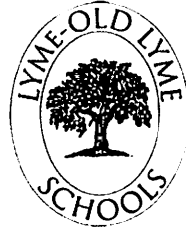


LYME-OLD LYME SCHOOLS

Regional School District #18

A Private School Experience



in a Public School Setting

Regular Board of Education Meeting
April 7, 2021

Board Present: Diane Linderman, Chair; Martha Shoemaker, Vice Chair; Steven Wilson, Secretary; Rick Goulding; Stacey Leonardo; Mary Powell St. Louis; Suzanne Thompson

Present Via Telephone: Jennifer Miller; Jean Wilczynski

Administration Present: Ian Neviasher, Superintendent of Schools; Mark Ambruso, Principal of Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School; James Cavalieri, Principal of Lyme Consolidated School; Michelle Dean, Director of Curriculum; Melissa Dougherty, Director of Special Services; Kelly Enoch, Principal of Mile Creek School; Holly McCalla, Business Manager; Jeanne Manfredi, Assistant Principal of Lyme-Old Lyme High School; Ron Turner, Director of Facilities & Technology; Noah Ventola, Assistant Principal of Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School; James Wygonik, Principal of Lyme-Old Lyme High School

Others Present: Ellery Zrenda, High School Student Representative; 5 Community Members

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairwoman Linderman. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

II. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Mrs. Shoemaker made a motion, which was seconded by Dr. Powell St. Louis, to approve the minutes of Regular Meeting of March 3, 2021 and the District Budget Hearing of April 5, 2021.

VOTE: the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

III. Visitors

1. CAPSS Superintendent's Award

The Board honored this year's recipients of the CAPSS Superintendent's Award: Connie Pan and Megan

49 Lyme Street, Old Lyme, Connecticut 06371

T: 860-434-7238 F: 860-434-9959 E: neviase@region18.org www.region18.org

Cravinho. This award is based on the student's service, leadership and academic prowess. Jim Wygonik, Principal of Lyme-Old Lyme High School, introduced the students and spoke to their many accomplishments.

2. Report from Student Representatives

Ellery Zrenda reported on the following activities taking place at the schools:

At LOLHS: This year the Math Team finished first in the small school division in the Greater Middlesex County Math League and third overall. Their exceptional work this season has qualified them to participate in the state tournament taking place today. In addition to the overall team success, Nikolai Stephen-Zumbaum was the highest scoring junior in the entire Math League. The Art Department took eight of the 18 awards at the Shoreline Art Alliance Futures Show. For three of the last four years, Will Allik, Art Teacher at LOLHS, has won the prestigious Earl Grenville Killeen Award for the Best in Show school portfolio. Spring sports have been busy preparing for the upcoming seasons. Competition is set to begin this weekend. The athletes and coaches want to send a special thanks to the facilities department for the pristine conditions of the playing fields. Seniors are counting down the final ten weeks until graduation. The high school staff is busy planning for many outside spring events. Check the school calendar for upcoming outdoor concerts, awards ceremonies and a prom.

At LOLMS: March for the middle school was a busy month. Under the guidance of the school library media specialist, J'aime Ottaviano, and enrichment teacher, Bill Edyman, the middle school had nine teams of students enter projects into the Connecticut History Day Regional Contest, and seven received recognition and will move onto the state competition this month. The 8th grade typically plans a fundraising and volunteer event to support the New London Community Meal Center; however, due to COVID, they have modified the school-wide collection drive to support Safe Futures, the Old Lyme Animal Shelter, and the Shoreline Food Pantry. This drive revolves around the 8th grade ELA unit on homelessness. On March 17, Renee Molnar, 7th grader Sophia D'Angelo, and the school's therapy dog "Blu" debuted on Channel 8's Wednesday's Warrior. It was a great clip that highlighted Blu's contribution to the school community. On March 19, the middle school celebrated World Down Syndrome Day by wearing mismatched clothing and socks. The advisory groups tackled a team building activity, the Egg Drop Challenge, by working collaboratively utilizing creativity, teamwork, engineering and construction skills

