

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 17, 2019
TIME: 6:00 P.M.
WHERE: Superintendent's Conference Room

Meeting called to Order by: Richard Freccero, Chair

Chair stated that this meeting is being both audio and video taped, and asked if anyone else was taping the meeting.

Roll Call: William Fonseca, Sarah Truoiolo, Richard Freccero, Gordon Smith, Superintendent of Schools, Elizabeth Marsian-Boucher, Pamela Blair, Asst.

Superintendent for Business: Kathy Celetti, Recording Secretary

Absent: Gregory Thompson

Chair: Before we start the meeting, I would like to do recognition. It is my honor to recognize Ms. Elizabeth Marsian-Boucher who has been with us for nine years beginning 2010 and concluding the year 2019. I would say Beth that you are the ultimate school committee member for two reasons: First, your dedication and commitment exemplified by the many roles you fulfill. I am going to read them, there are actually nine you are in: Warrant Review Committee; MASC delegate; ELEEFLiaison; LPVEC Board of Directors Corporation; Willie Ross School liaison; Safe Schools and Disaster Plan Sub-committee; Strategic Planning Sub-committee; Policy Revision Sub-committee; 125th East Longmeadow Birthday Celebration Committee, those are the nine things you did and through all that in 2017 you were honored by our organization the MASC as one of the key school committee members in the state. So that's reason number one. Let's go to reason number two: You did all this, and I had to look this word up in the dictionary, that I would call duende. Duende means, the quality of being passionate and inspiring. And boy, were you passionate and inspiring, and I want to add one little work "a little feisty at times too". You know Beth the quality that I like the most that, duende, because you were always focused on the student and that is your legacy. You wanted to make sure that every student in the East Longmeadow Public School system had the maximum opportunity for success. So Beth, for nine years thank you very much. We want to honor you with this, it say Recognition Award presented to Elizabeth Marsian-Boucher for your dedication and service to East Longmeadow School Committee 2010-2019.

Elizabeth: I have to say, it was not knowing what I didn't expect, but not knowing what I got myself into. Good luck! We kind of started Mr. Smith, and I remember the whole school system needed to heal at that time and so I had no idea what I was doing. I don't know if you knew what you got yourself into, but I think that the board kind of solidified itself and got healthy and because they had good people on it that were on it for what was for the best and carried that through. Thank you everyone.

Approval of Minutes

2.1 Approval of the June 3,, 2019 executive session meeting minutes.

William moved to approve the June 3, 2019 executive session meeting minutes, Sarah seconded the motion
Chair: Any further discussion? All those in favor say yes (4), we are unanimous (4-0)

2.2 Approval of the June 3, 2019 regular meeting minutes

Sarah moved to approve the June 3, 2019 regular session meeting minutes, Elizabeth seconded the motion
Chair: Any further discussion? All those in favor say yes (4, we are unanimous (4-0)

Committee/Sub-committee Communications

William: A couple of things I attended the Birchland, first was the Passion Project were the 8th grade students presented to a group of people reviewing them. That was a phenomenal program; you guys did a great job. First year, I mean it was phenomenal, I could only see it growing like the Senior Projects here at the high school over the course of the years. I also attended the Film Festival that Conor Martin was the brainstorm behind, him and Mike Naglieri. They did a phenomenal job, what a night that was with the students producing videos that were shown in a film festival format where they were voted on and every student received an award. It was a phenomenal night. A couple of great things that happened at Birchland recently.

Mr. Smith: Just like the Oscars, with red carpet.

William: Yes, just like the Oscars, red carpet and everything. Due to lack of attendance, I have postponed the MASC Division 5 meeting that I had scheduled for Wednesday night. I only had three people sign up, so I postponed that until the fall and will do something, and I will let everyone know.

Sarah: I was able to visit the Mountain View Family Orientation, and was pleased to meet so many faculty members and principal, so that was well attended. The families left with a good deal of information regarding their child's replacement for the next academic year. I was also in attendance at the Meadow Brook Family Picnic. And that was also extremely well attended. It was quite a number of students and their families; they changed a few things this year. There were a couple of food trucks, and really enjoyable day, it was beautiful weather that night as well.

