

**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: September 20, 2021
TIME: 6:00 P.M.
WHERE: Superintendent's Conference Room

Meeting called to Order by: Sarah Truoiolo, Chair
Chair stated that this meeting is being both audio and video taped, and asked if anyone else was taping the meeting.

Roll Call: Pamela Blair, Asst. Superintendent for Business, Gregory Thompson, Antonella Raschilla, Gordon Smith, Superintendent of Schools, William Fonseca, Elizabeth Marsian-Boucher, Student Rep, Sarah Truoiolo, Kathy Celetti, Recording Secretary.

Approval of Minutes

2.1 Approval of the September 7, 2021 executive session meeting minutes

Gregory moved to approve the September 7, 2021 executive session meeting minutes, Elizabeth seconded the motion.
Chair: Any further discussion, hearing none, all those in favor say aye (5), those oppose nay (0) motion carries (5-0)

2.2 Approval of the September 7, 2021 regular session meeting minutes.

William moved to approve the September 7, 2021 regular session meeting minutes, Elizabeth seconded the motion
Chair: Any further discussion, hearing none, all those in favor say aye (5), those oppose nay (0) motion carries (5-0)

Gregory moved to modify the agenda and move up item 7.1 to the next order of business, Antonella seconded the motion
Chair: Any further discussion, hearing none, all those in favor say aye (5), those oppose nay (0) motion carries (5-0)

7.1 Request from the Rec Dept. to have banners up during games was presented by Donna Prather, Director of the EL Rec Dept. This request is to thank those individuals and organizations who have volunteered helped maintained our fields. We would hang the banners during the game and remove when the game is over. This past weekend, they did three fields. The diamonds look great! They did an absolutely terrific job. The softball asked if we could hang the banners on the fence, so that when the public attend the games, they can see that our diamonds like nice because of the volunteers who donated equipment and their time. Thank you for supporting our Spartans with the company logo.

Mr. Smith: Our policy is more about advertising and this is more about thanking.

Elizabeth: I have no issues with putting up the banners during the games and taking them down afterwards. It's a nice way to thank the volunteers.

Gregory: This is quite an effort by the community and certainly appreciated by the Rec Dept. as well as the youth sports. It's good to see EL stepping up. We are certainly thankful of the volunteers as Beth was just referring to, a little worried about the slippery slope that it creates in terms of future advertisements.

Sarah: The Rec Dept. is finding creative ways to thank sponsors in monthly newsletters highlighting volunteers and local companies who are contributing. I think it's great to see the community come around support the schools.

Gregory moved to approve the request from the Rec Departments to hang banners for the 2022 softball season (these are temporary banners up and down when games are playing), Elizabeth seconded the motion.
Chair: Any further discussion, hearing none, all those in favor say aye (5), those oppose nay (0) motion carries (5-0)

Opportunities for visitors to address the Committee:

Committee/Sub-committee Communications

Antonella: I was able to attend a couple of sports games over the weekend. The girl's JV soccer game here and Pope Francis the boy's soccer game. Our kids did a great job. They did both win. We have amazing athletes. I stopped by the girl's car wash on Saturday night. There were a lot of people there. I was nice to see the girls and parent there working together and being together.

Elizabeth: I heard that they had a good game the other night for the football team. It was my daughter's first time when she was like it was a great time. It was the first time she felt like she was able to do something in high school because even her first fall as a freshman, they were worried about the mosquitoes. She was really excited I didn't go, she needed to be there without her mom. She said it was fun, felt great, hope we can continue on with that. That's what we want for our kids.

Student Rep: For me as a student, I felt like things are now back to like a sense of normalcy. We are all able to sit in class like a normal class size. There is nothing online, it just feels like we are in class. We have mask on, but I mean like that's really not that big of a deal. Everything I've heard so far with sports have been going very well. As a member and Captain of the cross country team, I feel like we are now like kind of past COVID and more as a team. Last year we couldn't do stuff with the girl's team, busses and we had meets at the same place. This past weekend we had this big meet at the school and that felt like my freshman and sophomore year. It was great having everyone there. Everyone was running with medals at the end of it. A great experience for everyone. We were bonding as a team. Clubs have also started at the school. These past two they have been doing elections and meetings. The student government for each grade has also been meeting and doing talks of fundraisers. I know being a class officer of 2022, we are planning a fundraiser at the end of September and possible a drive-through in mid-October.