At Lyme Consolidated School: On March 19, students and staff celebrated World Down Syndrome Day by wearing mix and match socks and listening to the book *Just Ask* and having classroom conversations on what it means to Be Different, Be Brave, Be You. The book *Just Ask* was donated to each classroom by Lyme School parent Heather Imbriale. On April 22, students will be participating in Earth Day activities. On April 26, school pictures will take place. On April 27, middle school principal, Mr. Ambruso, will be visiting the fifth-grade classes. SBAC testing will begin the week of May 3 for all third, fourth and fifth graders.

At Mile Creek School: During the month of March, students engaged in many exciting units of study and two spirit days were held. March 19 was a day identified for a celebration of uniqueness as part of World Down Syndrome Day. Students wore colorful, patterned or mismatched socks. In each class, students were read the book *Just Ask* by Justice Sonia Sotomayor and discussed what it means to "Be Different, Be Brave, Be You." On the 26th of March, Spirit Day was Tie Dye Day. The school was a sea of color. Many exciting units of study were completed, including the Peter Pan unit in third grade. All third-grade classrooms were transformed into versions of Neverland as part of the cumulative event. In fourth grade, all students made instruments as part of their study of sound waves, and students held a gallery walk in the library to share their research on natural disasters. In fifth grade, students completed their unit on the Iditarod and held a Museum Day to highlight all they had learned. A virtual book fair is currently running and will end on April 12. School pictures will be taken on April 23.

In the Preschool Program: During the month of April, the preschool will be focusing on the themes of spring, space and the life cycle oviparous animals – or animals who lay eggs. Earth Day will be a part of the social studies lessons this month. Students will be hearing stories like *I Want To Be An Astronaut* and *Chickens Aren't the Only Ones*. During math instruction, they will use ladybugs in their study of patterns, counting and adding pairs. The letter sounds are T, U and V, and students will be practicing writing their names. The artist of the month is Lucy Arnold. Ms. Arnold gains her inspiration from the details found in nature. Finally, the preschool has been enjoying the warm weather and opportunities for outdoor play. Students wish everyone a fabulous April break.

3. Public Comment

Chelsea Yester, a resident of Old Lyme, read the following statement:

I come before you today as a resident of beautiful Old Lyme, full-time registered nurse, and very concerned (soon to be) mother of three. I want to sincerely thank you for all you have done during this difficult year to take care of our smallest citizens, our children. You have kept my thriving preschooler safely in school the entire year where she has continued to flourish both socially and academically. And now, just when you thought you might be able to breathe again, Connecticut lawmakers are considering two bills which would create another crisis.

On March 31, the Public Health Committee advanced two bills, which would remove religious exemptions for vaccination. If passed, the bills would remove an estimated 15,000 Connecticut children from school...in the middle of the most difficult year of their life.

The damage to students in our school district, and others, will be considerable. How many students will need to be abruptly unenrolled? In addition, many of our students stand to lose opportunities for academic and sports scholarships. These children are resilient, but they have suffered, and will continue to suffer, in ways we will not fully comprehend for years to come. Additionally, what will the impact be on teaching and administrative positions due to lower student populations?

Lawmakers do not need to remove children from school and create a new crisis. There are solutions that can solve their stated problem and organically improve vaccination rates without bringing trauma to Connecticut families. School districts do not need to, nor should they, remove children from school. Please ask lawmakers to explore these solutions before barring children from attending school.

Connecticut's teachers, students, and families have been through so much this last year, and I am confident that no one wants to add to the struggle. Connecticut was just recognized as number one in the nation on student performance of advanced placement exams. How will losing these students affect our district and Connecticut's ability to be competitive? Lawmakers want to remove children from school and implement a grandfathering clause to ease their conscience. I assure you, this will not work. Grandfathering not only imposes segregation within the family unit, but will eventually prevent children with a religious exemption from attending colleges or universities in Connecticut.