Elizabeth: I got to do the Passion Project, which I thought was pretty impressive. Some of the kids, they will certainly be ready for the high school senior project without a doubt. These kids just really knew what they were doing. And we just finished up with Birchland, the experience my child had at the school. She came out of the semi crying, it's such a great school, because we had such a wonderful experience. I had a car filled with girls that had this wonderful experience in middle school. I appreciate a wonderful end to that, I appreciate the intercom had to go on after school dismissed in ten minutes, and the kids weren't leaving the school. That was a great experience; I've enjoyed my kids all the years they've been in school.

Richard: I will second with what Bill said about the Passion Project, with that said, they were very enjoyable. We did the Staff Recognition that was very nicely done again, kudos to all. And our baseball team plays tomorrow night, semifinals, fantastic.

Superintendent's Report:

5.1.1 District-wide SMART Goals was presented by the Leadership Team

District SMART Goal-Supporting the Whole Child: Focusing on Academics, Social & Emotional Ed., and Cultural Responsiveness: All ELPS staff will create a safe, nurturing, and respectful learning/working environment resulting in an educational experience that supports the whole child by fostering social, emotional, and rigorous academic skill development throughout all grades.

Key Action Steps - Results - To Date:

- Family events at schools focused on engaging all family members in fun activities and showing how instruction is evolving in ELPS
- The Leadership Team continues to support all staff in understanding and integrating into their instruction wherever possible the five core competencies of social and emotional learning: Self-awareness, Self-management, Social Awareness, Relationship skills, and Responsible decision-making (social & Emotional Learning in MA)
- Trevor Ragan, growth mindset and culture researcher, and George Couro, author of Innovator's mindset, were Keynote Speakers and facilitated workshops on improving culture and engaging all learners on both full-day PD
- Many teacher presenters for the two full-day PD attended a Designing Engaging PD; teacher sessions were well received and innovative ideas quickly implemented in classrooms

- ELPS and Bay Path partnership has brought in Bay Path graduate school students interns to work with ELPS staff and students
- Wellness Program, Guidance, classroom interns in special education, work study students in ELPS offices
- Working with the EL Health Dept. and Springfield Health and Human Services to administer Preventative Needs Survey to 8th, 10th, and 12th grade students
- ELPS District Diversity and Equity Steering Committee was formed in December with 21 members representing students, parents, staff members from all schools, administrators, and ELPS School Committee
- They met six times, and worked to develop common understanding of diversity and inclusion
- They developed plans to work with the center for Leadership and Educational Equity to strategically plan for diversity and inclusion to build understanding and capacity throughout the District
- We partnered with NCCJ Bridges (a national organization) for a two-day prejudice reduction workshop with 23 high school students
- Six students will attend the NCCJ's ANYTOWN leadership camp this summer

District SMART Goal-Instructional Practice: 100% of ELPS teachers will engage students in relevant and innovative 21st Century learning experiences to ensure that all students are prepared to contribute responsibly in a global society.

- Focus all year on supporting staff in engaging all students with 21st Century skills
- ELPS Gifted and Talented program profiled in DESE report; specific interest in the Push- in element; G & T teachers plan with grade level teachers in order to set their program each year and share instructional practice
- Student projects and events now present more problem-based and design-based learning
- District-wide STEM night at Meadow Brook highlighted continuum of 21st Century learning from K-12
- Creating new Maker Space in buildings
- Preparing for the new 1:1 program: Google Classroom and Google Suite for both full-day PD; PD development on assistive technology for students; PD at MV on Gale databases and Noodletools; expanding direct instruction in coding, media and digital literacy/citizenship

District SMART Goal-Continuous Learning & Achievement: All students will be challenged and supported to achieve a high standard of academic performance and growth through the implementation of a standards-based instructional program aligned to MA Curriculum Frameworks (and National Standards where appropriate)

Key Action Steps - Results to Date:

- PD for ELPS department heads provided on leadership, collaboration, and using assessment data to drive instruction
- Piloted different assessment software and metrics to understand student mastery and needs
- New tools for personalizing learning: I-Ready reading and math, Albert-io
- All coaches supporting teachers: giving AVMR assessments, using data to plan for instruction; enhancing the use of ST Math; implementing Being a Writer/Making Meaning; teaching and reaching all learners in Tier 1, assessment/data literacy
- Continuing PD and Curriculum to support standards-based instruction

