

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: August 24, 2020

TIME: 6:00 P.M.

WHERE: Superintendent's Conference Room

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 AT:

<https://zoom.us/j/98803574707?pwd=dmVJRjZhc3VmalAwYm42RWRvSmlaZz09> (Passcode: 406250)

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
Elizabeth Marsian-Boucher - here
Gregory Thompson - here
Gordon Smith, Superintendent - here
Pamela Blair, Asst. Supt for Business - here
Kathy Celetti, Recording Secretary - here
Heather Brown, Dir. of Curriculum - here
Dr. Joanne Welch - here

Approval of Minutes

2.1 Approval of June 15, 2020 executive session meeting minutes

William moved to approve the June 15, 2020 executive session meeting minutes, Sarah seconded the motion.

Chair: Any further discussion, hearing none all those in favor say aye (4) those oppose say nay (0) abstain (1), motion carries (4-0-1)

2.2 Approval of June 22, 2020 executive session meeting minutes

William moved to approve the June 22, 2020 executive session meeting minutes, Sarah seconded the motion

Chair: Any further discussion, hearing none all those in favor say aye (4) those oppose say nay (0) abstain (1), motion carries (4-0-1)

2.3 Approval of June 22, 2020 regular session meeting minutes

William moved to approve the June 22, 2020 regular session meeting minutes, Antonella seconded the motion

Chair: Any further discussion, hearing none all those in favor say aye (4) those oppose say nay (0) abstain (1), motion carries (4-0-1)

2.4 Approval of June 29, 2020 regular session meeting minutes

William moved to approve the June 29, 2020 regular session meeting minutes, Antonella seconded the motion

Chair: Any further discussion, hearing none all those in favor say aye (4) those oppose say nay (0) abstain (1), motion carries (4-0-1)

2.5 Approval of July 1, 2020 regular session meeting minutes

William moved to approve the July 1, 2020 regular session meeting minutes, Elizabeth seconded the motion

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

2.6 Approval of August 3, 2020 executive session meeting minutes

William moved to approve the August 3, 2020 executive session meeting minutes, Elizabeth seconded the motion

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

2.7 Approval of the August 3, 2020 regular session meeting minutes

William moved to approve the August 3, 2020 regular session meeting minutes, Antonella seconded the motion

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

Committee/Sub-committee Communications

Opportunities for Visitors to Address the Committee:

Superintendent's Report:

4.1.1 Mr. Smith gave an update on the re-opening plans - Daily School Schedules and In-person meeting.

- To provide consistent structure for our students and families and in accordance with DESE guidance, all ELPS schools will be following the regular school times in the ELPS Remote Instructional Model
- In the ELPS Remote Learning Model, we will focus on re-cultivating relationships and providing the needed social and emotional

learning and support for students during the first few weeks while we redevelop routines for academic instruction and learning. This goal will be built into activities that happens both in-person at the schools and during remote meetings.

- All schools are developing plans to schedule times for smaller groups of students to meet in-person with their teachers, establish a connection, and review expectations and how remote instruction will work
- The elementary schools will use the first three days of school of September 16-18th to have teachers meet with very small groups of students and establish relationships with the class, engage in some ice breaker and welcoming activities, and provide students with some materials. These meetings will take place outside whenever possible. Parents will also be included either in-person meetings or in virtual meetings.
- At the secondary level, both BPMS and ELHS have developed an orientation for their respective 6th graders and 9th graders. There will be virtual and in-person meetings in small groups at each school. The secondary schools will use the in-person meetings to establish a connection with their students, to distribute new materials and textbooks, and to collect textbooks from last year that have not been returned.
- Once schools move into the fully remote instruction, all schools will follow their basic school schedule, emulating the in-person school day to the extent possible. Students will receive live instruction throughout the school day from ELPS teachers

Sarah: We have ten days prior to school, why not do the meet and greet then and on the 16th do the remote learning like we are supposed to?

4.1.2 Discussion of Fall Sports presented by Mr. Paige and Mr. Magee

Mr. Paige thanked Mr. Smith, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Magee and the parents/families, they really do want what's best for the their kids.

On August 19th, the MIAA Board of Directors voted to approve the recommendations from the MIAA Covid-19 Task Force for fall sports.

