

**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 21, 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; Student Rep
Absent: Kathy Celetti, Recording Secretary
Chair stated that this meeting is being both audio and video taped, and asked if anyone else was taping the meeting.
Recognition of Student Rep: The Chair thanked the Student Rep for all her hard work that she has done on the committee and they appreciate all that she does.
Mr. Smith: Thank you for everything you have contributed this year to the school committee.

Approval of Minutes

2.1 Approval of the May 7, 2018 regular session meeting minutes.

Richard moved to approve the May 7, 2018 regular session meeting minutes, 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)

Committee/Sub-committee Communications

Student Rep: At the high school, we just finished all our AP testing. Seniors have final exams this week and graduation is on June 1st
William: MASC is hosting a Summer Institute on July 20th and 21st at the Courtyard Marriot in Marlborough. As I get more information, I will let you know.
Richard: I want to thank Ms. Marsian-Boucher for choosing me as celebrity bartender at Mario's. I was very busy, it was mobbed.
Deirdre: We all had a great time participating in the Spartan Town Hall. Great conversations that we had, obviously in light of something that has just gone on, the conversations needs to continue. I am not looking to put anyone on the spot but obvious actions have to be taken in terms of safety and security for our schools across the country, not just in our district. But definitely concentrating on what we can be doing to help our students. So it was a great starting point I think, and just to have it continue, so thank you.
Elizabeth: I did go to the play at Birchland, it was fun, Peter Pan instead of going to the ELEEf event. The kids did a really nice job. Also with ELEEf, this just came out of the blues, Heart Springs, they put out a little competition between us and Longmeadow and we won 11,000 pounds of items. We won \$500 for ELEEf which was nice. They didn't even know about it. I saw somebody sent it to somebody who works in Longmeadow but lives in town, do we know about this? So they put it out there and we won.

Opportunity for visitors to Address the committee - Students came forward to express their ideas and concerns regarding the elimination of Class Rank. Our recommendation is to keep the institution of class rank for the class of 2019. Matt Wilson said he thinks class rank pushes the students forward to become more successful at their high school career. I feel that it would be detrimental to us if you take it away at this stage, because we are already moving on to our senior year.
Ms. Marsian-Boucher: I was just wondering how you feel in general, over scoping for all the years to come eliminating class rank. Just curious on another students opinion on that.
Student: I feel that class rank drives people to work harder. Obviously, at the end of the day the GPA there itself, even if class rank I assume there's going to be some sort of a percentile, that's going to drive people as well, but seeing numbers kind of in my opinion drives more, but I feel as if it would work, they would see maybe a little bit of a decrease in effort made to boosts themselves in my personal opinion.
Elizabeth: Thank you

Superintendent's Report:

5.1.1 ELPS Life Threatening Allergy Policy/Protocol was presented by Ms. Kelly LaBombard. Ms. LaBombard said the updated changes came from DESE and DPH. The policy is still the same; the only thing new is the changes to LTA in Schools.
Mr. Freccero asked, what if a coach or an advisor has a student with allergies and that student never filled out the form, how would they know?
Ms. LaBombard said that the parents fill out the form.
Mr. Freccero said that he would advise the leadership team to sit down with Ms. LaBombard and kind of work this out.
Ms. Marsian-Boucher said, you have a student who is so allergic to so many things where other kids in the classroom can't bring in a healthy snack, have you come across that? What do we do for the other students in that class?
Ms. LaBombard said "wash hands with soap and water", "wash desk", "child with LTA bring in their own food".
Mr. Thompson said, logistically, wash hands before and after eating. Do we offer an opportunity for students to actually do this? Should we make sure we provide an opportunity so that they can actually do that, especially in the elementary grade?
Chair: This is specific to the classroom, high school students are very well aware of other people's allergies.

