

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: March 26, 2018
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; Elizabeth Marsian-Boucher; Gordon Smith, Superintendent of School, Valerie Annear, Asst. Supt. for Curr. & Instr.; Pamela Blair, Asst. Supt. for Business; Kathy Celetti, Recording Secretary; Student Rep
Chair stated that this meeting is being both audio and video taped, and asked if anyone else was taping the meeting.

Gregory moved to amend the agenda; to move up agenda item 7.2 as next order of business after "Opportunity for Visitors to Address the Committee", William seconded the motion.

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

Approval of Minutes

2.1 Approval of the March 12, 2018 executive session meeting minutes.

Richard moved to approve the March 12, 2018 executive session meeting minutes, Gregory seconded the motion.

Chair: Any further discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor say aye (4), oppose (0), abstain (1), that carries forward (4-0-1)

2.2 Approval of the March 12, 2018 regular session meeting minutes.

Gregory moved to approve the February 26, 2018 regular session meeting minutes, William seconded the motion.

Chair: Any further discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor say aye (4), oppose (0), abstain (1), that carries forward (4-0-1)

2.3 Approval of the March 20, 2018 executive session meeting minutes.

Gregory moved to approve the March 20, 2018 executive session meeting minutes with one change (in the first roll-call vote add Mrs. Marsian-Boucher as aye), William seconded the motion

Chair: Any further discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor say aye (4), oppose (0), Abstain (1), that carries forward (4-0-1)

Committee/Sub-committee Communications

Student Rep: At the high school right now spring sports started right after St. Patrick's Day weekend. A whole new group of sports happening. We are still celebrating Women's History Month and today was Rosie the Riveter day so everybody was encouraged to wear denim and upon entering the building we all received bandanas that were red with white circles on them. The students made time to cut them out last night; they made over a thousand of them to give out today. So, everybody was sporting that today and it was really cute to see everyone in their denim and bandanas.

William: Congratulations to Nadia Gomes she is one of our students here at ELHS and she also attends the collaborative for voc tech. She is a student in Information Support and Network Service and Networking. She actually won an award at the Business Professionals of America State Leadership Conference at the beginning of this month in Framingham. She qualified to participate in a National Leadership Conference in Dallas, May 9 - 13th, so congratulations Nadia on a well-deserved award. At the end of next week, I will be attending the National School Board Association Conference San Antonio, TX. Looking forward to warm weather and seeing what these conferences are. Usually it's a hotbed of politics given what's going on with the administration in Washington.

Richard: What happened to Student of Month at the Collaborative? We haven't had that all year. LPVEC use to give us the Student of Month.

William: I'm not sure, I'll look into that.

Gregory: Just finished our tours of the schools. Meadow Brook we were in two weeks ago the Chair and I, and in speaking with Mrs. Dakin, we spoke about the time that the State Police were in. She offered to have us in potentially in the future to talk more about safety issues and the drills and such, so we look forward to doing that. It was good to see all the schools in an unofficial tour.

Deirdre: Last week was the BP/HS Concert. Something they did differently than last year was, that they are splitting it into two nights. So last week they had the jazz band with the BP and HS band and this week, they are doing chorus and orchestra. It was really nice to have it split, because it was about an hour and fifteen minutes with no intermission, straight through. One thing that they didn't think about which they will accommodate for this time is the same ticket will get you in for both nights. So, you are not paying the same five dollars, it may not seem like a lot of money, but you know, when you have a larger family and they have five or six people or you have grandparents coming, to pay that twice in two weeks is a lot to ask. I like it broken down, I did have students in both nights, it does make it easier sitting there and it was fantastic. Actually it really is growing, because at the end when they did the BP and HS band combined, I think Mr. Kiernan said they had about 270 students on stage. It really is a growing program. I have to say, the way they redid the schedule at BP, I think they have band practice like every day. You can hear the difference. For a 6th grade band at the middle school they sound great. I think it's been easier on the other end when they come into the high school the kids are picking things up much easier. I did make it to the high school the other day to drop something off and I went into the lunchroom, they were still doing Women's History Month. They had some cutouts of pictures, you put your face in and they would take a picture. I also got to try some pancakes and maple syrup from the culinary arts program. The maple syrup was school made. They tapped trees outside the school and boiled it down to make their own maple syrup. I was more impressed that they actually did this right outside the school. I love going into the schools during lunchtime, because you can see it's very vibrant and the kids are having a lot of fun during lunchtime.

