

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 22, 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, Kathy Celetti, Recording Secretary
Absent: Asst. Superintendent for Business,

Recognition of Teacher 's in Excellence (Grinspoon Winners) for 2019

2.1 Mr. Smith presented to the committee the four Grinspoon winners for 2019. Ms. Leigh Plahna a 3rd grade teacher at Mapleshade Elementary; Ms. Ann Marie Mowry, a 4th grade teacher at Mountain View Elementary; Ms. Elizabeth Sheehan, an Adjustment Counselor at Meadow Brook Elementary, they are all teachers who were in the teaching practice for (3) or more years. And Ms. Jacqueline Wheelock, she is a new teacher Family Consumer Science at Birchland Park Middle School. They are nominated by their peers. So we want to take a moment and congratulate all of you for the incredible work you do.

Chair: The Collaborative Committee, the comments from their peers were outstanding, each of these teachers and counselor. It was just really gratifying to have something so special and something so positive in that collaborative meeting. We are just so happy for all four of you, it's wonderful. Congratulations! All four winners are going to attend the Grinspoon Teacher in Excellence teaching banquet on May 9th.

East Longmeadow Public Schools Budget Hearing for FY2020 Budget

Mr. Freccero, Chair formally opened the Budget Hearing for our FY2020 Budget

3.1 Mr. Smith presented the FY2020 budget.

Supporting the whole child: Focusing on academics, social and emotional Ed., and cultural responsiveness.

Goals for FY 2020 Budget:

- Maintain all current staff and programming that effectively support student learning and growth
- Expand Social and Emotional Education and support throughout the District
- Expand curricular support for all areas through the Curriculum Renewal Process

School Department budget priorities for FY2020:

- Hire a Social and Emotional teacher at ELHS and Meadow Brook
- Maintain existing SEL line item in Contracted Services for each school
- Assist students and staff in expanding technology use in daily instruction and activity; create and provide opportunities to learn and master new K-12 Digital Literacy and Computer Science Standards; hire Instructional Technology Specialist to work with Mapleshade and Mountain View school
- Increase the Curriculum Renewal budget line item by \$50,000

FY2020 Budget Request:

- Increase of 3.46% to the FY2019 budget for a total budget request of \$31,357,590

Estimated Revenue Increases for FY2020:

- Chapter 70 increase for EL - Governor's Proposed Budget 7.36% or \$828,492
- House Ways and Means Proposed Chapter 70 increase 7.5% or \$848,519
- Medicaid Reimbursement for services delivered by ELPS personnel estimated at \$250,000, coming back into the town general fund.

Gregory motioned to close the budget hearing, Elizabeth seconded the motion.

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

Approval of Minutes

4.1 Approval of the April 4, 2019 parent forum minutes.

Sarah moved to approve the April 4, 2019 parent forum minutes, Elizabeth seconded the motion.

Chair: Any further discussion?

William: One typo, the Parent Forum was held in the cafeteria and not the Superintendent 's Conference room.

Gregory: It certainly was a well- attended event, 179 views on the ELCAT You Tube channel and probably had about that many that night. Worthwhile endeavor and it 's still on ELCAT if anybody has an interest in watching it.

Chair: Good point Mr. Thompson, any other questions.

All those in favor say aye (5), those oppose (0), unanimous (5-0)

4.2 Approval of the April 8, 2019 regular meeting minutes

Elizabeth moved to approve the April 8, 2019 regular meeting minutes , Gregory 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 upcoming Thursday a few student representatives, including myself will be attending the STEM night at Meadow Brook School at 6:30PM. We will be presenting some of the work we've done throughout the year in various STEM related classes. I'll be going through some of the projects I've done in AP Computer Science, so it will be a good way to show the students how they will cover career at the ELPS, how to build and lead up to it. Diverse strengths in science technology engineering and mathematics and hopefully some of our presentations will be able to inspire students to keep working hard and continuing the field of STEM. On Friday, April 26th, the National Honor Society is hosting "superhero day" at the high school. So this will be an opportunity for students and staff to dress up in their favorite superhero outfit. At the same time the National Honor Society will be collecting donations for charities. So it's a good way for everyone to have a little bit of fun and also to support a good cause.

William Fonseca : The Open Space Committee continues to work through the new open space plan and it will be submitted to the state roughly around August 1st of this year. Day on the Hill is next Wednesday at the State House.