Superintendent's Report:

5.1.1 Update on ELPS Health and Quarantining Protocols presented by Mr. Smith and Ms. LaBombard.

Mr. Smith presented the ELPS Daily Symptom Checklist. ELPS requires all staff members and students to undergo daily symptom checks at home prior to coming to school. Also reviewed was the ELPS Protocol for Quarantining and returning to school for students exposed to a positive case of COVID-19 or are symptomatic. This is based on DESE/DPH Protocols for responding to COVID-19 scenarios. In accordance with DESE guidelines, certain close contacts are exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols as noted:

Asymptomatic, fully vaccinated close contact: Individuals who are asymptomatic and full vaccinated are exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols. However, if a household member tests positive for COVID, other household members that have been vaccinated should also have a COVID test on day (5) but can come to school and wear a mask at all times.

Bus close contacts, individuals on buses must be masked according to federal requirements. Individuals who are masked on buses when windows are open are exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols. It's really about close contact. Mr. Smith reviewed the flowchart. Both the flowchart and forms are on our website. If in doubt, check in with your school nurse.

Ms. LaBombard: 66% of our students in grades 7-12 are vaccinated with both vaccinations. Thank you to all the parents who continue to work with us, we really appreciate it.

5.2.1 Update on the MSBA Feasibility study for the ELHS was presented by Mr. Smith. We have moved from the eligibility period where our statement of interest was finally brought into the MSBA for process for a potential project at ELHS. During the eligibility process, we had a number of task that we had to agree and commit to. One of the biggest was the Town appropriating money for the Feasibility Study. Once the town did that it moved us into the actual next phase which is called the Feasibility study. The MSBA sends the town what they call a Funding Agreement and so the town has appropriated the estimated amount for a Feasibility Study. Once done, that Funding Agreement is now signed that we will be receiving (56.5%). The two key words eligible costs not all costs in the study or process for preparing the study will be eligible but, (56.5%) if you think of dollars, the MSBA is picking up more than half of eligible cost for the Feasibility Study. The way it works we know through our accelerated repair projects, that once you get going I think it's \$20,000 segments. You put it in their system and then they will start to reimburse and send the town money as long as you are entering in those increments of at least \$20,000. We are on the precipice of diving fully in because we have the funding agreement. This week we sent a draft to the MSBA request, which is a draft request for services. The building committee met and put together a request for services. We drafted RFS requests for services and ran that by the entire building committee. I had a conversation last week with MSBA, they added some more revisions that they thought would be helpful. That went Wednesday and then again on Friday to MSBA. They are taking this week to offer any final revisions. The full committee will meet again on Monday the 27th, to vote to send that request for services. We will be advertising in the Central Registry and we will be starting field responses to our request for services fourteen days after we advertise, I think is the 29th. We will be acting on and going through those responses. We are really getting into and eventually when that process ends we will have an Owner Project Manager, that is a group that will help advise us as we move through the Feasibility Study.

Assistant Superintendent of Business Report :

5.2.1 FY22 Grants presented by Ms. Blair

If we didn't receive these grants, we would have to go to the town for the money. The ESSER III grant will be coming in a few weeks for your approval.

Gregory moved to approve the FY22 Grants, Antonella seconded the motion.

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

5.2.2 MS gift donation from Stop and Shop A+ School Rewards Program was presented.

William moved to accept the MS gift donation from Stop and Shop A+ Program in the amount of \$916.86 to be deposited into the school account, Elizabeth seconded the motions.

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

Old Business:

New Business:

7.2 Request from ELEEF for Spartan Sprint 5K Race at ELHS on Sunday, September 26, 2021 at 9AM. You can register on their site either on Google or Facebook.

Gregory: All I'm asking is since St. Michaels is having mass during that time, is that they not blow the horn, or make loud announcements during mass time.

Antonella moved to approve the request from ELEEF for Spartan Sprint on September 26, at 9AM, Elizabeth seconded the motion.

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

Chair: Thank you Don and Nick

William moved to adjourn at 7:00 P.M. Elizabeth seconded the motion.

Chair: 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