

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: April 8, 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 March 25, 2019 regular session meeting minutes.

William moved to approve the March 25, 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)

2.2 Approval of the March 29, 2019 minutes with MSBA

Sarah moved to approve the March 29, 2019 minutes with MSBA, Gregory seconded the motion
Chair: Any further discussion?

William: Just a couple edits I mentioned to Kathy and spoke to you about .
All those in favor say aye (4), those oppose (0), abstention (1), motion carries (4-0-1)

Committee/Sub-committee Communications

Student Rep : Senior banquet was Friday night at the Delany House in Holyoke. It was a great night for seniors as we celebrated the closing of our time at East Longmeadow High Schools, with dancing, great food and unity as the class of 2019. During the banquet, the ELHS yearbook staff continued their annual tradition of honoring a member of the ELHS staff as they dedicated this year's yearbook to Ms. Patricia Hafey. Ms. Hafey graduated from ELHS in 1974 and has since made an impact to the ELPS system at every level. Ms. Hafey always treats her students with her knowledge of healthy eating and staying active. Personally, I took her class as a freshman at the high school and it was such a privilege. She truly cares about her students. I would like to formally thank Ms. Hafey for the profound impact she has made on my life and the lives of the other students at the high school. I wish her all the best in her retirement.

William Fonseca : Last week I attended the National School Board conference in Philadelphia. It was another good conference; they really do a good job of focusing in on the issues. A lot of this year's theme was around educating the whole child which we do very well here in EL and it's been on our radar for a number of years. One of their other initiatives this year is to try to put pressure on Congress to fund IDEA at the 40% that's required by law instead of the average at 16% it's being funded annually. I also took part in the immigration program over at Birchland last week. That was a great program; the students did a great job and the students asked some very interesting questions, and one last item, Wednesday night the Birchland chorus sang the national anthem at the Thunderbirds game. We are season ticket holders this year we went to a lot of games and I'll tell you right now, personally, Birchland did one of the best jobs all year. It was a great night. Tim if you could pass that along, I would appreciate that.

Sarah Truoiolo : I was able to participate in the Mystery Reader program at Meadow Brook Elementary School. I wanted to than room 27, I received some wonderful thank you notes and they were absolutely adorable, and were very attentive and asked a lot of great questions during our time together. I also enjoyed being a part of the conversations around the high school. I'm sure the committee members appreciate the time with the folks from MSBA and State Treasurer. And then the follow-up with the families week. Additionally, I just want to reach out and say thank you to a lot of the families who have spoken up over the past couple of weeks and have followed up with me personally regarding the high school, our visit with MSBA, the surveys regarding athletics, and even the alternative ways of honoring some academic achievements. I really appreciate that our families are continuing to reach out and follow up and that they are really participating whether they are here or not by using ELCAT. Just reaching out to make sure that they have the right information as they ask questions.

Elizabeth Marsian-Boucher : Kudos to the immigration, that was pretty amazing. I'm really looking forward to the Passion Project. What I really want to say, is that last May 2018 we made a change with ranking with our students. Prior to that vote we made a very direct request, polite, kind, fair request to Dr. Flanagan to speak with students, to reach out to others in the school to come up with a new way to honor our students. Instead of receiving a well-thought out constructive ideas that we could have maulled through, we were basically given their opinions. We didn't ask for opinions, we asked for what can we do to change this, so that we can continue to honor those students. At that meeting, we talked at length about our students that are in great need. We also spoke about our student athletes at length. But as soon as we get to the point of speaking about our students that are excelling, our student scholars, everybody gets all jittery because nobody wants to say kids are super smart and I think that is very sad because ultimately, we as a board here in this entire education system is here to educate a student. The music is secondary, the athletics is secondary, all the other extra-curricular are secondary, they are important we need those to create solid functioning wonderful human beings. But our job is to educate first. So we asked for ideas, we asked for suggestions, what we got was an opinion and that isn't what we asked for. Our job is to make sure we get what we asked for, and I have asked a couple of times, and I'm not picking on you Mr. Smith, you know I have high regards for you. I did ask Mr. Smith a couple of times, how it is going. He kept hitting wall, I kept hitting the wall, and that isn't how this board is supposed to run. When we ask for something to be done and it isn't often, it needs to be done and it needs to be done properly. Because what happened here at our last meeting was an abomination. And I think that we were all at different spots, we want to honor what the professionals are saying and educators, but we also know what's important for our kids in our town. We need to honor those kids. I'm not talking about a trophy for everybody; we need to honor those kids. I'm moving forward, our expectations on this board and always should be when we make a request, and we don't make a lot, it needs to be done properly. We need to respect those students who are at that high level, as we should respect all students. But not respecting them is not fair. I hope it comes in front of this board again, it was not necessary; it was not my place to have to make a motion to create a new designation, because we had asked the professionals to do it. So in the future, I hope that those professionals do their job, so that we can move forward. I hope to see it come before this board again, I don't know if it will or won't. Maybe the students can speak out in front of it, and then maybe we can make an informed decision. But never again, I am on this board until the 30th of June, do I ever want to see that happen while I'm on it, or in the future. Because I'm going to be one of those parents coming up and sitting down with a chair yapping at you. That's all I have to say, thank you.