5.1.2 Cardiac Emergency Response Protocol was presented by Ms. Kelly LaBombard. Ms. LaBombard stated that there is a new AED law going into effect on July 1, 2018. We already have a lot in place. All nurses are trained instructors in CPR. We need to have an Emergency Response Team in each of our schools. I met with the Leadership Team, everybody coming up with who's going to be on that team. We will have a practice drill. Attached to each AED at each school there will be CER (Cardiac Emergency Response) plan.
Mr. Freccero asked, is it your expectation by the start of school 2018-2019, that we will have an Emergency Response Team in each building?
Mr. Smith said, that is our plan.

5.1.3 Certificate of Attainments for two high school students was presented by Dr. Welch and Dr. Flanagan. Mr. Freccero mentioned that this was the old graduation requirement; it does not reflect the recent changes. Update for next year.

Richard motioned to approve the Certificate of Attainment for Student A as presented, 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)

Richard motioned to approve the Certificate of Attainment for Student B as presented, 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)

5.1.4 A request from the MIAA to host Lacrosse Play-offs at East Longmeadow High School on June 14th and 15th was presented by Mr. Smith. MIAA would like to host men/women Lacrosse play-offs in June. They will cover all cost, but would like to waive the field usage.

William moved to approve the request from MIAA to host the Lacrosse Play-off s at ELHS June 14th and 15th, and waive the fee as requested , Gregory seconded the motion.

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

Gregory motioned to move 6.1 and 6.2 as next order of business, 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)

Old Business:

6.1 Proposed changes to the East Longmeadow High School dress code were presented for a 2nd reading.

Elizabeth read the school policy on dress code.

Elizabeth: My thoughts, "sad dress code". We as a committee should sit down and look at this policy. Change it at the district level, with a more thoughtful approach.

Dr. Flanagan: This was a very thoughtful process. We vetted it through School Council, looked at the ACLU guidelines, and looked at several schools across the nation. I'm confused as to what you think is a more thoughtful approach. I thought the purpose of a 2nd reading was for you to provide us with some feedback as to what specifically you would like us to change.

Elizabeth: What I'm saying is that we as a district need to have something better.

Ms. Smith: I think the policy here is designed to allow the schools at the various ranges to set a dress code that is appropriate for all age ranges. The leadership team did have discussion different opinions especially when you look at the different age range for each building.

Elizabeth: So we are never going to have a length on shorts or skirts. Dr. Flanagan said that you are targeting girls.

Gregory: We can have the policy reviewed by the Policy Sub-committee. But for now, this seems to be ready to go for next year, always subject to change the following year.

Gregory moved that we accept the dress code as presented, except that we move hats from the allowed part to be not allowed part.

Chair: I don't like the hoodies idea

Dr. Flanagan: Students can wear hoodies, but not put the hood up.

Gregory: I'm okay with hoodies behind the ears; I made a motion so if you want to talk about it you can.

Elizabeth: You are not ok with hats, but ok with hoodies

Gregory: Yes, behind the ears, not covering the face

Gregory: my proposal is on the table, that we approve it and just move the hats down to not allow.

Chair: Do I have second on the motion

Elizabeth: Seconded the motion

Dr. Flanagan: Can I have clarification on what would be the consequences for students who do wear hats.

Gregory: That's not up to us, students who do, I think are it's allowed or not. However you enforce it, it should be enforced.

Dr. Flanagan: We are focused on teaching and learning, the hat issue has no bearing in terms of that conversation

Gregory: If it's zero tolerance, it's not going to happen it's not going to be a problem for the teachers. If it's allowed for some and not allowed for others it becomes a problem for all the teachers.

Gregory: I'm proposing no hats,

Chair: motion has been made and seconded by Elizabeth, any further discussion?

Elizabeth: Just the hat comment

Gregory: Approve the dress code as proposed

Elizabeth: I would like a 3 inch inseam, a minimum

Richard: I think that we should either accept what is proposed for the HS administration or not

Chair: A motion has been made and seconded, all those in favor say aye (2), those oppose

Elizabeth: I'm sorry, is this for the amendment?

