

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 11, 2020
TIME: 6:00 P.M.
WHERE: Via Zoom Meeting

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

<https://eastlongmeadowma.zoom.us/j/85675687784?pwd=Z:g2UHdEYjJlHl3VzRTVGRubzZhdz09>

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
Gregory Thompson - here

Approval of Minutes

2.1 Approval of the April 13, 2020 regular session meeting minutes.

Richard motioned to approve the April 13, 2020 regular session meeting minutes, Sarah seconded the motion.

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

2.2 Approval of the April 13, 2020 executive session meeting minutes.

William motioned to approve the April 13, 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)

2.3 Approval of the April 23, 2020 executive session meeting minutes.

Richard motioned to approve the April 23, 2020 executive 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)

2.4 Approval of the April 27, 2020 executive session meeting minutes.

William motioned to approve the April 27, 2020 executive session meeting minutes, Antonella 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

Gregory mentioned that he, Mr. Smith and Ms. Blair met with the Capital Planning group to discuss capital projects.

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:

4.1.1 Update on ELPS Operations during Covid-19: ELPS Remote Learning-Presented by Mr. Smith and Ms. Brown

In order to align with the recommendation of Credit/No Credit rather than grades, ELPS has developed a way to implement a Credit/No Credit structure for the work accomplished during the closure with work accomplished and the grades recorded through March 13th. With the Commissioner's expanded guidance received on Friday, April 24th ELPS has begun to focus instruction on prerequisite standards provided by DESE.

ELHS (Four Grading Terms in regular school year)

- Term 3 & 4 will merge into one marking term that will extend until June 19th.
- Semester-based classes, students will be assessed by their extended Term 3 average
- Full-year classes will be assessed by averaging Term 1 through Term 3
- On April 6th, teachers will begin to issue one assignment per week that will receive credit/no credit grade to align with state recommendation
- Each credit/no credit assignment must have direct instruction associated in some manner (Google Meet, Live Stream, Google Classroom etc.)
- Teachers will utilize the practice of submitted/not submitted as a way of tracking the credit/no credit work in PlusPortals
- Teachers can ask students to resubmit work that does not meet class standards in order to receive credit
- Teachers can give extra credit or no credit assignment to reinforce learning, these assignment will not have any negative impact on a student's grade

BPMS (Four Grading Terms in regular school year)

- Terms 3 and 4 will be combined into one marking period, at the end of this extended term, students will receive a pass/fail in every class
- Pass/fail will be determined by combining how students performed in school through March 13th and how they performed during remote learning over the final 13 weeks
- Every Friday, student will receive a score of 1-4 in the PlusPortals for each class.
 - 4 - student's effort and output were above and beyond
 - 3 - student's effort and output were good (this is the goal)

- 2 - student showed some effort and output but there is room for improvement
- 1 - student showed little or no effort and output

Elementary (Three trimesters in a regular school year)

- Trimester 2 grades will be sent to families using the regular report card format
- Progress information on personalized learning platforms will be shared with families
- Trimester 3 grades will focus on habits and work modified to reflect a remote learning environment
- Report cards for Trimester 3 will include a narrative, focusing on progress seen through teacher formative assessments (assigned work) as well as information received on the usage and progress from personalized learning systems (e.g., i-Ready, ST Math and Lexia)

ELPS Family and Caregiver Survey were sent out on May 5th. This data will be used to address any issues that are raised, as well as additional support families need and what formats work best.

- The amount of instruction my children are receiving from their teachers: 69% said "just enough"
- The amount of feedback my children are receiving from their teachers is: 76.3% said "just right"
- The amount of connection my children have with their teachers is: 72.8% said "just right"

41.9% want more support around motivating children to engage; 12.9% would like help managing family stress, anxiety, or depression; 18% would like to know what to do with a bored child; 14% would like to know what to do with a an overwhelmed child; 15% want to learn how to support their child on Lexia, ST Math or i-Ready; 6.8% would like to learn more about Google Read & Write; 6% would like assistance with Zoom/Google Meet.

4.1.2 Update on the ELHS graduation

Graduation:

Phase 1 - Weekend of June 13 and 14th.

- Limited ceremony where students and families are individually scheduled to arrive in their cars and receive diplomas
- Run over a weekend to ensure parents are available to attend
- Run on one day, but could take two as we begin to coordinate the detailed schedule
- Students will receive their diplomas individually
- Students will be allowed to attend with their parents in the same vehicle
- Ceremony will be scheduled outside and in close proximity to the parking lot
- Each student "graduation" moment will be photographed and recorded
- The ceremony will be compiled into a video and shared on ELCAT

Phase 2: Weekend of August 7, 8 and 9th

- Schedule a more traditional ceremony to take place outside in the beginning of August if State guidelines
- A final decision on whether this ceremony can take place will be made in late June

Cap and Gown Day:

Return: Chromebooks, books, other school items

Receive: Cap and gowns, student records and yearbooks

- Scheduled to take place on Friday, May 29th
- Students will have scheduled time slots to make the exchange
- ELHS staff will help structure this event and will all be in masks
- There will be set stations separated out from each other in the horseshoes and parking lot where students will turn in and receive items
- Staff will decorate their cars, which will be parked along the route to celebrate the seniors as they arrive in their cars
- Parents cannot ride separately, but are encouraged to attend with their child if available.

