word list prog); Flexible Space learning
 Meadow Brook: ST Math game based learning; Puzzle Talk; Coding Games; Green Screen
 Birchland Park: Amplify Science; VEX Robotics; Maker Space; Tech Ed; Jog Nog

High School: Mr. Zilch (Instruct Tech) created our site; he is working with the Library, Dept. Head, and Tech Café on Friday.

District SMART Goal - 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 (and National Standards where appropriate)

Key Action Steps - Results to date

- Coaches in all schools will co-facilitate data meetings, co-plan with teacher teams, and co-teach and promote teacher reflection on instruction
- PD and curriculum will support standards-based instruction
 - AVMR training to teachers in grades K-5
 - ST Math for all three elementary (scope and sequence aligned with Eureka)
 - PLTW for MS and HS
 - Amplify Science at BP
 - Being a Writer/Making Meaning grades 3-5
- Increase teacher lead PD offerings connected to DLCS standards
- Expand use of Google Classroom, Google Suite for collaboration and communication; research skills using Gale databases and Noodletools; instruction in coding, media and digital literacy/citizenship
- Expand use of Makerspace, more comprehensive projects

Key Measurements - Results to date

- Student growth on STAR Assessments in ELA and Math are between 40-60% (average to above average growth)
- Elementary students are gaining higher levels of conceptual understanding which seems to be contributing to the high growth
- DART Comparison shows great success on Legacy MCAS (ELA-1st (tied); (Science-2nd); (Math -6th)
- DART Comparison shows great success on the Next-Gen MCAS for grades 3-8: (EL-1st (tied); (Math-3rd)
- Social and Emotional Learning initiatives throughout the District are showing positive results

Assistant Superintendent of Business Report :

5.2.1 Ms. Blair presented the Birchland Park gift donation from Coca-Cola.

**Gregory moved to accept the \$51.15 gift donation from Coca-Cola , Elizabeth seconded the motion
 Chair: Any further discussion? All those in favor say aye (5), those oppose (0), unanimous (5-0)**

5.2.2 Ms. Blair presented the Birchland Park gift donation from Dr. Magolis for the BP music department.

**Gregory moved to accept the \$800 gift donation from Dr. Magolis for the music department , William seconded the motion.
 Chair: Any further discussion? All those in favor say aye (5), those oppose (0), unanimous (5-0)**

5.2.3 Ms. Blair presented the High School gift donation from OhioPlye Prints.

**Gregory moved to accept the \$19.94 gift donation from OhioPlye Prints from royalties based on the sale of spirit wear bearing our school name at local retailers , Elizabeth seconded the motion.
 Chair: Any further discussion? All those in favor say aye (5), those oppose (0), unanimous (5-0)**

New Business:

7.1 School Committee meeting dates for 2019-2020 school year was presented by Mr. Smith

**Gregory moved to approve School Committee calendar for 2019-2020 , William seconded the motion.
 Chair: Any further discussion? All those in favor say aye (5), those oppose (0), unanimous (5-0)**

7.2 Mr. Smith presented the Conflict of Interest to the School Committee. Mr. Smith stated that every two years, employees and town officials need to complete the Conflict of Interest.

7.3 Superintendent’s mid-cycle (self-assessment) was presented by Mr. Smith. The Chair asked that the committee send their comments to him by next Monday.

**Chair: Thank you Jake and Mr. Maki
 William moved to adjourn at 8:25P.M., Elizabeth seconded the motion.
 Chair: Any further discussion? All those in favor say yes (5), unanimous (5-0)**

Minutes Recorded by: Kathy Celetti
 Respectfully submitted by: Superintendent Smith

Signature _____