Richard: Yes, the proposal that Mr. Thompson made

Mr. Smith: Accepting the proposal where hats are not allowed

Chair: All those oppose (3), that does not carry forward (2-3)

William: I move to approve the ELHS dress code as presented

Chair: Do I have a second on that, no response

Richard: Let me give it a try, I am trying to balance the philosophy and balance of time. I propose that this be brought back to the leadership team and we have a formal dress code from PreK-12,

Elizabeth seconded the motion.

Richard: I think we have to vote on the first reading because they have to get the handbooks out, the publicity out before the start of school.

Gregory: You are proposing the same dress code for K-12?

Richard: I would like to see what everybody has to say Prk-12. But if MB has a different dress code than the HS, that's fine. I would like to hear what the leadership team has to say.

Dr. Welch: The discussion was not about the hat. The discussion was about inclusion and making students feel welcome. Relationships in school settings, promoting collegiality in the classroom. I would encourage folks to listen to what the leadership team has already said, and it's not about the hats.

Gregory: It is about the hats, we are allowing hats or not allowing hats

Richard: Mr. Paige, you philosophically do not see any reason why students should not be able to wear a hat. You had that discussion two weeks ago, that is what I am wrestling with because I believe they should not wear hats, but I'm listening to what the HS administration is saying.

Chair: We need to look at K-12 for consistency

William: So what are we doing, are we rejecting this? This is a 2nd reading.

Gregory: We already made a motion and it's already been rejected. We have to come back with something else or stay status quote. I think you are right Rich.

Elizabeth: We table it, we stay status quote, and we think about it this year and come back in March. Have a discussion and then we change the whole thing.

Richard: Referencing my former career, if we decide to keep as status quote, remember we done our job, it's up to them on how they enforce it. If they decide to enforce it in their own creative way, that's nothing to do with us.

Gregory: What do you mean, selectively enforce it

Richard: They will enforce it the way they deem necessary.

Dr. Flanagan: In terms of the leadership team, I don't think you are going to get much difference in what I am saying.

Mr. Smith: You are going to get, start with (5) handbooks: BP - look to revise; HS - look to revise and (3) elementary staying at status quote, with what they have or take part in the discussion, which they did in the leadership meeting.

Dr. Flanagan: Your missing part is the length

Elizabeth: I feel there needs to be something. I know we don't want to objectively and single out a group of individuals but at the same time, we have to protect all the individuals.

Richard: I was going to direct the superintendent to meet with the leadership team and come back to us with a PrK-12 proposal.

Ms. Annear: Is there any opportunity to try out the suggested dress code and re-circle back to it after a year of implementing it? See if there are any major issues.
William: You could pilot it, it can't seem to hurt.
Richard: I would like to know what the other schools are doing. Are they allowed to wear hats at BP, and when they come to the HS they can't.
Mr. Smith: Right now most policies don't allow hats
Gregory: Do they let them wear them at BP
Mr. Smith: Not to my knowledge
Richard: I'm more for consistency grades 6-12. I just want to hear what the leadership team has to say.
Mr. Smith said that he will need to schedule a special meeting around dress code with the leadership team. Difficult to put a document together by June 4th, that has consistency. Will bring back for June 18th meeting.

6.2 Proposed changes to the East Longmeadow High School class rank were presented for 2nd reading.

Richard motioned to approve the proposal to eliminate class rank as presented at our school committee meeting on May 7, 2018, William seconded the motion.

Chair: Any further discussion?

Chair: I want to have a discussion based on the students that came forward, I can understand the situation they are in and maybe have for them, like see it transitioned in. I don't know what your thoughts were on how you what makes it easier, if we said for the incoming freshman class?

Dr. Flanagan: You asked us to look at this policy, so let me make that very clear. You asked us to do research, and we provided you a recommendation, colleges say that class rank has no bearings, we've heard from other schools that are moving away from this. We have seen firsthand how this affects students emotionally. You either agree with it or you don't. I respect the students in terms of their position, but when I talked to them outside of this, it's like I need to know, it makes me feel value to know I'm better than somebody else. It's a big deal to be considered in the top percentile of your class. That's not going away. Emotional drama of where you are in your class. We talked about graduation, doing something with the kids with high honors. It's that individual competition piece. High schools are moving towards that.