Please contact legislators and voice your opposition to this legislation. Ask them to look for different solutions before they create another crisis. This legislation will only bring further suffering to our children, our teachers and our school administrators. Now is the time to rebuild, not to add to the devastation. Thank you for your time."

IV. Administrative Reports

1. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Neviasser reviewed the April personnel report noting the various vacancies, recent appointments and resignations/retirements. Of note: Steven Ernst, Music Teacher at Mile Creek School; Mary Pope, Speech Pathologist at Center School; Kelly Craddock, 4th Grade Teacher at Mile Creek School; and Jill Ressler, English Teacher at Lyme-Old Lyme High School, will be retiring at the conclusion of the 2020-2021 school year.

Mr. Neviasser reviewed the April enrollment report which reflected a total of 1,305 students in-house which is an increase of three students from last month this time.

Mr. Neviasser reviewed the various grants the district expects to receive as part of the federal government's COVID relief packages which will be available to the district over the next three years.

Mr. Neviasser gave an update on the progress towards the district goals.

Curriculum. Provide a rigorous educational experience for students, in all modes of instruction (remote or in-person), that is in alignment with the high standards and expectations of the communities we serve. Currently offering extended day program in all buildings and expanding summer program offerings, i.e., traditional to interest-based camps. Working with Lymes' Youth Service Bureau, Sustainable CT and Lyme Academy of Fine Arts.

Planning summer curriculum work – part of revision cycles.

Human Resources. *Provide additional support for staff to ensure existing and new employees have the resources necessary to perform the duties of their jobs at the highest level possible.*

Beginning the hiring process for new staff to ensure getting the best new hires.

Community. *Support the social emotional needs of students and staff, with emphasis on self-care and community responsibility during this time of uncertainty.*

School Climate Survey (administered every other year) currently being taken by students, staff and parents.

Thelma Halloran, Music Teacher at LOLMS, has been asked to participate with the group *Arts for Social Justice*, spearheading an initiative for creating murals depicting social justice themes.

Facilities. *Monitor and evaluate five-year facility, safety, and technology plans to ensure appropriate improvements and maintenance of buildings, grounds and infrastructure in line with recommendations from the DPH and the CSDE.*

The bid opening for the synthetic turf field occurs April 9.

Numerous facility improvement projects planned for this summer.

Use of ESSER funds for projects to lower budgets and avoid spending cliffs in the future.

Bonded project study out to bid.

Facilities Committee site walk will take place on April 14.

Board of Education. *Provide resources to support students and staff through a variety of different means during this time of uncertainty.*

Reviewing and revising the district's Strategic Plan (late summer/early fall process will begin).

Board of Ed summer retreat/self-evaluation being planned.

2. Business Manager's Report

Mrs. McCalla reviewed the Executive Budget Summary as of March 31, 2021. Spending year to date is on track with last year to date, and this amount does include the reimbursement of \$343,000 in Coronavirus Relief Funds. Without this amount, the year to date spending is 71% to budget so even though it's a significant amount of money, it equates to 1% of spending to budget.

Fluctuations of note:

Special Education: lower year over year placement costs.

Transportation: billing differential due to collapsed/reduced routes.

Debt Service: due to funding from January 2020 and payment moved to August.

Plant Operation and Maintenance: due to significant CRF refund to this account.

Year To Date Revenue Report

	2019-2020 Received	2020-2021 Received YTD
Town of Old Lyme	\$27,556,679	\$19,485,158
Town of Lyme	\$6,579,421	\$4,508,526

Mrs. McCalla reviewed the Contingency Maintenance Report. The balance has changed to the good by \$225 due to actuals versus encumbrances. The balance of this account is \$131,127.