Sarah Truoiolo : I was able to go to the 125th Fishing Derby Celebration, so that was really exciting and really well attended by the community. It was wonderful!

the Lions really reinvigorating such a nice tradition within the town. There were a lot of students out there fishing, so it was a really nice family event. We also had the littlest fisherman that was my nephew that was exciting. Also to echo what Jake just said, Thursday is the STEM event at Meadow Brook, they really put a lot of work into that. It's incorporating not just the high school, but the other sites as well. Looking forward to attending that, this Thursday evening.

Elizabeth Marsian-Boucher : ELEEf, on May 21st at Bentley's, they are having a CELEBRITY bartending event. It's going to be good. They have some really good celebrities that are going to be there.

Gregory Thompson: Any School Committee members?

Elizabeth Marsian-Boucher: I'm going to keep it on the download. It starts at 5PM, the 21st, it's at Bentley's. All the tips go to ELEEf and I think a portion of what they sell, also goes to ELEEf. I think Birchland has a talent show coming up.

Richard Freccero : A couple of things, we did have a sick bank meeting and I had the chance to observe some athletic events, so it's kind of nice with the weather being nice, to kind of walk around and see all the fields being used from JV and freshman all the way through to Varsity.

Superintendent's Report:

7.1.1 ELHS Latin Honors Recognition presented by Dr. Flanagan.

Mr. Smith: The Latin Honors system is typically acknowledged at the collegiate level, but many high schools across the country have recently moved towards this distinction as an alternative class rank.

Dr. Flanagan: To best fit the Latin Honors program designations to our current 4.5 GPA model, we propose the following:

Cum Laude: 3.5 on a 4.0 scale adjusted to 3.94 on a 4.5 scale

Magna Cum Laude: 3.7 on a 4.0 scale adjusted to 4.16 on a 4.5 scale

Summa Cum Laude: 3.9 on a 4.0 scale adjusted to 4.39 on a 4.5 scale.

The Advantages of Latin Honors:

- Latin honors recognize the academic accomplishments of more students. Instead of honoring only a handful of students whose performance may be based on relatively small differences in GPA, Latin honors recognize all students whose performance exceeded high academic standards.
- Latin honors represent a much broader spectrum of academic accomplishment. The three levels of Latin honors (Summa Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude, and Cum Laude) can be adapted by schools to reflect their distinct academic standards, while also giving more students the opportunity to work hard and earn recognition for their achievements.
- Latin honors are more fundamentally equitable
- Colleges, universities, and the general public are familiar with Latin honors system.

We are proposing that we utilize the adjusted 4.5 scale for this year. It will be designated on the graduation program.

Elizabeth: My concern is you could go through four years of high school and never take an AP course; get straight A's and never takes an AP course and you can hit the highest honors 4.5 scale. That means you never tried to do that. I guess that would be my biggest concern with this. Obviously we can't do the 5.0 because I don't even think it's possible to get to that. But, is there a point in between where you, in order to get Summa Cum Laude, you need to take an AP, I guess I feel there is a spot in between there that we could pick that would work.

Dr. Flanagan: Do you have a suggestion?

Elizabeth: That's why I asked what the kids the last few years ago was it 4.6, 4.5 whatever that was. If that was fair, I mean I know that it's difficult fitting in AP, I don't want to make it so kids can't get it, but our kids have been able to attain it at that scale, that's fine with me. I just think that you should have to take an AP course.

Mr. Smith: What if you didn't raise the GPA average, but you put an asterisk, additional eligibility requirement for Summa Cum Laude that Summa Cum Laude requires that a student has challenged herself/himself by taking at least one AP course.

Student Rep: I believe the 4.5 out of 5.0 that it's also including the standard courses, such as health and gym. So that kind of balances out where it's more difficult to get a GPA closer to a 4.5. What I'm trying to say is the people in the Summa Cum Laude range will most definitely be taking at least one AP course.

Gregory: Anecdotally speaking of the 13 students that this year in theory on a 4.5, are they all taking at least one AP class?

Dr. Flanagan: I don't know definitively, but I would imagine so.

Gregory: That would mean a change in number and not stipulation. What do you think Dr. Flanagan?

Dr. Flanagan: So we put that in the policy that in order to get the Summa Cum Laude, you have to take an AP course, is that what you are suggesting.

Mr. Smith: That was just one recommendation.

Dr. Flanagan: So in addition to meeting the GPA requirement you have to take an AP class

Gregory: What percent of students take an AP class?

Dr. Flanagan: We have 182 students taking AP classes.

