

**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 23, 2018
TIME: 6.30 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;
Absent: Student Rep
Chair stated that this meeting is being both audio and video taped, and asked if anyone else was taping the meeting.

Public Hearing on FY2019 School Committee Budget
Ms. Mailloux, Chair formally opened the Budget Hearing

2.1 Mr. Smith, presented the FY2019 budget.

ELPS continues to focus on equipping students at all grade levels with 21st century skills

- Critical thinking
- Problem solving
- Collaborating
- Communicating effectively in a written and oral format
- Utilizing technology as a tool to support all the above.

Town of East Longmeadow investing in our students. Mr. Smith showed a slide with budget increase in the last eight years.

Mr. Smith said the School Committee and the Community have always supported education. FY2019 budget request: increase of 2.85% from FY2018 for a total budget request of \$30,028,201. This does not include transfer of bus money.

Per pupil spending throughout the seven LPVEC districts, ELPS is sixth.

Goals for FY2019 Budget:

- Maintain all current staff and programs that effectively supports student learning and growth
- Expand current Student Support Services programs in intensive needs & social emotional education and support
- Expand curricular support for all areas through Curriculum Renewal Process

ELPS Budget Priorities for FY2019:

- Continue to reallocate existing funding to contracted services - expand social and emotional education support
- Hire Intensive Needs Special Educator at the HS. Complete programming from elementary grades to high school
- Expand technology use in daily instruction and activity. Hire an Instructional Technology Specialist - grades 9-12

ELPS Budget Priorities for FY2019 building on the success:

- Provide more support to elementary music program - Increase current position from .8FTE by .2FTE = 1.0 FTE for grades 3-5 (MS/MV)
- Increase Curriculum Renewal budget line item by \$25,000

Gregory: What is the percentage of online curriculum renewal?

Ms. Annear: It depends who is up for renewal. Math is this year, still using textbooks, not ready for online.

- Expand social and emotional education in grades 6-8. Hire Special Education teach with training in social and emotional education
- Hire Math Specialist for grades 3-5 (math intervention)

At 7:30PM the Chair closed the Budget Hearing.

Approval of Minutes

3.1 Approval of the April 9, 2018 executive session meeting minutes.

Richard moved to approve the April 9, 2018 executive session meeting minutes, Gregory seconded the motion.

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

3.2 Approval of the April 9, 2018 regular session meeting minutes.

Gregory moved to approve the April 9, 2018 regular session meeting minutes, Elizabeth seconded the motion.

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

Committee/Sub-committee Communications

William: I attended the National School Board Association conference in San Antonio, missing our last meeting. It was a very good conference, very well attended. Keynote speakers included: Terry Bradshaw, Ann Compton who was the former ABC News Correspondent to the White House and Julian Castro, was secretary of Housing and Urban Development under the Obama administration in 2014-2017. The message was clear that they sent out, given all the controversy that is currently taking place in Washington around education, issues that every child as a whole deserves a public education even if it is in a private setting. It is their choice, the government shouldn't be choosing where they go to school. It should properly be funded, there was a very clear message that they drove home. Every child should have the right to choose where they are educated and not be forced where they don't want to go. Breakout sessions were very good. We had one around school safety and various ways to deal with those issues given what happened in Florida.

Gregory: What did you learn from that?

William: Well it is consistent because they talk about it be social emotional, somewhat the same conversations that we are having here in our committee. It is basically taking place across the nation that they realized the root of this is social emotional. And that it is driven primarily by social emotional issues. They are finding numerous studies are being conducted now on what is triggering this stuff.

Deirdre: So it is really more about preventative.

William: Absolutely, they talked about not making school feel like a prison. As Dr. Flanagan pointed out to us one night, the kid sitting by himself eating lunch, there is a reason for that, get to that individual to find out what is going on. A lot of sessions on Teacher Evaluation, it is becoming a hotbed with every

Student Succeeds Act. A couple sessions on collaborative that I was interested in. A presentation by the Executive Director and staff from an upstate collaborative that mirrors ours, that was interesting. It was interesting to go there and hear them say that math scores were ahead of English. You had to get the mind set that 85% of the population in San Antonio, English is their second language. We went to a few presentations about how to beef up English. It was a very good conference, and again I thank everyone for allowing me to attend. I find these things very valuable. Next years will be closer to home, it will be in Philadelphia.

Gregory: What about teacher evaluation, any way to make it less cumbersome?

William: I actually have a book that I'm reading now that was handed out at one of the presentations. I don't recall the author or name, but will get that information to you. It did talk about teacher evaluation, he was a former educator so he wrote the book and conducts Professional Development on "How to get the most out of your teachers through an evaluation system". It was a good presentation. This Wednesday is Day on the Hill. I will be going to Boston tomorrow night for an MASC Board of Directors meeting and staying for Day on the Hill. I will be reaching out to Senator Lesser, possible Puppolo and Ashe letting them know that I will be in Boston at the Statehouse and that I would like to catch up with them and brief them on what's going on in East Longmeadow. MSBA will be in the forefront.

Elizabeth: We should express to them how other representatives were at the meetings supporting us.