V. Educational Presentation

1. LOLHS Schedule for 2021-2022

Mr. Wygonik presented plans for the high school schedule for next year which involved a block schedule of an eight-period schedule, four periods per day, with a two-day rotation. Mr. Wygonik reported that 95% of the teachers would like to continue with a four-period daily schedule and 85% of the students wanted it to continue.

The rationale for the change included:

- Reduce the number of class changes and transitions
- Incorporate four lunch waves
- Seamless transition to a remote daily schedule if need

Mr. Wygonik's presentation also included information on the benefits and challenges and how this schedule compared with other high achieving districts, A copy of Mr. Wygonik's presentation is attached to these minutes for informational purposes.

Mrs. Shoemaker commended the schedule which she believed would prepare the students better for college, i.e., geared to real life experience and assist with time management.

Dr. Goulding asked about any foreseeable concerns. Mr. Wygonik reported that the main issue is the longer periods of time that students are sitting. Teachers are working in snack/mask breaks and creating more movement in the classroom to alleviate this. He also noted that the Music Department has concerns over the schedule which centered around learning regression (fewer class meetings per week mean less practice) with their preference for meeting with students more regularly due to the importance of routine musical practice.

Additional discussion centered on the staff professional development on this schedule that they will be focused on before the start of the 2021-2022 school year so that all concerns/issues are gleaned from the departments and fully addressed.

VI. Chairman & Committee Reports:

Mrs. Linderman reminded the Board that the Superintendent's evaluation is done at this time of the year, and discussion will take place in executive session at the May Board meeting with the final evaluation issued in June. She asked for two volunteers to help her with note taking and putting together the input from the Board into a coherent evaluation.

Mrs. Linderman reported that a Board retreat would take place this summer with the purpose of goal setting and self-evaluation.

Committee Reports:

- a. *Facilities*. Dr. Goulding reported that the bids for the synthetic turf field will take place on Friday, April 9.
- b. *Finance*. Mrs. Wilczynski asked that all be cognizant of the district's bidding policies in light of the many projects occurring throughout the district. Mrs. Wilczynski thanked all administrators for their efforts on the development of the 2021-2022 budget and usage of associated grants.
- c. *Communications*. Mrs. Thompson recommended that the Board view the presentation given by Bridget Compagno at the last Communications Committee meeting which detailed communication initiatives (attached to the minutes of March 24, 2021).
- d. *Policy*. Mrs. Shoemaker reported that policy discussion will take place later in the meeting under New and Old Business.
- e. *LEARN*. Mrs. Linderman reported on LEARN's progress on renovating the Ocean Avenue building. She also reported that students from the Marine Science Magnet School recently grew coral, and the excess was sold as a fundraiser, with profits totaling over \$6,000.
- f. *LOL Prevention Coalition*. Mrs. Shoemaker reported that this group would meet next week.
- g. *Sustainability*. Mrs. Miller reported that this committee would be making a presentation to the Board at their May meeting. Regarding the Trex Challenge, over 3,000 pounds of plastic have been collected districtwide thus far. Megan Winski's Life Skills class at LOLHS has weighed, sorted, bagged and recorded over half of this total.

VII. New Business

1. Mile Creek Sound System Upgrade Project

Ron Turner, Director of Facilities and Technology, provided the following background information on this agenda item: the current sound system in the Mile Creek cafeteria is insufficient and outdated, and the gymnasium currently only utilizes a portable sound system. These proposed upgrades will enhance the ability for student performances, and both systems will allow better access to sound by students, staff, and community members.

Proposals:

Sound Stage Systems	\$20,390.00
HB Communications	\$21,316.00
Unitech	\$27,404.11

Recommendation:

- The upgrades are in response to sound needs identified by Mile Creek administration and staff.
- All three of the companies are very reputable with decades of experience.
- Both Unitech and Sound Stage Systems completed site visits as part of their proposals.
- Approval will allow vendor to begin to obtain equipment for July 2021 start.
- Recommended contract award is in the anticipated range and within the proposed facilities budget.