Elizabeth: I went to the concert and it was the Leonard Skinner at the high school. It's just crazy good. I dragged my son who already graduated, who said okay I'll go see it and said he was so happy that he went, because sitting from the opposite end was kind of new. As we speak, there is the fifth grade art show which is one of my favorites and the band plays there too.

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

New Business

7.2 Policy KF Community Use of School Building was reviewed. Mr. Magee, Athletic Director said that last year the school committee voted on increasing the rental fees for events. In speaking with the rec department, the rental rate makes it not affordable for summer camps to be held on school property. This new process allow: reservations to be initiated at the rec department, Principal will still have control over their building, the health inspector would still be in charge of making sure that camps are licensed, the summer camp would supply a certificate of liability, so there would be no liability to the schools, all forms that would be collected by the rec department would then be given to central office with the payment. The money coming in for summer camp with is shared 50/50 between the rec department and ELPS and will go into a revolving account.

Richard motioned to approve the Community Use of School Facilities, File KF, William seconded the motion.

Chair: Any further discussion

Richard: I'm friends with the PVIAC Executive Secretary who oversees all the Athletic Directors in the Pioneer Valley; he told me that we are

very lucky to have Kevin Magee as our Athletic Director. And that he's powerful and fights for our schools. He's all about the kids.
Chair: All those in favor say aye (5), oppose (0), that carries forward (5-0)

Superintendent's Report: NONE

Assistant Superintendent of Business : NONE

Assistant Superintendent for Curr. and Instruct. NONE

Old Business :

6.1 Policy JICH "Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug Use" was presented for a 2nd Reading.

Richard: motioned to approve the 2nd reading "Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drug use by Students Prohibited" "File JICH", Elizabeth seconded the motion. Elizabeth: I have a comment, I would like to add nicotine, and it can be made synthetically now. I know it comes in vapor and e- cigarettes and all that. I would like to add nicotine after marijuana, steroids, or any other controlled substance in the first sentence and repeat it where it says full consumption of alcohol, tobacco products, can we add nicotine into that.

Elizabeth: moved that we amend Policy JICH, to the title to include "Alcohol, Tobacco, Nicotine and Drug used by Students is Prohibited" and then in the first sentence after steroids add nicotine. And after the second sentence, tobacco products, add nicotine, Gregory seconded the motion.

Richard: I withdraw my motion

Richard: motioned to approve the 2nd reading "Alcohol, Tobacco, Nicotine, and Drug use by Students Prohibited", "Policy JICH" as amended, William seconded the motion.

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

6.2 Policy EDE "Recycling" was presented for a 2nd Reading.

Gregory moved the policy Recycling and Waste Reduction" as presented, William seconded the motion

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

6.3 A draft of the Statement of Interest for ELHS was presented by Mr. Smith. I will be submitting the draft SOI to MSBA in the next week or so. Rich asked if we should mention on page 15, after paragraph 2, the junior hallway. When the water comes up, it's kicking all the tiles out. Mr. Smith stated that it is written in the priorities. Ms. Boucher asked about the bottleneck near the art room.

6.4 Asst. Superintendent for Business Contract

Gregory moved to approve the Asst. Superintendent for Business contract as presented in executive session pending review and any edits by Attorney Quinn, William seconded the motion.

Chair: Any further discussion?

Chair: thank you to Pam for all your great work and commitment to the school district, all those in favor say aye (5), oppose (0), that carries forward (5-0)

6.5 Mr. Smith gave an update on the East Longmeadow Public Schools Transportation. One driver to date has retired and now works for a private transportation company.