Elizabeth: So you would maybe consider those kids at the very top, if they hit a certain GPA you might give them a shining little tassel or something like that.

Dr. Flanagan: We do that with National Honor Society.

Elizabeth: But think of those kids this year and last year who made that top with the way the new thing is. Say ok here's a good benchmark, set that benchmark. It's huge what they have accomplished.

Dr. Flanagan: We are not taking away from that, both our conversation dealt with the social emotional thing, so that's a good thing, so all of these proposal are just to make sure that our kids feel safe and our kids feel valued.

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 Birchland Park bonus check of \$500 from Grynn and Barrett for the BP Gift Account was presented by Ms. Blair

Gregory motioned to accept the BP bonus check of \$500 from Grynn and Barrett, 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)

5.2.2 Leonard Presson/William and Polly Stebbins Scholarship was presented

Richard moved to approve the Leonard Presson/William and Polly Stebbins Scholarship for \$5,000, 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)

5.2.3 Mountain View Library donation from some families for 9 new library books in the amount of \$90 was presented.

William moved to approve the MV library donation from the families in the amount of \$90, for nine new library books, Gregory seconded the motion

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

Assistant Superintendent for Curr. and Instruct.

5.3.1 Project Lead the Way Grant was presented by Ms. Annear. The high school will receive \$35,000 and Mapleshade will receive \$12,500. The grant will be distributed over the course of three years, starting July 1, 2018. This is for supplies, resources curriculum and training for staff during the summer.

Richard motioned to accept the grant agreement for the Project Lead the Way both for ELHS and MS for 2018-2021 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)

5.3.2 ST Math Grant Award was presented. This grant is for Meadow Brook and Mountain View. Gradual implementation: 2018-2019 (grades 1 & 2); 2019-2020 (grades 1 & 4); and 2020-2021 (grades K & 5). There will be (3) days of professional development for grades 2 & 3, first day to be scheduled in June. Student usage will start in the fall. There will be regular meetings with the Asst. Superintendent to monitor and support school implementation.

Richard motioned to accept the ST Math Grant Award for three years starting with 2018-2019 school year through 2020-2021, 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)

Old Business:

6.3 Policy BEDH "Public Comment at School Committee Meetings" was presented for a 2nd reading

Richard moved to approve Policy BEDH "Public Comment at School Committee Meetings", 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)

6.4 Policy BHE "Use of Electronic Messaging by School Committee Members" was presented for 2nd reading.

William moved to approve Policy BHE "Use of Electronic Messaging by School Committee Members", 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)

6.5 Policy BIA "New School Committee Member Orientation" was presented for a 2nd reading

**Gregory moved to approve Policy BIA "New School Committee Member Orientation ", 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)**

6.6 Policy BIBA "School Committee Conference, Conventions, and Workshops was presented for 2nd reading

**Elizabeth moved to approve Policy BIBA "School Committee Conference, Conventions, and Workshops ", 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)**

6.7 The FY2019 budget was discussed. Tomorrow night is the Town Council budget hearing. Looking at 2.1% increase from our current fiscal year budget. Richard said that he is disappointed that we didn't get more. I feel like it was a very convoluted process. Deirdre said that we went in with 2.8% and came out to approximately 2.6%. Town Council has to vote on the budget by June 1st. Elizabeth also expressed her disappointment, she said that the committee was well organized, very thoughtful process. William said that the process has to be more clearly defined going forward. This year there was no guidance. Town Council meeting is at 6pm with the Public Hearing at 7pm.

New Business: None

**Chair: Thank you Mr. Maki. Thank you Ally, good luck with everything, enjoy college.
At 9:10 P.M. Richard motioned to adjourn, William 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