- This project is slated to begin in the next fiscal year, and the monies are allocated in the proposed 21/22 FY budget.

MOTION: Mrs. Thompson made a motion, which was seconded by Dr. Goulding, to approve the contract award to Sound Stage Systems for the value of \$20,390.00 for upgrades to the sound systems in the Mile Creek school gymnasium and cafeteria.

VOTE: the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

2. Mile Creek Outdoor Classroom Project

Ron Turner provided the following background information on this agenda item: recent developments with the COVID-19 pandemic generated a request by parents and staff for potential outdoor classroom spaces at District schools. This request was included in the five-year facilities plan with a goal to begin to add spaces during the 2021/22 school year.

With the approval of the Facilities Committee, a cooperative project was proposed to provide not only educational opportunity for technical school students, but also outdoor classroom space for Region 18.

Vinal Technical School in Middletown was very interested and enthusiastic about the project, and their students will complete all aspects of design and construction. April approval by the Board will allow the foundation and deck work to be completed by the end of this school year, with completion scheduled for the beginning of the next school year.

The District sought comparable commercial quotes for work at the site to confirm that the building opportunity was also at a discount. Carefree Small Building in Colchester quoted the work at \$37,025, and The Barnyard in Ellington quoted on-site work at \$40,000.

This project is the first in a District plan to add outdoor classroom spaces. The next projects will include the Lyme School and the Middle School.

This classroom project was originally funded by monies budgeted in the 2021/22 FY proposed budget, but will now be covered by Esser II grant funds. The budgeted funds will be applied to other projects in the five-year facilities plan.

MOTION: Dr. Powell St. Louis made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Thompson, to award the Vinal Regional Technical School a contract to construct and install outdoor classroom space in the form of an exterior gazebo at the Mile Creek School for a value not to exceed \$30,000.

Follow-up discussion centered on the construction possibly disrupting the school day. Mr. Turner reported that a majority of the construction is done off-site with the assembling on-site so there would be limited interruption to the school day. He further reported that landscaping is not included but that in-

house staff will construct a pleasing entrance after the structure is complete. Mrs. Thompson recommended that the pollinator plant initiative be involved with this site work.

VOTE: the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

3. Middle School Gymnasium Floor Refinishing Project

Ron Turner provided the following background information on this agenda item: the existing gymnasium floor in the Middle School is overdue for renovation, and the work is included in the five-year facilities plan. There are years of oil-based finish buildup, insufficient painted lines, an outdated school logo, and an outdated color scheme. The proposed work involves sanding the surface down to bare wood, repainting with fresh lines and the current paw logo, and sealing with a water-based finish. The plan is for a finished product that matches the high school floor.

New England Overland was approved by the Board on June 3, 2020 to complete the High School gym floor renovation project. They completed a high-quality job on the high school floor, and their current price, which is \$2,000 less than the high school job, considers that they still possess all of the stencils and patterns required for the logo and lettering with no extra costs. New England Overland will also be retained on an annual basis to apply a maintenance coat to both floor surfaces.

We are confident that the end result will be an additional floor that will make the district proud.

MOTION: Dr. Goulding made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Shoemaker, to award New England Overland Floor Specialists a contract to refinish the middle school gymnasium floor for the value of \$17,779.00, and waive the bidding process.

Mr. Turner addressed the life of a wood floor and the number of sands and refinishes allowed before a floor would have to be redone. He noted that the finish used on the gym floor will be oil based and would be good for many years.

VOTE: the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

4. High School Soundfield Upgrade Project

Ron Turner provided the following background information on this agenda item: the current sound amplification systems deployed in the high school classrooms are outdated and no longer function properly.

Lightspeed is the proprietary vendor of the more modern soundfield systems that the District has deployed in the four other district schools. These systems are very affordable and user friendly, and the district receives excellent customer support from the Lightspeed team whenever needed.

