

**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 13, 2020
TIME: 6:00 P.M.
WHERE: Superintendent's Conference Room

Meeting called to Order by : Gregory Thompson, Chair
THIS MEETING IS BEING HELD REMOTELY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GOVERNOR OF MASSACHUSETTS' MARCH 12, 2020 ORDER SUSPENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE OPEN MEETING LAW MA G.L.c. 30A, SECTION 20.

PER THE GOVERNORS' ORDER THE PUBLIC WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PHYSICALLY ACCESS THIS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC CAN ACCESS THE MEETING VIA LIVE STREAM AT:

https://eastlongmeadowma.zoom.us/j/864827779?tk=towKDZ_ZSQv6K2gVPFKxukzC3yj7i7r1uGDxwTKn9Qs.DQEA4AA4w5gxZPZm7aSC02OFRQMmJhclVSM2dVbg5BAA&pwd=QkNuanpNS120WXhqtzBB93hIV0Nodz09&uuiid-WN_ddcHQzP4SNmzYqa-SQGD0w (Password): 353864

As a preliminary matter, this is Gregory Thompson, School Committee Chair. Permit me to confirm that all members and persons anticipated on the agenda are present and can hear me. Members, when I call your name, please respond in the affirmative

Sarah Truoiolo - here
William Fonseca - here
Antonella Raschilla - here
Richard Freccero - here
Gordon Smith, Superintendent - here
Pamela Blair, Asst. Supt for Business - here
Sofia Iacobucci, Student Rep - here
Kathy Celetti, Recording Secretary - here
Heather Brown, Dir. of Curriculum - here

Approval of Minutes

2.1 Approval of the March 9, 2020 regular session meeting minutes.

Richard motioned to approve the March 9, 2020 regular session meeting minutes, William seconded the motion.
Chair: Any further discussion? all those in favor say aye (5), oppose say nay (0), motion carries (5-0)

2.1 Approval of the March 9, 2020 executive session meeting minutes.

William motioned to approve the March 9, 2020 executive session meeting minutes, Richard seconded the motion.
Chair: Any further discussion? all those in favor say aye (5), oppose say nay (0), motion carries (5-0)

Committee/Sub-committee Communications - None

Opportunities for Visitors to Address the Committee:

Anyone who has connected to this public meeting through the posted link and who would like to address the Committee, please raise your hand through the Zoom Client. The Moderator for the meeting will alert the Chairperson that there is an attendee who wishes to address the Committee.

Superintendent's Report:

5.1 Mr. Smith gave an update on the ELPS Outreach and operations during closure from Covid-19. ELPS is/and has been actively learning remotely since March 18th. Parents and students know when assignments are coming on specific days of the week. Classes will be meeting live (Google hangout and zoom), videos and so forth. This has been ongoing for the past two weeks. This is a whole new way to operate. Different stress on staff and families. Overwhelmingly, our outreach and what we have been doing, has been positive and hopefully provided a boost to families. Looking for a recognized break coming up at the end of this week. Monday being a holiday, and spring break.

Gregory: To reiterate from a parent perspective, the students are engaged in home learning now. The staff is doing a fantastic job adapting how they are instructing the students. It's been good to see how quickly ELPS has stepped up to this challenging endeavor.

5.2 ELPS Student Opportunity Plan for 2021-2023 was presented by Ms. Brown, Dir. of Curriculum.

Mr. Smith: This is a plan that comes from the Student Opportunity Act, looking at bringing reforms, changes and revisions to the Foundation Budget Reform. How we do a better job funding districts specifically special education costs. Also making it more equitable for all districts across the Commonwealth. For ELPS, it allows us to continue to do some of the work we have already started with the Diversity and Equity Steering Committee. We were not one of the districts that received a huge amount of funding from the Student Opportunity Act.
Ms. Brown: The Student Opportunity Act allows us to identify groups of students who require focus support. We conducted an Equity Audit; we determined that there is clear inequity in enrollment in advanced academics and postsecondary readiness for students with disabilities, ELL students, economically disadvantaged students and students of color. We found two underlying causes: lack of diverse staff and need for inclusive, culturally responsive teaching practices. Our focus will be on: Diversifying our educator workforce and increase services to support holistic student needs. Next year we plan on purchasing PanoramaEd's Student Success Dashboard to streamline screening and tracking progress across academics, attendance, behavior and social emotional learning. This may help the District to quickly identify students who may be experiencing challenges. We plan on partnering with NCCJ (National Conference for Community and Justice) to deliver PD that will help our staff examine systems of oppression and privilege and learn culturally responsive teaching techniques and ultimately create a more inclusive classroom. DESE also requires us to have certain Metrics that we are going to use to monitor success. And lastly, engaging all families. Given our focus on student subgroups, it is particularly important that we find ways to effectively engage our families of students of color, student from low-income backgrounds, English Language Learners and students with disabilities.

William moved to approve the ELPS Student Opportunity Plan for SY 2021-2023, Sarah seconded the motion.
Chair: Any further discussion? all those in favor say aye (5), oppose say nay (0), motion carries (5-0)

Assistant Superintendent of Business Report : None

Old Business: None

New Business

7.1 School Choice Program for the 2020-2021 school year was discussed.

Mr. Smith: The Leadership Team was in support of School Choice. Dr. Allen said that he is willing to take in 10 students for grade 6, and Acting Principal Mr. Paige said that he is willing to take 5 students for grade 9.

Antonella motioned to approve participating in the School Choice program for the 2020-2021 school year for (10) slots in 6th grade and (5) slots for 9th grade, Gregory seconded the motion out of necessity.

Chair: Any further discussion? all those in favor say aye (3), oppose say nay (2), motion carries (3-2)

7.2 There was some discussion of ELPS plans for April vacation.

A break might be needed at this time for teachers, parents and students. This is an approved break already set in our calendar. We would like to recognize it and take the April break.

Gregory: So we are keeping the break, well deserved rest. Lots of positive thoughts with the education in EL. There is one chat from a teacher.

Teachers: The teachers I spoke to do not want the break, would like to work through it.

7.3 Birchland Park Military Appreciation Day scheduled for May 21, 2020 with USAF fly over was discussed.

Richard moved to approve the Birchland Park Military Appreciation Day on May 21, 2020 with the USAF fly over, William seconded the motion.

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

Chair: Successful first attempt on Zoom for School Committee. Thank you all for attending, and for all those listening. Looks like we have a good amount of people listening live. I know this meeting will be in future on ELCAT. We as a School Committee, district, and staff, we are all in this together. We appreciate all the hard work that this whole community has put forth in this endeavor. We are in good shape with the Town. We are in good hands with our administrative staff. We will get through this.

William moved to adjourn at 6: 50P.M., to go into executive session, in accordance with Chapter 39, Section 23B to discuss strategy for collective bargaining with union and nonunion personnel , Sarah seconded the motion.

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

Minutes Recorded by: Kathy Celetti

Respectfully submitted by: Superintendent Smith

Signature