

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: June 8, 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/85259379795?pwd=V1cvVkZNVktYUUXvO09sNFdwUXZGdz09>

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

William Fonseca - here
Sarah Truoiolo - here
Richard Freccero - here
Antonella Raschilla - 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

Recognition of Student Rep Sofia Iacobucci. Thank you for all your time you put in spending with us and the Committee. All your input has been very valuable. We do appreciate all the work you have done for us.

Student Rep: Thank you, it's been great, I love it.

Chair: We need to amend the agenda, item 7.5 Request from St. Michael's Parish use of ELHS parking lot.

Richard moved to amend the agenda adding 7.5 request from St. Michael's for use of ELHS parking lot, Sarah seconded the request.

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

Public Hearing on FY2019 School Committee Budget

Mr. Thompson, Chair formally opened the Budget Hearing

2.1 Mr. Smith presented the FY2021 budget.

- We continue to work with the Town to meet the challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic
- Supporting the whole child (Focusing on academics, social & emotional educ., and cultural responsiveness)

ELPS through its SMART Goals continue to focus on ensuring that all students can access the full curriculum and receive the support they need to develop 21st Century skills and master social competencies during their journey through K-12

- Building and utilizing 21st Century skills at all grade level - Critical thinking; problem solving; collaborating; communicating effectively in written and oral format; and integrating technology as a tool to support all of these.
- Learning and mastering the social competencies throughout the academic and social curricula: - helping students with self-awareness; self-management; social awareness; relationship skills; and responsible decision making

ELPS Budget Presentation for FY2021

- A school system's budget is the most strategic factor to impact every student's success and reaching his/her full potential while allowing the district to meet its goals for all students

Per pupil spending (DESE DART Tool)

- East Longmeadow: FY2017 (\$14,908); FY2018 (\$15,323); FY2019 (\$15,999)
- State Average: FY2017 (\$15,912); FY2018 (\$16,465); FY2019 (\$17,131)

Our original FY2021 request was (4.45%), on May 15, 2020 we revised it to (2%), and again on June 3, 2020 we were asked to revise it again to (1.3%). So ELPS went from its original request of (4.45% to 1.3%).

FY2021 Revised Budget Goals:

- Ensure that ELPS is able to continue to make progress on its goals to support all students socially, emotionally, and academically in a very challenging fiscal time.
- Work with the Town of EL to reduce costs where possible due to the financial impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Returning over \$200,000 in FY2020 to the Town for Free Cash/Stabilization Fund for FY2021
- Worked with MSBA to delay the start of Eligibility Period from June 1, to October 1st.
- Working with the Town to reduce FY2021 Budget Request

ELPS Budget for Request for FY2021

- 1.5% increase from the FY2020 budget
- \$31,650,702

Original request 4.45%, revised to 2% on May 15th, and revised again to 1.3% on June 3rd.

We will continue to work with the Town reducing to 1.5% (\$31,650,702).

Richard: So we started with (4.45%), then (2%) and now (1.5%) which represents \$143,000. At the Finance Oversight Committee they are expecting \$200,000. In the spirit of cooperation, I think we should continue our discussions with the Finance Oversight Committee to make sure we are reducing properly.

Mr. Smith: Both those figures were stated in that meeting.

Chair: The \$143,000 was made from some assumption that Chapter 70 would remain stable from this fiscal year to next fiscal year. If that figure changes, it will have a direct impact on our budget. The \$143,000 was a solid number based on the projections. I think the \$200,000 was something they wanted to pad in case it got worse than expected. Based on the information we have now, I think it is showing we are working with the town and that we will go with some conservative figures to further reduce our budget from 2% down to the additional \$143,000 which was their number. In cooperation with them, we are showing in good faith that we recognize that if their numbers are worse, then we will have to address that. But if the numbers are better, than we will address that also.

So I think this is kind of a middle ground.

Richard: Well said Mr. Chair. I think you are right to continue with our numbers and keep up the spirit of cooperation with the Finance Oversight Committee.

Chair: I think it's worth reiterating this budget does reflect a reduction in staff, multiple positions. This will have a direct impact on education in East Longmeadow. We are in unique times and we recognize that.

William: I agree with you Greg, and I am going to remain cautiously optimistic as possible. Things will get better; it will take years to recover from these cuts. We are all in this together.

Richard: We are not just reducing staff; we also lost all new positions that we needed with this new budget.

Sarah: Coming into the academic year for 2020-21, completely unknown what's going to happen, we are asking people to do more with less.

