

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: May 7, 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.

Approval of Minutes

2.1 Approval of the April 23, 2018 regular session meeting minutes.

William moved to approve the April 23, 2018 regular session meeting minutes, 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)

Committee/Sub-committee Communications

Student Rep: Today was the first day of AP Exams which will continue through this week and next week. Lots of test being taken. The Drama Production is on Friday and Saturday night at 7PM.

Chair: What are they doing?

Student Rep: They are doing a play; I forgot what the name is about some girls going through high school.

Mr. Marchewka: Reviving Ophelia

William: I had the opportunity along with Ms. Annear to attend the Arbor Day Celebration at both Mapleshade and Mountain View school. Great day, great presentation by the students at both schools. Really enjoyable morning, they seemed really appreciative to all the stuff that was spoken to and about, it really was a good day. Congratulations to all the students that received awards at Student Achievement Night last Thursday, including our own Alison, congratulations.

Richard: My winning streak continues the lacrosse team is in my corner. I want to thank Mr. Thompson and Ms. Mailloux for attending the Town Council meeting at 11 o'clock on Wednesday. Thank you very much for doing that, it was a tough time and you made a difference.

Deirdre: I just want to mention a couple of things I attended. We had the HS spring concert last Wednesday night, as always it was excellent. I also made it to the Track and Field the Spartan Invitation that we had last weekend. What a great turnout, great day, fantastic weather. I think East Longmeadow did very well; we had a couple of kids that received recognition awards. So it was really fun to see.

Elizabeth: I did make it to Mountain View; they had their science night which was nice to go to. I enjoyed going back and talking to some of the people there which was good. ELEEf on May 17th at Mario's ELEEf is going to have a celebrity bartender night from 5-9:30. A lot of the proceeds from dinner and drinks will go to ELEEf. Our very own Mr. Freccero will be bartending at 8pm. So if you can attend, that will be kind of fun.

Opportunity for visitors to Address the committee - Two high school students, Sam Leone and Jennie Gao came forward to express their thoughts regarding the elimination of Class Rank.

Superintendent's Report:

5.1.1 Proposed changes to the ELHS Dress Code were presented by Dr. Flanagan, Mr. Paige and Mr. Marchewka. Dr. Flanagan stated that the dress code has not been modified in about ten years and does not represent modern societal values related to equity and inclusion. Hats are an issue, some teachers allow them and some don't.

Elizabeth: We have a policy, "Rules are Rules", and staff should obey the rules. It's okay to tell students there are rules to follow.

Dr. Flanagan: Tough policy to enforce, some teachers allow it and some don't.

Elizabeth: Teachers shouldn't question the policy

Gregory: It's a matter of manners. Because some teachers are not enforcing this are we sending the wrong message? Zero tolerance for hats. I'm all about "Do what you say, Say what you do" if this is the rule, we should be following the rules.

Dr. Flanagan: We agree with you 100%

Deirdre: I'm torn on this issue. I really understand the respect part of following the rules. We have a policy in place. This is all about preparing them to become adults.

Elizabeth: If we change this are we teaching our staff that they don't have to follow policy.

Mr. Marchewka: Our staffs who allow hats are putting students learning first.

Elizabeth: I do have an issue with hoodies.

William: A lot of this is just a trend, we need to be careful.

Richard: This is very complex, we put this in place in 1995, and it is 23 years old. I respect that, I was more passionate about the not hat than Mr. Paige.

Dr. Flanagan: I don't like having rules and policies in place that are not being enforced. We want to promote a respectable learning environment, a safe learning environment where dress does not interfere with the successful and safe completion of learning activities; promote an equitable and inclusive learning environment in which the dress code does not negatively impact any group based on race, sex, gender, identity, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, socio-economic status or body type/size.

Under Allowable Dress and Grooming, Mr. Freccero suggested changing "shoes" to "footwear". This is a first reading; send edits or suggestions to Mr. Smith to present at next meeting.

5.1.2 Proposed elimination of Class Rank was presented by the HS Administration and Mr. Martin, Guidance Counselor. Dr. Flanagan said, per school committees request we reviewed the class rank to determine if it was still necessary. Our recommendation based on the research conducted by the ELHS Guidance Department and for the reason outlined tonight, we recommend eliminating class rank for the 2018-2019 school year.

