

**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: October 22, 2018
TIME: 6:00 P.M.
WHERE: Superintendent's Conference Room

Meeting called to Order by: Vice Chairman, Gregory Thompson
Vice Chair stated that this meeting is being both audio and video taped, and asked if anyone else was taping the meeting.
Roll Call: Student Rep; William Fonseca; Sarah Truoiolo; Gregory Thompson; Gordon Smith, Superintendent of Schools; Elizabeth Marsian-Boucher; Pamela Blair, Asst. Superintendent for Business;
Absent: Richard Freccero, Chair; Kathy Celetti, Recording Secretary

Approval of Minutes

2.1 Approval of the October 1, 2018 regular session meeting minutes.

William moved to approve the October 1, 2018 regular session meeting minutes, Elizabeth seconded the motion.
Vice Chair: Any further discussion? Hearing none, a ll those in favo r please say aye (4), those oppose (0), motion carries (4-0)

Committee/Sub-committee Communications

Student Rep: Last week at ELHS was Spirit Week. Monday was Pajama Day; Tuesday was Team Day; Wednesday was Class Color Day; Thursday was USA Day and Friday was Red & Grey day. From my perspective, the majority of students participated and the school spirit levels were high, so that was really good. Friday of the Spirit Week was the debut of our new Spartan Block Activities Program. Students were given their first opportunity to participate in an activity of their choice and from what I've heard from a lot of students, they really enjoyed their activities. This program is continuing, I believe we have our next one on November 2nd.

Mr. Smith: Do you have a couple of examples of the type of activities you had.

Student Rep: Yes, one of the programs I heard a lot about was the acoustic jam session with Mr. Freeman and they played on instruments during the 41 minutes.

Mr. Smith: People who might not get the opportunity through instrumental music or so forth now could actually get in and connect.

Student Rep: Other activities that day were the Pep Rally. So originally, as I recorded here a few weeks ago, we were planning on having the Pep Rally inside the large gym; however, it came to our attention the maximum occupancy of the large gym is 800 people. So it turned out not to be a feasible option. But we still made the best of it. The theme "Good Vibes Only" was resonated through the performances. Mr. Martin actually hosted a game of musical chairs with volunteers from the audience. I thought that was really fun and interesting. Overall, I've really had a good time. Senior semi was held on Saturday night at Saint Luke's Church. There was a turnout of just shy of 180 people, so participation was high. Overall, it was a good night.

Sarah Truoiolo: I was able to meet with Mr. Smith and Ms. Blair last week to begin conversations regarding paraprofessional negotiations. After that meeting, Mr. Smith was able to reach out to the para's; we are just firming up some dates.

Mr. Smith: Actually, we are going to meet on Wednesday, we have another meeting set for Wednesday, November 6th and I believe the 16th. Those are the three dates right now we have confirmed.

William Fonseca: This Saturday we are hosting a Division V meeting at the Collaborative for Educational Services in Northampton. Two topics: Resolutions Clinic, we will be going over all the Resolutions. And the Future of Public Education in the Pioneer Valley in regards to funding since the state legislatures dropped the ball on the Foundation Budget. The Budget Review Commission's recommendations earlier in the spring, so we are just trying to get a handle on this. We've got people coming down from the Berkshires to speak to everybody about how they are handling these budget shortfalls that everybody's running into. The increase in health insurance and just a general increase in cost of doing business to educating our kids these days. We are expecting a big turnout for that. There is also a rally after that to garner support against the expansion of the Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School in Northampton. Open Space Committee has been meeting regularly and we are working our way through that. Plans to submit to get this town eligible for grants.

Gregory Thompson: Is that actual, here's what we are going to do with this specific piece of property kind of thing. Is that what the plan will be?

Mr. Smith: It's not that specific

William Fonseca: It's identifying Open Space with the Town.

Mr. Smith: It identifies objectives and goals for the Town as if they continue to move forward.

Gregory Thompson: It's been a long time since there was an Open Space Committee.

William Fonseca: Since 2000, we are not re-inventing the wheel; we are using the plan, just updating it. We got a consultant from Valley Planning Commission working with us. We get an allotment of hours that we can use them for. We are on target to get this thing done, hopefully, by the end of the year.