Richard moved to approve the Budget request for F2021 in the amount of \$31,650,702, William seconded the motion.

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

New Business:

7.1 East Longmeadow High School graduation celebration was presented by Mr. Smith.

The high school sent out a survey asking students whether they would like to see graduation postponed with the possibility of a larger modified graduation ceremony on July 31. Currently only 163 out of 224 seniors have responded to the survey. 73% of the class (119) student would prefer to postpone the ceremony until July 31, while 27% (44) students would prefer to receive their diplomas individually on June 13th. Students may elect only one graduation option. Students choosing to participate next weekend will prohibit those students from participating in the July ceremony.

Student Rep: Thank you everyone on that committee there were lots of discussion and a lot of work. Our student body never failed to use their voices. So thankful to Mr. Paige, in the end it's great to have the choices. I am grateful and content, filling thankful.

Richard: It's one or the other, is that correct.

Mr. Smith: Yes, there are two events, pick one or the other.

Richard: Mr. Smith, keep the School Committee up to date on June 13th.

Richard motioned to approve the ELHS drive through graduation on June 13th, William seconded the motion.

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

7.2 Request from the EL Rotary Club "Show your Pride-Decorate your Ride" for June 20-30, 2020 was discussed.

Mr. Smith, this is a virtual parade in place of the usual 4th of July parade, Mr. Make will be taping it. Participants are being asked to decorate their ride and drive through the ELHS parking lot allowing ELCAT to videotape their entry and have a photo taken to post on the web-based program for voting to choose category winners.

- Time frames for videotaping/photos would be arranged through ELCAT
- Sign-up managed through an online participation form with deadline, entry and no late entries
- A scheduled time for participants for drive through the parking lot will be assigned
- No spectators allowed
- If on site for support, would have to adhere to state mandated safety and health guidelines.
- No floats would be allowed, however, photos of floats should be submitted online for voting
- Trophies will be determined through online voting for the following (Best Float; Most Patriotic Vehicle; Most Unique Vehicle and Best lighted display Vehicle).

Rich mentioned that there were no times listed, just dates.

Mr. Smith: As far as I understood it, it's done by appointments time slots, looking at a work day (9-4).

Sarah asked for update as they go along.

Richard motioned to approve the request from the EL Rotary Club "Show your Pride-Decorate your Ride", use of the HS parking lot from June 20-30th, William seconded the motion

Chair: Just for your information the Dept. of Public Health, Fire Dept., Police Dept., Town Manager and ELCAT were all involved in this discussion.

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

7.3 Approval of new Job Descriptions

Mr. Smith presented a new revised job description for the Transportation Coordinator

Richard moved to approve the new job description for the Transportation Coordinator, Antonella seconded the motion.

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

Ms. Blair presented a new revised job description for the Administrative Secretary

William moved to approve the new job description for the Administrative Secretary, Sarah seconded the motion

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

7.4 End of Year presentation by schools was discussed.

Mr. Smith: The presentation allows each school 5-7 minute to recap where they were at the mid-cycle point. There was a conflict with two of our administrators for the 22nd, so we would like to add another date June 29th.

June 22nd we will have Meadow Brook, High School and Mapleshade

June 29th we will have Birchland Park and Mountain View.

7.5 Request from St. Michael's Parish to use the ELHS parking lot for any of our parishioners who would like to hear our Mass broadcast on the FM transmitter. Some of the parishioners are not yet comfortable being inside the church, but want to connect via radio. We will be distributing Holy Communion at the end of Mass to those individuals who exit church and those in their car. Cars would be cleared out by 5:30pm on Saturday evenings and cars parked between 7:30am-1pm on Sunday morning for our three Masses.

Chair: Just for disclosure, I am a parishioner of St. Michael's and they did ask me to be an usher at these events. I will also be voting on this since there is no monetary consensus to that.

Richard moved to approve St. Michael's request for use of high school parking lot starting June 20-21st until the start of school in September, Sarah seconded the motion.

Chair: They come back to us in six months if more time is needed.

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

Chair: Thank you Sofia, good luck

Student Rep: It's been great to come to these meetings. It's been awesome. I just wanted to say that yesterday in the center of town there was a protest for the "Black Lives Matter". Just wanted to say I saw a lot of our students there and I was there as well. Former students and present students organized it. Just wanted to say I am really proud of our community as a whole and our students for coming together to protest. It was very successful. And it went really well. Just wanted to say that.

Chair: Thank you for pointing that out there.

At 7:03pm William motioned to adjourn, Richard 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