The installation would occur after July 1, 2021, and Board approval allows Lightspeed to gather all of the

necessary equipment to start immediately in July. This purchase value includes a credit of \$3,200.00 for a trade-in of the district's old systems. This contract value is in the anticipated range for the proposed 21/22 FY budget.

MOTION: Mrs. Thompson made a motion, which was seconded by Dr. Goulding, to award Lightspeed Technologies, Inc., a contract to install and supply 32 soundfield systems in the high school for \$32,544.00 and to waive the bidding process.

VOTE: the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

5. Lyme School Tennis Court Project

Ron Turner provided the following background information on this agenda item: renovation of the Lyme School tennis courts is included in the five-year facilities plan and is scheduled for the summer of 2021. The bid pricing is within the budgeted value, and April Board approval will allow the vendor to make preparation for a July start.

Classic Turf is the same vendor who replaced the high school tennis courts with post and tension concrete in June of 2020. They did an exceptional job with the project, were very conscientious, and completed the job on budget and on time. Mr. Turner has spoken with the representative and, with Board approval, they will put the district's work first for the summer schedule.

For those unfamiliar with the CREC bid process, below is a description of their process from their website:

All of the CREC contracts are established through an Invitation to Bid (ITB) or Request for Proposals (RFP). CREC awards bids based on the lowest responsive, responsible bidders. We take into account quality of service, proven performance, and pricing. RFPs and ITBs are conducted in accordance with purchasing procedures mandated by state procurement laws and regulations, and are available to all public and private schools, colleges and universities, cities and towns, and non-profit organizations.

The ITB/RFP Process

- CREC determines the need to specific commodities, products, and/or services through discussions with customers, research, and market trends.*
- CREC issues an ITB/RFP for the commodity/product/service.*
- The ITB/RFP is advertised on the DAS website and in the Hartford Courant.*
- All qualifying responses are evaluated by CREC.*
- Awards are made to one or multiple vendors.*

FieldTurf is also the only company in the CREC marketplace that offers post and tension concrete tennis courts as part of their scope.

MOTION: Mrs. Leonardo made a motion, which was seconded by Dr. Powell St. Louis, to award FieldTurf, parent company of Classic Turf, a contract to renovate and install post and tension concrete tennis courts at the Lyme School for the value of \$231,000. The contract value is bid priced from the CREC Cooperative Purchasing Marketplace.

VOTE: the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

6. 2021-2022 Budget

Mr. Neviasser reported that with the addition of grant funding from the ESSER funds, the district has been able to further reduce the budget from a 0.73% increase to a 0.47% increase. This change will further reduce the costs to the towns as noted on the *Impact to Towns* page from the budget book (attached to minutes for informational purposes).

MOTION: Dr. Goulding made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Shoemaker, to approve the 2021-2022 budget of \$34,874,548 (0.47% increase).

VOTE: the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

7. Donation Letter

Mr. Neviasser reported on the many requests from the community on how we can support and recognize the staff for such a successful year. He reviewed a proposed letter to be sent to the community to ask for their support of the recognition of the staff at the end of the year banquet.

The Board reviewed and wordsmithed the letter.

MOTION: Mrs. Leonardo made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Thompson, to approve the community donation letter as revised.

VOTE: the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

8. Nonrenewals of Non-Tenured Staff

It is annual practice to ensure compliance with state statute, and in accordance with Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-151(b), which gives authority to the Superintendent to determine whether a non-tenure teacher should be offered a contract for the subsequent school year, Mr. Neviasser recommended the nonrenewal of all non-tenured teachers.

MOTION: Mrs. Thompson made a motion, which was seconded by Dr. Goulding, that pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151, the Region 18 Board of Education non-renew the teacher contracts of the non-tenured teachers at the end of the 2020-2021 school year as recommended by the Superintendent. Further move that the Superintendent of Schools be directed to communicate this action of the Board in writing to named staff members.