Richard Freccero : Just a follow-up with a few things. I think that we've heard quite a bit from everybody. I do want to compliment the school system; there are a lot of positive activities going on. From immigration that we've talked about, Beth you mentioned the Passion Project coming up in June, we have the senior projects. I think that Meadow Brook is having a STEM Conference in a couple of weeks; it seems that the whole school system is doing a lot of very positive productive things. On a high note, I saw a team win, so I feel really good about that. I do think at some point the School Committee should sit down with our Superintendent, a lot of different feedback on that forum that we had on Thursday night. What I'm feeling is a void in that we've had this major undertaking spearheaded by Mr. Smith the SOI revisions, the additions, deletions, we had the big visit from MSBA, we had the forum and now we wait until December. Some parents are asking is there something more we can do, so I think at some point we need to sit down and talk about keeping the momentum moving, maybe one or two more activates this year and something next year. Because December is a long way, that's when we hear in December. So I'm recommending maybe some

in May and maybe something in the fall of next year.

William: Well definitely, you can probably let the summer, you know people go on vacation; they are going to lose focus. I agree, with the timeline, if we do something in May and fire it up in September that might work.

Chair: Just a thought, maybe next meeting if we have time, put on the agenda and have a discussion about it.

Opportunity for Visitors to Address the Committee:

Superintendent's Report:

5.1.1 Birchland Park Proposal Standards-based Grading for Math 2019-2020 school year was presented by Dr. Allen, Principal and Charlene LaChapelle, Math Coach for Birchland Park.

Dr. Allen: I truly believe our entire core math teachers are intrinsically motivated to deliver high level curriculum and instruction and to continually improve. Our tiered math program is strong and continually improving and individualizing. I also believe that in order to significantly impact our student's math achievement on a large scale, we need to find other things to do and continually innovate.

Standards Based Grading:

- Once implemented, standards-based grading and reporting will allow us too accurately and consistently report student achievement to students and parents as it relates to state standards.
- Standards-based grading indicates the student's learning strengths and where additional practice is needed.
- Teaching, practice, formative assessment, feedback, summative assessment
- SBG had been shown to significantly boost achievement and motivation for students
- Hard at first to cope with losing our normal way of grading
- Could help focus all of us, most importantly students, on specific standards.
- May become an easier way to grade in the long run
- Huge transition for families as

Some big ideas behind this to review:

- Grades should always inform the student, the teacher, and the parent about how to enhance learning
- No single assessment should ever be relied upon as an absolute reflection of student learning

What is the process for going to SBG:

- How do we grade (this is the current work)
- How do we assess (this is the work that will follow; how do we assess student versus the standards; can we find a program that helps; can we use Google to make it easy.
- How do we teach (this is over the next couple of years as we explore curriculum and make departmental choices.