Key Takeaways:

- Students K-12 are demonstrating learning and achievement in a variety of ways
- ELPS staff are providing new opportunities for students to show their learning and growth
- Aggregate Growth in STAR Reading and Math in all schools using STAR continue to be in the targeted range of 40-60th%
- Interventions at different grade levels are having a positive impact
- Social & Emotional Learning initiatives throughout the District continues to show positive results

Assistant Superintendent of Business Report :

Old Business

6.1 Birchland Park Handbook revisions for 2019-2020 was presented by Dr. Allen

Elizabeth moved to approve the changes to the Birchland Park Handbook for 2019-2020, Sarah seconded the motion

Chair: Any further discussion? All those in favor say yes (4), oppose (0), we are unanimous (4-0)

6.2 Budget update was discussed.

The Chair stated that we were able to secure an SEL position for Meadow Brook and a 1:1 program; however, we would like to hire an additional SEL teacher for the high school.

William moved to have an SEL teaching position at the high school keeping the FTE the same, Elizabeth seconded the motion.

Chair: Can the high school post the position tomorrow? Mr. Smith said yes they can.

Chair: Any further discussion? All those in favor say yes (4), oppose (0), we are unanimous (4-0)

6.3 Superintendent's Evaluation was presented

Progress toward student learning goal(s) - Goal Achieved

SMART Goal #1 (Team Goal)

Supporting the Whole Child: Focusing on Academics, Social & Emotional Ed., and Cultural Responsiveness

All ELPS staff will create a safe, nurturing, and respectful learning/working environment resulting in an educational experience that supports the whole child by fostering social, emotional, and rigorous academic skill development throughout all grades.

The Superintendent is cited for the following:

- Partnering with the ELPS Nurse Leader to implement the Preventive Needs Assessment survey.
- Established a partnership with the Sandyhook Promise Organization.
- Built in the 2018-2019 budget funds to expand social and emotional programs.
- Worked with the Director of Student Support Services to expand the partnership with Bay Path University.
- Collaborated with the District Management group and ELPS Leadership Team to research more about social and emotional education and support.

Progress towards professional practice goal(s) - Goal Achieved

SMART Goal 1 (Team Goal):

Cycle of Inquiry with ELPS Leadership Team:

During the 2018 - 2019 school year, the ELPS Leadership Team will conduct a cycle of inquiry into the data used to inform curriculum revisions and instruction in order to identify the best data sets to utilize and identify new possible data sets. The ELPS Leadership Team will use the book, *Data Wise*, edited by Kathryn Parker Boudett, Elizabeth A. City, and Richard J. Murnane to guide this work.

SMART Goal 2 (Individual Goal) :

Continue work with the E.L. Youth Safety Committee and expand partnership with Springfield Health and Human Services Department

SMART Goal 3 (Individual Goal) :

Continue to build strong partnerships with all Town Departments to help improve programming offered in ELPS and throughout the Town.

The Superintendent is cited for the following:

- Working closely with DPW Superintendent and DPW Facilities Manager on our building maintenance and capital projects.
- Continuing yearly book study with the ELPS Leadership Team.
- Working relationship with other department heads, the Town Manager, and Town Council.
- Working closely with the IT Director, EL Public Library, and Chief of Police, Fire Chief, Open Space Committee, and Town Emergency Planning.

Instructional Leadership: Exemplary

The Superintendent is cited for the following:

- Continuing the relationship with the Massachusetts Gifted and Talented Educators.
- Working with Leadership Team to promote instruction into more student centered, problem solving lessons.
- Working across the district to utilize the new format for SMART Goals.
- Working with the ELPS Leadership Team to pilot new ways to collect and review student achievement data..
- Working with the Director of Curriculum and Data Specialist to utilize Google Data Studio.