Gregory: I bet all 13 students are taking AP classes.

Chair: Plus I think this is our first year doing this. If the majority of the 13 students are not taking AP courses, then I would have to sit back and say, we have to review this again.

Gregory: We had this conversation prior about the other designation, and your crew was not really in favor, are you now in favor of this?

Dr. Flanagan: Yes, what we like about this is that it eliminates competition piece. We went to Student Council and the students love it.

Elizabeth: I just want it to be students that who have really challenged themselves.

Gregory: Is this going in the Student Handbook?

Dr. Flanagan: Yes

Elizabeth: It needs to be much defined what classes are weighted and what are not.

Mr. Smith: This goes in the Program of Studies.

Elizabeth moved that we recognize graduating students starting with the Class of 2019 with the Latin Honor System. It will be an adjusted 4.5 scale; it will include Summa, Magna and Cum Laude. Gregory seconded the motion.

Chair: Any further discussion?

Gregory: These percentages we are going to use going forward unless we decide to change that.

Dr. Flanagan: Sure

William: Does it have to be designated where we are going to place it in the Program of Studies, Handbook, or does that have to be part of the motion.

Chair: I think that should be up to the administration.

Dr. Flanagan: We can put it in the grading section

Elizabeth: But it would be recognized at graduation

Dr. Flanagan: Yes, it will be in the program. It might be too late to do the designation of robes because graduation is already here, but if we decide to move in that direction.

Elizabeth: Could we do cords

Dr. Flanagan: We would have to order them. You are thinking cords for everyone, because NHS also has cords too.

Elizabeth: They have a sash.

Dr. Flanagan: But they have a designation

Elizabeth: Do you want to just do it for the kids with Summa?

Dr. Flanagan: We have to order them, but could do it something for next year.
Elizabeth: You can 't get them here to us in a month?
Dr. Flanagan: I could ask Mrs. Hellyer who is very overworked right now.
Gregory: Why don 't we try the program, because we are trying to acknowledge the three levels, in future we will talk about it?
Dr. Flanagan: Do they do all three designations at college graduations?
Mr. Smith: In the program, I don 't know about the ropes.
William: That is something we have to look at for next year, because of the timing.
Elizabeth: If she can look into it, if she can 't, could you just ask.
All those in favor say aye (5), those oppose (0), unanimous (5-0)

Assistant Superintendent of Business Report :

Old Business- None

New Business:

9.1 The new ELPS Custodian Contract (MOU) was presented in executive session

**Elizabeth moved to approve the Custodian Association Contract for July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2022 , William seconded the motion.
Chair: Any further discussion? All those in favor say aye (5), oppose (0), unanimous (5-0)**

9.2 Mountain View 5th grade field trip to Sonny's Place in Somers, CT on June 7th, was presented.
Gregory: In the past, we have had request accompany by learning objectives.
Mr. Smith: this is more of a celebration
Gregory: Could we potentially encourage some learning activities on all field trips so when they get back they talk about the (physics).

**Elizabeth moved to approve Mountain View PTO 5th grade class trip to Sonny 's Place on Friday, June 7, 2019 with the rain date of Monday, June 10, 2019 ,
Gregory seconded the motion.
Chair: Any further discussion? All those in favor say aye (5), those oppose (0), unanimous (5-0)**

9.3 Mr. Smith gave an update on the Meadow Brook MSBA Accelerated Repair Program for the roof. In February 2018 we submitted the SOI specifically to Accelerated Repair Program for MB. We were then invited into the program in the Spring of 2018. In order to submit the SOI the School Committee had to vote on February 5, 2018, the town also voted to submit on February 13, 2018. The town appropriated \$122,000 for schematic design phase. After the schematic design phase is completed, which was just recently, now you have the full project cost which goes to MSBA which took place on April 10th. The Board of Directors approved the full cost of \$3,188,859 with a potential grant of \$1,285,400, that grant could reach \$1.3 million. Tomorrow I am on the Town Council agenda to present this information and ask for appropriation of \$1.3 million, so that we could move to a bid phase, hopefully have a bid by May 1st, do most of the work this summer.
Chair: All we need is a new high school. Mr. Thompson, you attending the Town Council meeting, Yes; Mr. Foncesa, yes. So, on a positive note: A lot of work on MB approving that building; MV (modulars) and MS finishing the doors and steam piping.

**Chair: Thank you Jake and Mr. Maki
William moved to adjourn at 7:05 P.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