VOTE: the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

9. Annual Review of Tuition Policy/Rate

Mr. Neviasher reported that per Policy 2420, the Board is required to set a tuition rate for non-resident students by May 30. The current tuition rates are as follows:

Tuition Student Rates

- Grades 9-12 - \$19,000
- Grades 6-8 - \$17,000
- Grades K-5 - \$15,000
- Grade PreK - \$10,000

Mr. Neviasher's recommendation was to retain the current tuition rates for the 2021-2022 school year.

MOTION: Dr. Powell St. Louis made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Leonardo, to approve the tuition rates for the 2021-2022 school year as presented (no change to current rate).

Follow-up discussion involved possibly adding a "not to exceed amount" clause in the tuition regulations to protect families from high increases year to year. Mr. Neviasher noted that the tuition rates have not increased over a four-year period, but that this will be a consideration when reviewing the policy in the future.

VOTE: the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

10. Tuition Student Request for LOLMS and LOLHS

Mr. Neviasher reviewed tuition student requests for LOLMS and LOLHS.

MOTION: Mr. Wilson made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Shoemaker, to approve the tuition student requests for LOLMS and LOLHS as presented.

VOTE: the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

11. Revision of 2020-2021 School Calendar

Mr. Neviasher presented a recommendation that the district end school on Friday, June 18, 2021 to avoid having all students come back for one additional Monday in June. He also proposed that June 21, 2021 be a "staff only day" and will be the day of the staff recognition banquet. This change puts the total of student days at 179 and 187 staff days. The state requirement this year is 177 student days.

MOTION: Mrs. Leonardo made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Thompson, to approve the revised 2020-2021 school calendar with an ending date of June 18, 2021 for students and an ending date of June 21, 2021 for teachers.

VOTE: the Board voted in favor of the motion; Dr. Goulding abstained. Motion passed with a vote of eight in favor and one abstention.

12. Policy Review – Administering Medications to Students

The Board held a first read of an update to Policy 5141.21 *Administering Medications to Students*. The Policy Committee had reviewed recommended updates to this policy from CABE and Shipman and Goodwin, and there was consensus to select the verbiage of the Shipman and Goodwin sample as it was more concise and did not contain as many duplications. Mr. Neviaser reviewed recommended changes to the sample policy which included eliminating the wording of the use of Naloxone for purposes of emergency first aid from the sample policy and using the language in CABE's policy on bus driver training on the use of EpiPens. Mr. Neviaser is researching the wording in the policy of only "full-time" staff members being able to administer medication. The committee recommended leaving the wording in the policy at this time so that they are in full compliance with the law.

This policy will receive a second read at the May Board of Education meeting. No action was necessary on this agenda item.

VIII. Old Business

1. Policy Review and Update – Title I Programs and Special Education

This was a second read of these two policies. The revisions were based on legal standards and changes were made to these policies based on federal law and state interpretation of federal law.

MOTION: Mrs. Shoemaker made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Wilson, to approve Policy 6161.31 *Title I Programs* and Policy 6171 *Special Education* as presented.

VOTE: the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

2. Closing of LOLHS Project

The district is still waiting for the final change order from the State so there is no action required on this agenda item.

IX. Executive Session

There was no need for an executive session.

X. Adjournment

The regular meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m. upon a motion by Mr. Wilson and a second by Dr. Goulding.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Wilson, Secretary

2021-22 Academic Schedule

Lyme-Old Lyme High School

2019-20 Daily Schedule

8 - Period schedule
6 - Periods per day
4 - Day rotation
2 - Periods rotate out per day

57 - Minute periods
3-4 - Class meetings per week based on rotation

130.4 hours per course per year

2020-21 Daily Schedule

8 - Period schedule
4 - Periods per day
2 - Day rotation
4 - Periods rotate out per day

85 - Minute periods
2-3 - Class meetings per week based on rotation

129.6 hours per course per year.