Standards-based Grading:

- Student does not move to the next level of learning until they have demonstrated competence at the current level

Standards-referenced Grading:

- A student's status is reported relative to the performance standards for each area of knowledge and skill

Type of Classroom Assessment: Obtrusive; Unobtrusive; and Student generated

Use of Classroom Assessment: Formative scores; Summative scores; Instructional feedback

What to do Next:

- Advanced - Exceeding expectations
- Proficient - Meeting expectations
- Basic - Partial meeting expectations
- Below Basic - Not meeting expectations

Here is our Scale

- 4=More Complex Content
- 3=Target Learning Goal
- 2=Simpler Content
- 1=Some success at the 2 level, but still working toward independence
- 0=Even with Help, No Success

Here it is with added detail (majority liked this as a department)

- 4=More Complex Content
- 3.5=In addition to 3.0 performance, partial success at score 4.0 content
- 3=Targeted content achieved
- 2.5=In addition to 2.0 performance, partial success at score 3.0 content
- 2=Less complex content
- 1.5=Partial success at 2.0 content
- 1=Some success at the 2 level, but still working toward independence
- .5=With assistance, demonstrates some remedial understanding
- 0=Even with assistance, no success
- NA=Not assessed this term

How do we land at a summative score:

- Averaging scores ONLY makes sense if no learning has occurred from assessment to assessment
- 1.0; 1.5; 2.0; 2.0; 3.5
- Average would be a 2.0
- Just using the most recent would be 3.5
- Thinking in terms of "consistent and recent" would land us at 2.5 or 3

Algebra 1, not a standard based in 8th grade. We still need to meet with Rediker to set this up.

Sarah: It's a solid move, a lot to take on. Maybe we should phase in over time for the sake of the students and staff. A lot to balance with on math coach.

Ms. LaChapelle: We actually started the deep drive last year.

Sarah: Grading versus teaching, how do we know students get it. Insure instructional practice, set them up for success.

Elizabeth: You have to teach the parents. We need this to be successful; can we get them help if needed?

Gregory: Dr. Allen, maybe give us an update in a year as to how it's going.

Gregory moved to approve the BP Proposal for Standards-based Grading for Math, William seconded the motion.

Chair: Any further discussion?

Elizabeth: If they need help, make sure you give it to them.

All those in favor say aye (4), those oppose (1), that motion carries (4-1)

5.1.2 Updated Curriculum Renewal was presented by Ms. Brown, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
This year's curriculum renewal: 9-12 Math; 6-12 Foreign Languages; 6-8 Science
2019-2020 - Support for 1 to 1 initiative (providing online curricular access K-12)
2020-2021 - 8th and HS Civics/US History; 6-8 Math; 6-12 FCS/Health; and K-2 ELA (word study/phonics)
2021-2022 - 6-12 Fine Arts; k-5 Math; 6-8 Science (Amplify)
2022-2023- 6-8 Social Studies; K-5 Science; 6-12 Business & Technology
2023-2024 - K-12 P.E.; 3-12 ELA; 9-12 Science
Gregory asked Ms. Blair what was the line item.
Ms. Blair: It's \$100,000, we are looking for an additional \$50,000

**William moved to approve the Curriculum Renewal as presented, Elizabeth seconded the motion.
Chair: Any further discussion? All those in favor say aye (5), oppose (0), unanimous (5-0)**

Assistant Superintendent of Business Report :

5.2.1 Mapleshade gift donation from the American Heart Association for \$300 was presented by Ms. Blair

**Gregory moved to accept the Mapleshade gift donation of \$300 from the American Heart Association, Sarah seconded the motion
Chair: Any further discussion? All those in favor say aye (5), oppose (0), unanimous (5-0)**

Old Business- None

New Business:

7.1 Rotary Club Foundation request for the use of ELHS grounds for Independent Day fireworks display from Friday, June 28; - July 3, 2019 was presented.

**Gregory moved to approved the Rotary Club Foundation request for the use of ELHS grounds for Independent Day fireworks display from Friday, June 28, - July 3, 2019 , Elizabeth seconded the motion.
Chair: Any further discussion? All those in favor say aye (5), oppose (0), unanimous (5-0)**

7.2 Rotary Club Foundation request to affix a sponsorship banner on the fencing around the tennis court and exterior fence of the turf field from July 3- July 5, 2019 was presented.

**William moved to approve the Rotary Club Foundation request to affix a sponsorship banner on the fencing around the tennis court and exterior fence of the turf field from July 3- July 5, 2019 , Elizabeth seconded the motion.
Chair: Any further discussion? All those in favor say aye (5), those oppose (0), unanimous (5-0)**

Chair: Thank you Jake and Mr. Maki

William moved to adjourn at 7:50 P.M., Sarah 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