Mr. Smith: For the town to be eligible for certain grants, we have to have a plan.

Elizabeth Marsian-Boucher: I went last Thursday with Mr. Smith to the Willie Ross Gala; they were honoring Greg DeLisle who has been a part of our school system through Willie Ross for 20 years, many years. He has quite the career; he was very instrumental with just helping Willie Ross become successful, solvent and moving forward. He's actually going to be their outreach person, which will probably give him just as much work to do, but, he's supposedly retired, but isn't. So that was nice to go to. I also went to the 125th Birthday meeting. It was the first one I went to, so I was just kind of getting the feel for that.

Gregory Thompson: What did you find out?

Elizabeth Marsian-Boucher: They've got a lot of things they want to do, like from a baseball game to maybe having a dance towards the first of July, which is the actual birthday of the Town. It'll be a better parade, the fireworks they are thinking about an upgrade. There were some discussions on whether or not to have different suppers throughout the year. Whether or not are we fundraising? I think they are still working it out. A lot of enthusiastic people and they have some good ideas and some of these folks have been on other birthday committees, which is very impressive to me. On November 6th ELEEf is going to start opening up their grants request. We are going to have a speaker come in from ELEEf the morning of Prof Dev. to talk to them, and get that ups and moving a little bit quicker this year.

Opportunity for visitors to Address the committee - None

Superintendent's Report:

5.1.1 The new State Accountability System was presented by Mr. Smith. Mr. Smith introduces Ms. Brown, Dir. of Curr., Instruc. and Assess. Ms. Brown has been in the district for eight years, she was hired as our first Literacy Academic Coach and has done a fantastic job there and a fantastic job in this new role. This is not something new in terms of having an accountability system. Since MCAS has been in place, we have always had some accountability system throughout the state. Every Student Succeeds is a new federal law and that's drawing a lot of this

What is an accountability system:

An accountability system measures school and district performance. It helps schools improve the performance of all students, and helps communities and the state decide how to allocate resources. Accountability results answer two questions: How is the school doing? And What kind of support does the school need?

The accountability system considers:

- Achievement
- Student growth
- High school completion
- Progress towards English Proficiency
- Chronic absenteeism
- Advanced coursework completion

Schools without required assistance or intervention (about 85% of schools)

Schools requiring assistance or intervention (about 15% of schools)

Weighting of indicators in non-high schools:

- Achievement - ELA, math & science (based on scaled score) - with ELL (60%); without ELL (67.5%)
- Student Growth - ELA, math student growth % - with ELL (20%); without ELL (22.5%)
- English Lang. Prof. - Progress made by students attaining ELP - without ELL (10%)
- Additional Indicators - Chronic absenteeism - with ELL (10%); without ELL (10%)

Weighting of indicators in high schools and middle high/K-12 schools

- Achievement - ELA, math & science - with ELL (40%); without ELL (47.5%)
- Student growth - ELA/Math student growth % - with ELL (20%); without ELL (22.5%)
- HS completion - (4) years cohort graduation rate; Extended engagement rate; Annual dropout rate - with ELL (20%); without ELL (20%)
- English Language Prof - Progress made by students attaining ELP - with ELL (10%)
- Add'l Indicators - Chronic absenteeism; % of student completing advance coursework - with ELL (10%); without ELL (10%)

Criterion-referenced component:

- Focus on closing the achievement gap by raising the “achievement floor”
- In addition to meeting targets for the school as a whole, the performance of the lowest performing student in each school will be measured

Lowest performing students - cohort model

- Most schools serving grades 3-8, students were officially enrolled in current school for two consecutive years
- Tested in current school in 2017-2018
- Not a first- or second year English learner in 2018
- Identified using a combined 2017 ELA and math average scaled score
- In schools where a legitimate cohort cannot be identified, accountability results will be based on performance of all students