- All drivers received an application to LPVEC, due March 30th
- Interviews will be conducted during the month of April at the bus yard in EL
- Retirement reminders went out this week, there could possibly be two or three retirees
- Summer school and routing - Transportation Mgr. will be routing our summer programs with Student Support Services. Routing will be shared with Charlie Crowe and LPVEC
- LPVEC will include Transportation Mgr. on GPS system for buses
- Bus fleet has been assessed by three companies to date - LPVEC is interested in purchasing most of the buses
- LPVEC is developing a budget for FY19
- They will honor our seniority (EL bus drivers)
- Next meeting with LPVEC will be Thursday, March 29th.

New Business:

7.1 6th grade VEX IQ Robotics' World Competition in Louisville, KY on April 29-May 1, 2018 was presented. Mr. Smith said that there are about 10 students going, each student will have at least one parent with them. There is a plan in place for students to make-up work.

William moved to approve the 6th grade VEX Robotics World Competition to Louisville, KY in April 29-May 1, 2018, Elizabeth seconded the motion.

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

7.3 Policy ACE "Non-discrimination on the Basis of Disability" was presented as 1st reading. Only word changed through-out this policy was from "Handicap" to "Disability". Mr. Freccero asked "what happens if a student has a service animal"? Mr. Smith said that we do have a policy that does recognize service animals. Service animals will be allowed.

7.4 Policy ADC "Tobacco Products on School Premises Prohibited" was presented as 1st reading. Ms. Boucher asked that we add nicotine to this policy both in the title and the first sentence. Mr. Freccero asked what happens if it's a parent. We know what happens when it's a student or teacher, but what about a parent. Mr. Smith asked if the committee would like for him to add a statement for parents and Mr. Freccero said yes.

7.5 Policy BBA "School Committee Powers and Duties" was presented as 1st reading. Remove school nurse.

7.6 Policy BBBA/BBBB "School Committee Member Qualifications/Oath of Office" was presented as 1st reading. This is a MASC issue: change Town Clerk to "municipal". Ms. Boucher asked, should it say not limited to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, gender identity, sexual orientation or disability. Mr. Smith said that he would ask.

7.7 Participation in School Choice for the 2018-2019 school year was discussed. Every school committee is required to look at School Choice. Leadership Team would be in favor of a structured and planned entrance into School Choice. Specifically grade 3 (3-4 students); grade 4 (3-6 students); grade 6 (5+ students); and grade 10 (3-5 students). Mr. Thompson asked how many of our EL students opt out for School Choice. Mr. Smith said about 15 students. Mr. Freccero said that two things stuck out for him from years ago. Social adjustment and educational difficulties. Our programs are different from the programs they are coming from. The way they teach content, these students had a really difficult time. Ms. Mailloux said that she didn't think the Leadership Team would recommend it if they couldn't handle it. Ms. Boucher said that she wouldn't mind opening it up to staff.

7.8 ELPS Alumni Group possibly starting a 501 (c) (3) organization was discussed. Mr. Smith said that he rec'd a call from a former EL student Gary Powers, Class of 1974. A small group of former students who moved out of state, but still have allegiance and hearts to EL would like to set-up this organization. After the shooting in Florida, they decided they would like to specifically fund items that would go towards school security and safety throughout the district. Mr. Freccero said that he has a concern with statement #7; we need a clearer process. It has to be approved by school committee. Use ELEEf as a model. Ms. Boucher said that she would be more than happy to be the liaison and help them. You want someone who knows what's going on in our schools, what can and cannot be done. Mr. Smith said that he will set-up another conference call with Gary. Mr. Thompson said bring ideas to the school committee for approval. Idea's should come from the schools.

Chair: Thank you Ms. Rooke

At 8:30 P.M. William motioned to adjourn, Elizabeth seconded the motion.

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

Signature