- Task Force recommends postponing football and cheer season to be a Floating Season which would begin in late February. The teams could hold level 1 practices meeting safety guidelines.
- Task Force also recommends allowing other fall sports (soccer; field hockey; cross country; girls volleyball and golf) to create modification which would allow them to compete at level 3 this fall.
 - Level 1 = individual training and skill work
 - Level 2 = competitive practices in cohorts of 10 or less
 - Level 3 = would be able to compete against other schools with safety modifications in place to limit risk

MIAA Season dates: September 18-November 20th.

- With modifications all ELHS fall teams may practice during this season at Level 1 and Level 2
- With modifications all ELHS fall teams (not including football and cheerleading) may compete with other schools during this season at Level 3

Floating MIAA season dates: February 22 - April 25th

- Cheerleading and football competitions will automatically be moved to the floating season, they can potentially still practice with modifications during the traditional fall season
- Fall sports that are not approved by School Committee to compete against other schools during the traditional fall season may have their cross-town competitions moved to the floating season. Those sports may still practice during their traditional fall season.

What will sports look like:

- Staggered starts (sports like cross country and golf)
- Eliminating deliberate contact (collisions, tackling, blocking)
- Minimize intermittent contact (restarts, throw-ins, scrums for the ball)
- Activity organizers must require facial covering to be worn while engaged in an activity wherever possible

Some of the initial proposals being discussed by PVIAC Athletic Dir. include:

- Creating regional competition bubbles of approximately 5-6 schools
- Competition would be a home and away game against each team in the bubble
- There is a possibility of no spectators being allowed at games
- In order to finalize the PVIAC schedules and format they will need final decisions of participation from member schools by early to mid-September
- As a point of reference, based on initial communications with other AD's, there are very few schools in our area that will not pursuing fall MIAA "out of town" competitions.

ELHS "Town Only" Competition Model:

- This model is more of a Rec Dept. model where ELHS student-athletes only compete against ELHS student-athletes
- All fall sports will have specific guidelines/modifications that are in compliance with EEA requirements. The Sport Compliance Attestation document will be used in order to comply with the state mandatory athletic safety standards
- All fall athletic teams will meet five times per week for approximately two hours
- The first two weeks will consist of practice/drills/small sided games/conditioning
- The remaining six weeks of fall sports will include approximately three practices per week and two scrimmages per week the EL team will scrimmage against each other.

Possible additional modifications include:

- Pending PVIAC approval and exploration, the golf teams could potentially still compete against other schools but they would have zero interaction with the opposing school and only be allowed to golf in a foursome with other ELHS golfers
- Pending PVIAC approval and exploration, the cross country team could potentially still compete against other schools but they would have zero interaction with the opposing school and stagger the start and finish times with the opposing school
- For safety reasons, we could look at limiting or eliminating building access to the school
- For safety and logistical reasons, we could look at limiting or eliminating transportation to away events

Antonella: How many students are interested?

Mr. Magee: About 300 will need to check with parents.

Antonella: Will students need to pay?

Mr. Magee: That's at your level.

Elizabeth: What about busing, will they take the bus or meet there?

Mr. Paige: Eliminate busing, parents to bring students.

Sarah: By not cutting students, allows more students to join.

William: Is the Board of Health in on this?

Mr. Paige: Yes we had a meeting with her this morning. She is comfortable with that. We will continue to have conversation with her. It's a plan to have her at our next meeting.

Mr. Magee: Amy is comfortable with outside sports, except volleyball which is inside. We need to look at that.

Chair: We will look at this again on September 3rd.

Assistant Superintendent of Business Report

4.2.1 End-of-Year Financial Audit Report was presented by Ms. Blair

Elizabeth moved to approve the June 30, 2019 End-of-Year Audit Report, Antonella seconded the motions

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

4.2.2 ELHS gift donation form Ohioplye Prints from royalties was presented by Ms. Blair

William moved to accept the ELHS gift donation from Ohiopyle Prints to be deposited into the HS account in the amount of \$102.57, Elizabeth seconded the motion

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

4.2.3 Approval of the FY21 Grants presented by Ms. Blair

Elizabeth moved to approve the FY20-21 Grants as listed, William seconded the motion.

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

Old Business - None

New Business - None

William moved to adjourn at 7:00P.M., Antonella 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