Lowest performing students - year to year approach

- In high school, the cohort model cannot be used
- Improvement will be measured using a year to year approach based on student who were officially enrolled in current school for two consecutive years
- Tested in 10th grade in current school in 2018 and attended grade 9 in the same school district 2017
- Not a first or second year English learner in 2018
- Identified using a combined ELA and math average scaled score
- In schools where a legitimate cohort cannot be identified, accountability results will be based on performance of students

Criterion-referenced component:

- Points assigned base on progress toward target for each indicator, for both aggregate and the lowest performing students (Declined (0); No change (1); Improved (2); Met target (3); Exceeded target (4)

Criterion-referenced component calculation-non-high school: Target percentage (64%)

Criterion-referenced component calculation - high school: Target percentage (62%)

Categorization of Schools:

- Schools without required assistance or intervention (approx. 85%)
- Schools requiring assistance or intervention (approx. 15%)

Gregory: What happens next?

Mr. Smith: There is not a lot from the state level in terms of what or how DESE works with East Longmeadow, but for us I think as you look at our SMART Goals, it's going to be how we start to begin and look at that. Figure out maybe it's not the instructional practices that we are using, maybe we don't know enough about our students who need to engage. So, learning more about them may help us put better instructional practices into place.

Assistant Superintendent of Business :

5.2.1 St. Michael's donation of a Buddy Bench in memory of Alex Blais, for MV playground was presented by Ms. Blair

Elizabeth moved to approve the Buddy Bench donation from St. Michael 's in memory of Alex Blais for MV playground, William seconded the motion. Vice Chair: Any further discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor please say aye (4), all those oppose (0), that motion carries (4-0)

5.2.2 Creation of a Scholarship Fund in memory of “Moe” Mr. Maurice Martin was presented by Ms. Blair.

William moved to allow ELHS to create the Scholarship Fund in memory of “Moe” Mr. Maurice Martin , Elizabeth seconded the motion. Vice Chair: Any further discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor please say aye (4), all those oppose (0), that motion carries (4-0)

Old Business : None

New Business:

7.1 The MASC Resolutions was presented by Mr. Fonseca

Resolution #1: Rejecting the Arming of Educators

Whereas: the MASC has been a strong advocate of providing students, faculty and staff a safe and supportive school and classroom

Therefore be it resolved that: The Massachusetts Association of School Committee rejects the notion of providing firearms to any educator.

Rationale: the safest environment would be to provide additional mental health resources and violence prevention programs in public schools.

Elizabeth moved to support Resolution #1 “Rejecting the Arming of Educators ”, Sarah seconded the motion.

Vice Chair: Any further discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor please say aye (4), all those oppose (0), that motion carries (4-0)

Resolution #2: Small and Rural Districts

Whereas: Massachusetts has a number of small and rural school districts that have special academic, social, financial, and operational needs, and, yet operate with an enviable measure of success

Therefore be it resolved: MASC call for the creation of working group to advise the legislature on the best public policy solutions to support small and rural school

districts

**Elizabeth moved to support Resolution #2 "Small and Rural Districts " Sarah seconded the motion
Vice Chair: Any further discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor please say aye (4), all those oppose (0), that motion carries (4-0)**

Resolution #3: Elimination of the Federal Department of Education
Therefore be it resolved that: the MASC works with the federal delegation to reject any notion of combining the U.S. Department of Education with other government departments
William: They want to do away with the Dept. of Education

**Elizabeth moved to support Resolution #3 "Elimination of the Federal Department of Education " Sarah seconded the motion
Vice Chair: Any further discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor please say aye (4), all those oppose (0), that motion carries (4-0)**

Resolution #4: Regional School Transportation
Therefore be it resolved that: To promote greater competition for bus service contracts, the Legislature should eliminate M.G.L. c. 71, § 7C, and authorize a deeper analysis of the lack of bidders on school transportation contracts.