Mr. Smith: We are actually looking to schedule a strategy meeting with all of them.

Gregory: That's a good point Beth; we should do that next time.

William: Don't worry, I'll make mention of that.

Gregory: Please do

William: I'll talk to them about our re-submission to MSBA into the CORE project.

Gregory: A couple of them coming to the town hall.

William: I'll let everybody know how that goes.

Richard: I enjoyed the baseball team and women's tennis team both winning. The Collaborative Committee made a wonderful decision, they have elected Kathleen Hill into the EL Educator Hall of Fame and that will be recognized on June 7. This Thursday is "Meet the Candidates" at the senior center from 4-7pm.

Elizabeth: Birchland Park had a talent show sometime before vacation. This was the first time they did it after school, which was kind of nice, fun to watch. Some funny kids, some great acts which I enjoyed. Mountain View is having their science fair on Thursday. I am going to try to make it. There is something happening every night this week. Carol Kasper a longtime school nurse has written a book. If you go to one of the ELEEF sites you can hit it and it's called "I have a cheese noodle up my nose". I guess it's short and sweet, but it's about things, little tales about being a school nurse. If you do go and hit the link from the ELEEF site a small bit of the proceeds go to ELEEF.

Gregory: Did she really have someone with a cheese noodle up their nose.

Elizabeth: Yes, probably more than cheese noodles.

Opportunity for visitors to Address the committee - Mr. Torcia asked if they set a date at the town hall for students. Mr. Smith said May 11th at 12:30-1:30. The chair mentioned that it was for students with elected and town officials.

Superintendent's Report: NONE

Assistant Superintendent of Business : NONE

Assistant Superintendent for Curr. and Instruct. : NONE

Old Business:

7.1 Participation in School Choice for the 2018-2019 school year was discussed. Mr. Smith said, if we were to participate in school choice, the recommendation from the Leadership Team would be in the following grades: (3rd grade) 4-6 students; (4th grade) 4 students; (6th grade) 5 or more students and (10th grade) 2-3 students. Mr. Smith also stated that we currently have twelve EL students attending School Choice in other school districts. Mr. Thompson suggested going with (12) students, the number of EL students who currently participate in School Choice in other districts.

Gregory moved to participate in School Choice for 2018-2019 school year for a total of (12) students, (4) students in the 3rd grade; (5) students in the 6th grade and (3) students in the 10th grade, William seconded the motion.

Chair: Any further discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor say aye (2), all those oppose (3) that failed (2-3).

7.2 Policy AC "Non-discrimination was presented for a 2nd Reading. Language Change

Richard moved to approve Policy AC "Non-discrimination " Elizabeth seconded the motion.

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

7.3 Policy BDD "School Committee/Superintendent Relationship" was presented for a 2nd Reading. Language Change

William moved to approve Policy BDD "School Committee/Superintendent Relationship " Richard seconded the motion.

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

7.4 Policy BDE "Sub-committees of the School Committee" was presented for a 2nd Reading. MASC changes

Gregory moved to approve Policy BDE "Sub-committee of the School Committee " William seconded the motion.

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

7.5 Policy GBA "Equal Employment Opportunity" was presented for a 2nd Reading. Language change

William moved to approve Policy GBA "Equal Employment Opportunity " Gregory seconded the motion.

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

7.6 Policy GCF "Professional Staff Hiring" was presented for a 2nd Reading. Language change

Richard moved to approve Policy GCF "Professional Staff Hiring " William seconded the motion.

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

7.7 Policy JB - Equal Educational Opportunity was presented for a 2nd Reading. Language change

Gregory moved to approve Policy JB "Equal Educational Opportunity " William seconded the motion

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

7.8 Policy JFBB - "School Choice" was presented for a 2nd Reading. Language change - M.G.L.

William moved to approve Policy JFBB "School Choice" Elizabeth seconded the motion

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

New Business:

8.1 Awarding of Bid for Meadow Brook Window and Doors Project was presented by Mr. Smith. Mr. Smith said that the bid went to Lizotte Glass, Inc. Mr. Smith also mentioned that three alternates have been added: #1) Vestibule at the front door; #2) Vestibule at the back door; #3) two exterior doors at the gymnasium. The project can take up to 12 weeks to complete. School Committee asked Mr. Smith to notify parents of the construction that will be going on at Meadow Brook.

Richard moved to award the contract for the Meadow Brook Elementary School windows and doors replacement project to Lizotte Glass, Inc. on 390 Race Street in Holyoke, MA 01040. This contract would be for the complete project including all three alternates at the total cost of \$1,770,877.00, Elizabeth seconded the motion.

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

8.2 Approval of the MA State Police Helicopter landing at Meadow Brook School on May 10th was presented. Meadow Brook students are writing letters to the State Police Air Wing, explaining why they should land the helicopter at MB School. One of the pilots, Trooper Eric Fairchild is also a parent of a kindergartener.

Richard moved to approve the MA State Police helicopter landing at MB School on May 10th with a rain date of May 11th, Elizabeth seconded the motion.

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

Chair: Thank you Mr. Maki

At 8:15 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