Lyme-Old Lyme High School

Rationale for Change

- Reduce the number of class changes and transitions.
- Incorporate 4 lunch waves.
- Seamless transition to a remote daily schedule if needed.

Lyme-Old Lyme High School

Survey Results

95% of teachers would like to continue with a 4-Period daily schedule.
85 % of students would like to continue with a 4-Period daily schedule.

Lyme-Old Lyme High School

Teacher Comments:

- More time for practice, deeper more meaningful learning experiences for students
- I am able to teach a new concept and give students time to do practice problems all in one class period
- Longer periods allow for more time, more activities, more variety. Students say they appreciate having fewer disruptions to the day.
- We have the ability to work on long term projects together. The longer periods allows us to focus on both academic and SEL/Executive Functioning.
- The extended blocks are helpful in the fact that each period can be split so that students can work on goals and objectives and also have time to receive academic support as needed. This also helps if the student needs to meet with a related service provider.

Lyme-Old Lyme High School

Student Comments:

- Having classes every other day and having more class time make homework easier to manage.
- The 4 period schedule helps reduce the homework load and keeps my head more focused to the task in hand.
- Having more time to work on and complete homework and extra practice. We have more time in class to do more things and have longer, more in depth discussions.
- Having four classes a day cuts down on my stress of having to do homework for 6 classes every single night.
- I believe that these longer classes help keep us more engaged in the topic we are learning

Lyme-Old Lyme High School

Other Benefits of a 4-Period Day

- Reduce the number of students for and with whom teachers must prepare and interact each day allowing for more personalized and focused instruction.
- Reduce the number of classes, and the accompanying assignments, tests, projects that students must address supporting our “balance the ride” focus.
- Reduce fragmentation of instruction in classes requiring extensive practice and lab work.

Lyme-Old Lyme High School

How Do We Compare?

Darien
Wilton
New Caanan
Weston
Greenwich
Simsbury
Ridgefield
Avon
Staples

Lyme-Old Lyme High School

Challenges

- Pacing
- Instructional Practices
- Kinesthetic Learning Regression

Lyme-Old Lyme High School

Looking Ahead

- Uncertainty of COVID restrictions for the 2021-22 school year.
- Overwhelming staff and student support.
- Inter-School collaboration / research.

LOLHS will continue implementing the 4-period, 2-day rotation daily schedule for the 2021-22 school year.

A Closer Look

- Live in the schedule in “normal” times
- Find solutions to the challenges
- Collect and analyze performance data

Lyme-Old Lyme High School

Impact to Towns

		<u>Lyme</u>	<u>Old Lyme</u>
Student Census			
March 1, 2021	1,312	235	1,077
October 2, 2020	1,294	<u>238</u>	<u>1,056</u>
Average	1,304	237	1,067
Percent of total census for billing		18.2%	81.8%

2021-2022 Total Budget	34,874,548	18.2%	81.8%
Less: Estimated Receipts	<u>(146,222)</u>		
Subtotal	34,728,326	6,320,555	28,407,771
Less: Refund of 06/30/20 Fund Balance	<u>(1,725,886)</u>	<u>(324,467)</u>	<u>(1,401,419)</u>
Net Billings to Towns	33,002,440	5,996,088	27,006,352

2020-2021 Total Budget	34,711,631	18.8%	81.2%
Less: Estimated Receipts	<u>(131,664)</u>		
Subtotal	34,579,967	6,501,034	28,078,933
Less: Refund of 06/30/19 Fund Balance	<u>(647,155)</u>	<u>(121,665)</u>	<u>(525,490)</u>
Net Billings to Towns	33,932,812	6,379,369	27,553,443

IMPACT			
Net Billings to Towns	(930,372)	(383,281)	(547,091)
2021-2022 minus 2019-2020 net billings	(2.7)%	(6.0)%	(2.0)%

DRAFT as of 3/11/21: Information subject to change