**Elizabeth moved to support Resolution #4 "Regional School Transportation " Sarah seconded the motion
Vice Chair: Any further discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor please say aye (4), all those oppose (0), that motion carries (4-0)**

Resolution #5: Reporting and Accountability Standards
Therefore be it resolved that: the MASC works with the legislature and Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to ensure that all students or persons in schools that receive public funds under the authority of the MA Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education or a local public school district are held to the same standards and requirements in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

**Sarah moved to support Resolution #5 "Reporting and Accountability Standards " Elizabeth seconded the motion
Vice Chair: Any further discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor please say aye (4), all those oppose (0), that motion carries (4-0)**

Resolution #6: Reproductive Health Education:
Therefore be it resolved that: the MASC supports evidence-based reproductive health curricula. Further, we call upon the U.S. Department of Education and the Executive Branch to stop their support of abstinence-only education.

**Elizabeth moved to support Resolution #6 "Reproductive Health Education " Sarah seconded the motion
Vice Chair: Any further discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor please say aye (4), all those oppose (0), that motion carries (4-0)**

Resolution #7: Gender Identity Inclusive Athletic Participation Policy
Therefore be it resolved that: MASC help file legislation which would have the effect of protecting LGBTQ students from discrimination, harassment and bullying by that schools should treat students based on their gender identify, protecting their privacy, providing access to gender-neutral restrooms, locker rooms and private stall showers, using their preferred pronouns, embedding sensitivity training in professional development and providing uniform accommodations.
Rationale: The at-risk behavior for LGBTQ students, which includes suicidal ideation, is sharply reduced with some basic interventions. With federal laws that are vague with the protections for our vulnerable students, public schools in MA should take steps to ensure their protection. With guidance from the legislature, LGBTQ students throughout MA will have better protections and will have reduced adverse behaviors.

**Elizabeth moved to support Resolution #7 "Gender Identity Inclusive Athletic Participation Policy " Sarah seconded the motion
Vice Chair: Any further discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor please say aye (4), all those oppose (0), that motion carries (4-0)**

Resolution #8: Sports Wagering
Therefore be it resolved that: the MASC requests that, should the General Court enact legislation to legalize wagering on sporting events, the General Court, shall commit a portion of the revenues generated from sports wagering to public education.
William: What this is saying, if this gets legalized, we want to be part of the discussion for distributing the funds. It is not supporting it; it is just saying we want to be at the table when you guys start to divvy up the funds.

Elizabeth moved to support Resolution #8 "Sports Wagering " Sarah seconded the motion

Resolution #9: Access to Information for Parents and Students who are clients of Special Education
Therefore be it resolved that: MASC urges the legislature to amend state law to require that parents and students be provided with a copy via email or mail of all the assessments that are performed for students in the families preferred language, at least five days prior to any meeting at which parents and students will review a proposed Individual Education Plan (IEP).

**Elizabeth moved to support Resolution #9 "Access to Information for Parents and Students Who Are Clients of Special Education " Sarah seconded the motion
Vice Chair: Any further discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor please say aye (4), all those oppose (0), that motion carries (4-0)**

7.2 Birchland Park 7th grade field trip to the CT Science Ctr. On November 15th was presented.

**Elizabeth moved to approve the 7th grade field trip to the Connecticut Science Ctr. On November 15, 2018, William seconded the motion
Vice Chair: Any further discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor please say aye (4), all those oppose (0), that motion carries (4-0)**

Mr. Maki: Resolution #3, I just want to clarify, the way it's been presented and voted on, the perception to me is the way you voted was to support the elimination of the Department of Education and I know that's not what you meant to do. The way the resolution is written, is to reject any effort to eliminate the department. That's not the way the motion was stated/voted.

Gregory: The motion was to support the resolution; we did talk about the elimination. I appreciate the clarification. We are not asking for the elimination of the Department of Education, I think we are ok with our motion in terms of supporting the resolution. I appreciate the point.

Mr. Smith: They will explain that on the floor.

William: There is going to be numerous discussions on some of these resolutions.

Mr. Smith: We are supporting Resolution #3 that ultimately would reject any notion of combining the US Department of Education with other governmental departments.

Vice Chair: Thank you Mr. Mak i, Thank you Jake

William moved to adjourn at 7:22, Elizabeth seconded the motion.

Vice Chair: Any further discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor please say aye (4), all those oppose (0), that motion carries (4-0)

Respectfully submitted by: Superintendent Smith

Signature