

LYME-OLD LYME SCHOOLS

Regional School District #18

A Private School Experience



in a Public School Setting

Regular Board of Education Meeting

February 3, 2021

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

Present Via Telephone: Jean Wilczynski

Administration Present: Ian Neviaser, 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: Isabella Hine and Ellery Zrenda, High School Student Representatives

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 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 and Executive Session of January 6, 2021 and Special Meetings of January 13, 2021 and January 27, 2021.

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

III. Visitors

1. Report from Student Representatives

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

At LOLHS:

- Mrs. Kelley's chemistry classes have won the United States Crystal Growing Competition. Her students won three of the top five prizes nationally in the overall crystal, best quality, and coolest looking crystal categories.
- This month, the junior class will begin the SAT prep sessions in preparation for the March 24 SAT exam.
- Winter sports have begun practicing. The boys and girls basketball, fencing and gymnastics teams will begin competition next week. The indoor track team will begin holding meets outdoors in March.
- The second semester has begun, which means the course registration process for the 2021-2022 school year will begin this month. On February 22, a Zoom orientation to the process will be held for the parents of the incoming freshmen class.
- In addition to the scheduling process, Ms. Manfredi, Assistant Principal, is conducting a five-part series of events at the middle school to aid in the 8th grade students' transition to the high school.
- Mrs. Traver, one of the business teachers, was named the Cyber Security Teacher of the Year and given the Passport to Security Award by the Teach Cyber Organization.

At LOLMS: The 8th graders have begun their transition to high school. Assistant Principal Jeanne Manfredi met with all 8th grade students for the first of three transition presentations. Students got a look at course options, what student life would be like and asked many questions. The second presentation is slated for tomorrow. Student life at the middle school has picked up. Boys and girls basketball began last week. The winter running club began today, and many of the clubs such as Math Counts, Science Olympiad and the virtual play have been running as well. The biggest impact on student life has been the regular addition of Blu, the school's therapy dog. Blu has become a staple already...greeting students in the morning, meeting with students that need a "lending ear" or just taking a nap on an anxious student's lap. The middle school showed the movie, *LIKE* and held discussion groups about the effects of social media use. The showing accompanied a parent viewing sponsored by LYSB. As we approach the 100th day of school, the students and faculty continue to work diligently addressing the curriculum and doing so safely utilizing the COVID mitigation strategies.

At Lyme Consolidated School: The following are events that are happening during the month of February:
February 5/ Spirit Day. The 5th grade students will wear their team's favorite sports jersey to celebrate the upcoming Super Bowl.

February 10/ 100th Day of School. Students will celebrate the 100th day of school by participating in many fun activities.

February 12/ Go Red Day. Students will raise money for the American Heart Association by engaging in movement activities during their PE classes. A special thanks to Bonnie Ambruso for organizing this special fundraiser.

The Lyme School Running Club has been running since November 8, and the students have accumulated 967 miles. Students run during their PE classes and during their recess time. Third grader Camden Novak has completed 78 miles on his own. He runs at least 14 laps, which is over 2 miles, at every recess.

At Mile Creek School: On January 25, Mile Creek held a surprise Winter Wonderland Day for students. Members of the PTO worked for many hours on the preceding day to decorate the school, and all teachers planned a day filled with winter fun activities. Remote learners participated in the day from home, and PTO volunteers packed up and delivered the supplies for the day to their homes. The Mile Creek PTO received \$200 from Big Y this month as they were the recipients of the Community Cares Bag Program. As of last Friday, we have collected 283 pounds of recyclable plastic for the Trex Challenge. We will be wrapping up a food drive for the Shoreline Food Pantry on February 5. The next Spirit Day will be held on February 5. It will be Super Bowl Day. Staff and students are encouraged to wear their favorite football team's gear or colors.

In the Preschool Program: The preschool themes for February are feelings and emotions. Students will be enjoying books like *When Sophie Gets Angry, Really Really Angry* and *Sometimes I'm Bombaloo*. Keeping Valentine's Day in mind, the color of the month is pink and the shape is a heart. Jim Dine is the artist of the month. He is well known for the use of hearts in his work. Instead of exchanging Valentine's Day treats, students will be creating one of a kind Valentine cards for their classmates. Students will learn about cultural celebrations and Presidents' Day during the month. Students will have all safety measures in place during the annual Chinese New Year Parade.

2. Public Comment

There was no comment from the public.

IV. Administrative Reports

1. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Neviaser reviewed the February personnel report which reflected several instructional assistant resignations and new hires.

Mr. Neviaser reviewed the February enrollment report which reflected a total in-house population of 1,295 students, an increase of five students from last month this time.

Mr. Neviaser 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.

Professional Days WIN (What I Need Now) blocks for all teachers to support their needs.

Exploring additional planning time for teachers.

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.

Survey sent to certified staff related to suggestions for upcoming professional development days. Time and double planning/engaging remote learners were most common need/challenge this year. Staff felt supported and pleased to be in school full-time.

February 12 professional development day will include community building and pop-up hot cocoa bar.

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

Therapy dog “Blu” has started his official work at LOLMS.

Focus on normalcy at all buildings (sports, musical production/film, winter wonderland) despite challenges with pandemic.

Working with Old Lyme Children’s Learning Center to provide/expand before and after care program (currently only after school for PreK-5).

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 Superintendent and key staff visited a school district in Rhode Island with a BrockFill athletic field and met with representatives from various turf manufacturers. They are planning on visiting another similar athletic field in Milford.

The district will be working with environmental engineering firm, Fuss and O’Neill, relative to testing of water runoff from turf field.

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

Board fully engaged in budget development process to support students and staff.

2. Business Manager’s Report

Mrs. McCalla reviewed the Executive Budget Summary as of January 31, 2021. Spending year to date is on track with last year to date. To note: the numbers presented do not include the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) grant reimbursement of \$343,000.

