

**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, 2020
TIME: 5:13 P.M.
WHERE: Via Zoom Meeting

Meeting called to Order by : Sarah Truoiolo, Vice 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 PHISCALLY ACCESS THIS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC CAN ACCESS THE MEETING VIA LIVE STREAM

<https://eastlongmeadowma.zoom.us/j/82512558206?pwd=TWdWcHhKTDRGYW9xaXRHYnV0QzVlUT09>

As a preliminary matter, this is Sarah Truoiolo, School Committee Vice 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

Richard Freccero - here
William Fonseca - here
Gordon Smith, Superintendent - here
Antonella Raschilla - here
Kathy Celetti, Recording Secretary - here
Pamela Blair, Asst. Supt. for Business - here
Sarah Truoiolo - here
Gregory Thompson, Chair (Absent)
Also in attendance is Atty. Quinn for the School Committee, Atty. Jane Mantolesky, attorney for the Sample family and Mr. and Mrs. Sample.

Approval of Minutes

Committee/Sub-committee Communications

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. (No one wished to address the committee)

Superintendent's Report:

Assistant Superintendent of Business Report :

Old Business:

New Business

7.1 Hearing: Residency request from the Sample's on their children remaining enrolled in the ELPS, after moving to Hampden was presented.

Vice Chair: Good evening

This School Committee "Special" meeting is convened to consider the requests of Mr. and Mrs. Sample who have moved to Hampden, MA, that their children are allowed to enroll or continue to be enrolled in the ELPS. Two of their children are already enrolled and one child would start in the fall. I am presiding this evening because the School Committee Chair, Gregory Thompson is related to Mrs. Sample and due to this relationship he has recused himself from participating in this matter in accordance with State Conflict of Interest rules. The School Committee has the responsibility under the laws of this State and under our policies to decide requests such as these from parents who no longer reside or principally reside in the Town of East Longmeadow. I need to add that during the course of this meeting, there is the potential that the School Committee may need to vote to enter into executive session where the matters to be discussed directly pertain to confidential student record information or other confidential medical or health information relating to any of the Sample's children. If an executive session is convened, the School Committee will reconvene following the discussion in open session.

I now would like to invite the Sample's and/or their representative to address the Committee.

Atty. Montolesky:

The Sample's have three children, two currently enrolled and one will be starting kindergarten in the fall. The family bought a home in Hampden in December; the students were allowed to remain in ELPS. The

Sample's own a house in EL; the grandparents reside at that address. One of the children has some medical issues. The student has a very dedicated team working with her at Mountain View. The children were living with the grandparents in EL, but the care for the children was too much for the grandparents to continue. The parents want to continue in EL due to the great team and care their daughter receives at Mountain View. This is a unique situation. The parents do own a house in EL, but reside in Hampden.

Parent: We love this school system, love the town. The school department received an anonymous letter saying we don't live in town. We met with the Superintendent, and had the opportunity to remain in EL, we are very thankful for that opportunity.

Mr. Smith: The Sample's have always been upfront and honest. It's where the child sleeps, that's where they attend school. The parents obtained a caregiver affidavit for their children to reside from Sunday through Thursday with the grandparents in EL.

Vice Chair: The caregiver affidavit, is that renewed annually or yearly?

Mr. Smith: It's good for two years, and then the parent would need to resubmit again.

Atty. Montolesky: Mr. Smith is correct; it's where the child sleeps. The town can't really deny a child from attending ELPS, but the School Committee can vote and take action on the request. They do have a presence in this town. The Sample's just wanted to do what's best for their children. This situation warrants special consideration.

Richard: We have to follow the residency policy. Student's need to reside in town to attend schools in EL.

Vice Chair: Thank you everyone

William moved to grant parents request to continue education of their children in East Longmeadow Public Schools after moving to Hampden with their parents, Richard seconded the motion.

Vice Chair: Any further discussion? Hearing none,

Roll call vote: Richard - No

William - No

Antonella - No

Sarah - No

Motion carries (0-4)

At 5:43 P.M. William motioned to adjourn, Richard seconded the motion.

Vice Chair: Any further discussion? Hearing none,

Roll call vote: Richard - Yes

William - Yes

Antonella - Yes

Sarah - Yes

Motion carries (4-0)

Minutes Recorded by: Kathy Celetti

Respectfully submitted by: Superintendent Smith

Signature