Management and Operations: Proficient

The Superintendent is cited for the following:

- Finalizing the budget process to secure level funding, one new position, and the 1:1 program.
- Working closely with the IT Director to create a 1:1 program.
- Negotiating four unit contracts and seven individual contracts.
- Submitting the Statement of Interest for MSBA Core Program.
- Continuing to work closely with the ELPD, ELFD, Massachusetts State Police to maintain building safety and keeping the district and school safety plans current.
- Completing the MSBA Accelerated Repair Project for Meadow Brook Elementary School.
- Expanding the use of Google Suite throughout ELPS.

Family & Community Engagement: Approaching Exemplary

The Superintendent is cited for the following:

- Organizing/hosting an open forum on the new high school project for all parents, citizens, and local and regional politicians.
- Continuing to attend District and Town events.
- Working with the School Committee and Senator Lesser's office to host a meeting/tour with MSBA officials.
- Developing the ELPS Diversity and Equity Committee.
- Strengthening the EL Youth Safety Committee work.
- Involving interested parents and the community in the MSBA Statement of Interest process

Professional Culture: Proficient

The Superintendent is cited for the following:

- Continuing to work with the MIAA, LPVEC Superintendents and Connecticut Valley Superintendents.
- Worked with Senator Lesser's office to host a meeting with area Superintendents, School Committee members and union presidents on the Promise Bill.
- Attending the annual MASC/MASS Joint Conference and collaborating with other Superintendents.
- Utilizing ELPS teachers to present for the two full-day professional development days.
- Working with the Director of Curriculum to sustain an innovative culture with the ELPS Academic Coaches.

Overall Performance Rating: Proficient

To summarize, the Superintendent has achieved his goals in both the Student Learning Goal and Professional Practice Goal. In addition, the Superintendent has attained Exemplary in the Instructional Leadership and Family and Community Engagement Standards while attaining Proficient in the Management and Operations and Professional Culture Standards.

**William moved to approve the Superintendent 's Evaluation as presented, Elizabeth seconded the motion
Chair: Any further discussion? All those in favor say yes (4), oppose (0), we are unanimous (4-0)**

New Business:

7.1 Awarding of the contract for the Meadow Brook Accelerated Repair Roof project was presented by Mr. Smith. Pinck and Co. received six bids for the roofing project, which closed on June 6th. Titan Roofing was the lowest bidder and was awarded the bid. Because the low bid was significantly below the construction cost estimate (\$2,497,672), that value has been previously approved by the Town. We are recommending including the roofing scope for the modular structure in the contract with Titan. The value of Titan's contract will therefore be \$1,131,000.

**William moved to award the Meadow Brook Accelerated Repair project to Titan Roofing, Sarah seconded the motion
Chair: Any further discussion?**

**Elizabeth: I have to abstain from voting, my husband works for Pinck and Co.
Chair: All those in favor say yes (3), oppose (0), abstention (1), vote carries (3-0-1)**

7.2 ELHS Music Dept. field trip to Philadelphia, PA on April 16-18, 2020 was presented.

**Beth moved to approve the HS Music Dept. field trip to Philadelphia on April 16-18, 2020, Sarah seconded the motion.
Chair: Any further discussion? All those in favor say yes (4), oppose (0), we are unanimous (4-0)**

7.3 Participation in the 4th of July parade was discussion.

**William moved to participate in the 4th of July parade, Elizabeth seconded the motion.
Chair: Any further discussion? All those in favor say yes (4), oppose (0), we are unanimous (4-0)**

7.4 MASC Voting Delegate for the November Joint Conference was discussed. Bill said that he is willing to be the delegate, and Rich said that he would be the alternate.

**Elizabeth moved to appoint Bill as the MASC Delegate with Rich being the alternate, Sarah seconded the motion.
Chair: Any further discussion? All those in favor say yes (4), oppose (0), we are unanimous (4-0)**

7.5 Meeting time for the July 1, 2019 School Committee meeting to re-organize was discussed. The committee agreed to have the meeting at 8:00A.M.

Thank you Mr. Maki

William moved to adjourn at 8:15 P.M., Elizabeth seconded the motion.

Chair: Any further discussion? All those in favor say yes (4), unanimous (4-0)

Minutes Recorded by: Kathy Celetti

Respectfully submitted by: Superintendent Smith

Signature