William: Is this for everyone or starting with the incoming freshman? Dr. Flanagan: Everyone

Richard: We should allow the juniors to stay with GPA/Rank and phase it in.

Ms. Annear: I would like to thank the High School staff for being here presenting on two things. One with a lot of discussion. Everything they presented has to do with the student's first; learning and educational environment and continued growth and development. Ranking, whether it is

phased in or not, I don't think it gets around the purpose of it if it's phased in.
This was a first reading, will bring back for next meeting.

5.1.3 Tuition increase for Little Big Kids Program was presented by Dr. Flanagan. For the past five years we have charged participants \$300 for our program that runs 3 days a week from 7:25 - 10:10AM. We would like to increase the tuition to \$600 for 2018-2019 school year. We will no longer be accepting non-EL residents.

Gregory moved to approve the increase to LBK program tuition to \$600 for the 2018-2019 school year, 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)

Assistant Superintendent of Business :

5.2.1 Ms. Blair presented the FY18 3rd Quarter Financial Report dated March 31, 2018. William asked if Ms. Blair could check on the fuel with LPVEC. Richard mentioned the School Committee stipend. William asked if they even addressed it. Mr. Smith said that it was presented in the budget; however, it was then not presented in the budget that went to Town Council. It was presented in our spreadsheet and requests, which is on our website. Gregory: So that's the only recommendation that the Town Manager taken out? Ms. Blair: I don't know

William moved to approve the 3rd Quarter Financial Report as presented, 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)

Assistant Superintendent for Curr. and Instruct. NONE

Old Business: None

New Business:

7.1 Policy BEDH "Public Comment at School Committee Meetings" was presented for a 1st reading. Language Change

7.2 Policy BHE "Use of Electronic Messaging by School Committee Members" was presented for 1st reading. Language Change

7.3 Policy BIA "New School Committee Member Orientation" was presented for a 1st reading. Language Change

7.4 Policy BIBA "School Committee Conference, Conventions, and Workshops" was presented for 1st reading. Language Change

Richard asked where our school committee stipend to Town Council is.

William: Did they even address it?

Deirdre: I don't think they even addressed it

Mr. Smith: It was presented in the budget to them; however it was not then presented in the budget that went before the Town Council. It was presented in our spreadsheet in the request, which is actually I believe up on our website.

Gregory: So that's the only recommendation that the Town Manager made, was to take that out?

Ms. Blair: I don't know if it was accidental

Gregory: In the end there was no other recommendation by the Town Manager or any other requests. They were all just presented as this is what everybody is looking for, that's the one thing the Town Manager took out.

Mr. Smith: I think tomorrow there is going to be a fully recommend budget that may have some changes on it.

Gregory: Based on the discussion of the council, that doesn't come from the Town Manager, that's the recommendation of Town Council. I'm just wondering why the Town Manager took this one thing out on her own and decided that that was the one thing she would have an opinion on and nothing else she had an opinion on.

William: Is there a way you can follow-up tomorrow to find out where this is at? It's not about the money, it's about the principal that we are the only other elected board in town.

Elizabeth: I find it to be disrespectful. Other boards are getting it, it's not enough to make a difference, but it's the idea that other non-elected boards are getting the same stipend and they meet once a month. I respect what they are doing.

William: We are the only other elected board in town, there should be some differentiation in my mind between our stipends and other appointed boards.

7.5 Use of ELHS grounds for the Rotary Summer Concert Series was presented.

Gregory moved to approve the 33rd Annual Rotary Summer Concerts series to be allowed at East Longmeadow High School on the dates and times listed in the request, 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)

7.6 School Committee's participation in the 4th of July Parade was presented.

William moved to participate in the 4th of July parade, 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)

7.7 Use of ELHS grounds for National Night Out on August 7th from 5-8PM was presented.

Richard moved to approve the National Night Out request for use of ELHS grounds on August 7th 2018 from 7-9PM, 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 Request for use of ELHS grounds by Rotary Club Foundation for the Fireworks display on July 3rd was presented.

Gregory moved to approve the request to allow the Independence Day Fireworks celebration here at ELHS on July 3rd, 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 and the Student Rep.

At 8:55 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