Senior Awards Night:

- Letters and programs will be mailed this week
- This will be a virtual or remote event
- Program will be shared digitally with ELHS community once recipients receive their physical copies
- Awards will be mailed over the next month as those are still being coordinated
- A recognition video of award recipients will be completed in the coming weeks

4.1.3 Certificate of Attainment was presented by Mr. Smith.

Richard moved to approve the Certificate of Attainment as presented, William 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 :

4.2.1 Birchland Park gift donation from the Blais family for the BP Phys Ed Department was discussed.

William moved to accept the BP gift donation from the Blais family for the BP Phys Ed department, Richard seconded the motion

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

4.2.2 ELPS plans for refunds/credits for transportation, athletics, food service and pre-school was discussed.

Ms. Blair: Due to the unanticipated school closure, we have reimbursements that are due to the parents for Transportation Fees and Spring Athletic Fees. Transportation fee is \$270 for 180 days, the closure is 60 schools days, and therefore the credit is \$90. Athletic fee is \$149. Since Spring Athletics did not occur, therefore we owe a full credit/refund for the \$149. Food Service has many student accounts in the negative balance. Any credit owed to a family for transportation or athletics, who also has a school lunch outstanding balance over \$10, the credit will be applied to that outstanding balance.

Gregory: For reimbursement checks, how do they go about getting that?

Ms. Blair: It's done through the warrant process

Richard: So, there will be no reimbursements until the school lunch account is all set?

Ms. Blair: Yes that is correct, that is my goal. Great collaboration between all of us.

Richard motioned the ELPS go forward in refunding credits for Transportation, Athletics, Food Service and pre-school as explained by our Asst. Superintendent, William seconded the motion.

Chair: Any further discussion?

Gregory: Is this going to impact our budget next years ?

Ms. Blair: We will need to have some discussion, yes, absolutely. We are working behind the scenes on that now.

Chair: Any further discussion, hearing none, all those in favor say aye (5), those oppose (0), motion carries (5-0)

Old Business:

5.1 Update on Budget Development FY2021

Mr. Smith: We are working with Town Council and more currently working with the Finance Oversight Committee, working collaboratively to look at our budget requests to help out the Town given this unique situation. Also, make sure we are maintaining our programs and staff that will be needed as we head into the fall. The budget timeline has been relaxed. It possible that our Budget Development will go beyond June.

Richard: Where are we with the Cares Act?

Mr. Smith: We rec'd the Cares Act application late Friday. Ms. Blair, Ms. Brown and I will be going through the application process; we will process the application to receive the grant. The grant will support FY21 and FY22.

Ms. Blair: This is a twenty seven month grant. They will require a quarterly report on that.

New Business

6.1 Discussion of extension of MSBA Eligibility Period.

The eligibility period for the 270 days is supposed to begin on June 1st. We are able to extend our eligibility start date to either September or October 1st. Pam and I believe October 1st would be best for us, this will allow time to see what the state and town budget looks like.

William moved to extend the MSBA Eligibility period to beginning on October 1, 2020, Antonella seconded the motion.

Chair: Any further discussion:

Ms. Blair: I just want to make mention to anyone who is out there, the public a reminder here. We are hoping with this Feasibility Study this is our eligibility period. We are hoping that next spring we will be able to use FY22 Free Cash and possible bonding for this Feasibility Study. Also a gentle reminder, MSBA projects we do get reimbursement back. Our current reimbursement for the Accelerated Repair Project is at 55% reimbursement. I thought that was an important fact to put out there as a reminder for the people listening.

Chair: Thank you Pam, that 's important information. Also, to clarify a few other things, this is June 1st of 2021 (end date). We are talking about if this all goes through, and we do have our Feasibility Study, then at some point we would look for a full town vote. There would be an opportunity for the town to weigh in on whether or not they would want to do a project. That would be a town-wide vote. Chance for the town to chime in on a full project.

Mr. Smith: The study would give the voters the information they need to make an educated decision.

Chair: Any further discussion, hearing none, all those in favor say aye (5), those oppose (0), motion carries (5-0)

Chair: Mr. Smith, you will convey that information to the Town Manager and Town Council of the date. And also notify MSBA of this date as well. Thank you

6.2 Rays of Hope use of ELHS parking lot on October 25, 2020 from 7AM-2PM was discussed.

Richard moved to approve the use of ELHS parking lot on October 25, 2020 from 7AM-2PM for Rays of Hope, Antonella seconded the motion.

Chair: Any further discussion, hearing none, all those in favor say aye (5), those oppose (0), motion carries (5-0)

6.3 National Night Out use of ELHS grounds and parking lot on October 6, 2020 was discussed.

William: Do we know what hours they were thinking of?

Mr. Smith: Usually the event starts around 5PM-7PM.

William: Will this cross over with athletics?

Mr. Smith: We will have to clear this with Mr. Magee and the Rec. Dept. not to have late practices after 4:30PM

William moved to approve Nat 'l Night Out use of ELHS grounds and parking lot on October 6, 2020, Antonella seconded the motion.

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

6.4 MASC Voting Delegate for the November 6, 2020 Joint Conference was discussed.

William: I did reach out to the Glen Koocher, Exec. Dir. for MASC on our conference this year. With everything going on, they can't fully guarantee that there will be a full conference this November. My recommendation, since the deadline for notifying the MASC for the delegate assembly isn't until October 16th, I think it would be wise to table this until we get more guidance from MASC, to see if there is going to be a conference or delegate assembly.

Richard motioned to table the MASC Voting Delegate for the November conference, Antonella seconded the motion.

Any further discussion, hearing none, all those in favor say aye (5), those oppose (0), motion carries (5-0)

At 7:27PM William motioned that the committee go into executive session and to return to Open Session to only to adjourn, 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