Fluctuations of note:

Salaries: includes January 29 payroll, not included in last year this time.

Special Education: lower year over year placement costs.

Transportation: Billing differential due to collapsed/reduced routes.

Debt Service: Due to refunding from January 2020 and movement of payment to August.

Year To Date Revenue Report

	2019-2020 Received	2020-2021 Received YTD
Town of Old Lyme	\$27,556,679	\$15,050,923
Town of Lyme	\$6,579,421	\$3,482,522

Mrs. McCalla reviewed the Contingency Maintenance Report which reflected a balance of \$151,072. There was \$3,173 in new spending for campus pumping/hauling/disposal of waste and adjustments to prior purchase orders for actual vs. estimated costs.

V. Educational Presentation

Michelle Dean, Director of Curriculum, gave an update on student progress since March 2020 in a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Monitoring Student Growth." This report included common types of assessment; assessments without state data; pacing guides; PSAT data (fall 2019 and fall 2020); SAT data (spring 2018 and fall 2020); summative assessment data (High School English/Math and Middle School ELA/Math); Aimsweb benchmark cohort comparison (Math/English Lit); ELA Foundations tracker (formative/summative); Bridges pre-assessment (formative); and future plans for monitoring student growth. A copy of Mrs. Dean's presentation is attached to these minutes for informational purposes.

Follow-up questions/comments included: preparation for spring state assessment and inclusion of remote learners; SBAC and NGSS testing period; transient learner definition; period of time it will take to catch up in areas where students are falling behind; ensuring remote learners are sustainable and ensuring they are meeting goals; strength and risk benefit to students being in the classroom; and lack of comparisons with other districts.

VI. Chairman & Board Report

Mrs. Linderman thanked all the staff for all their efforts to develop the 2021-2022 budget and to the Board for their analysis and oversight. She also thanked all for the success the district has had with in-person learning since the beginning of the school year. She stated she was looking forward to the time when all have been vaccinated.

VII. New Business

1. Approval of the 2021-2022 Budget

MOTION: Mrs. Thompson made a motion, which was seconded by Dr. Goulding, to approve the 2021-2022 budget as presented in the amount of \$35,389,237 (a 1.95% increase over current year's budget).

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

Mrs. Wilczynski voiced her appreciation of the historical perspective information that was added to the budget presentation which reflected that the increase over a two-year period was 0.87% and that the 1.95% increase for next year was following a negative budget increase.

2. Tuition Student Request at Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School and Lyme Consolidated School

Mr. Neviasser presented two tuition student requests for the Middle School and Lyme Consolidated School.

MOTION: Mrs. Miller made a motion, which was seconded by Dr. Powell St. Louis, to approve the tuition student requests as presented.

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

VIII. Old Business

1. AP Statistics Textbooks

As reported at the January meeting, the LOLHS math department is recommending the purchase of 20 copies of *The Practice of Statistics (AP Edition)* for the AP Statistics course. This recommendation comes after two professional development training sessions for the AP course and data noting that 95% of AP statistics teachers use this book.

MOTION: Dr. Goulding made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Leonardo, to approve the purchase of *The Practice of Statistics (AP Edition)* for the AP Statistics course.

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.

3. Report of Committees:

- a. *Facilities*. Dr. Goulding reported that this committee met earlier this evening and the condition of the Middle School and Center School was discussed. The administration is very pleased with the sites, both in improvements and cleanliness/sanitizing. Regarding projects districtwide, the Lyme School gym floor is scheduled to be installed during the February vacation, solar projects are wrapping up and the turf field project is moving forward.
- b. *Finance*. No report.
- c. *Communications*. Mrs. Thompson referred to a recent issue of *Lyme and Old Lyme Neighbors* which featured a story on Project Paws, the Tim Buckley Project, and also featured Blu, a therapy dog for the district. There was also discussion about scheduling a meeting to discuss the budget issue of the *Focus on Education* newsletter.
- d. *Policy*. Mr. Neviasser reported on possible legislation which would allow regional school districts to reserve up to two percent (currently allowed one percent) of the current fiscal year's budget to a reserve fund for capital and nonrecurring expenditures.
- e. *LEARN*. Mrs. Linderman reported that at their last meeting, discussion centered on magnet school funding and a teacher residency program to address a critical shortage of teachers of color in the state.
- f. *LOL Prevention Coalition*. No report.
- g. *Sustainability*. Mrs. Miller reported that this committee met last week. The current Trex Challenge (plastic film collection) has netted over 3,000 lbs. of plastic, with the high school collecting 50% of this amount. Current initiatives of the Sustainability Committee include making this program and other initiatives more sustainable and "business as usual" after the end of the challenge. On another matter, Mrs. Miller suggested that the committee reports be given earlier on the meeting agenda. There was discussion on possibly moving these reports after the Chairman and Board report.

IX. Executive Session

There was no need for an executive session.

X. Adjournment

The regular meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m. upon a motion by Mrs. Shoemaker and a second by Mrs. Leonardo.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Wilson, Secretary

Monitoring Student Growth

2020-2021

March 13, 2020-September 2020

March 13, 2020

- Full-remote teaching
- Little time to prepare
- Tech PD/Tech tools
- Scaffolded approach incorporating new learning

Summer 2020

- Research on best practices in remote instruction
- Focus on high-yield instructional tools
- Planning for assessment/instruction

September 2020

- All departments/grade levels reviewed content standards/skills from spring
- Planning for assessment/incorporation into current school year

Tonight's objectives:

1. Using general definitions, provide common understanding of types of assessments
2. Provide qualitative and quantitative data samples K-12 to understand how our students are progressing from last spring - January 2021

Common Types of Assessment

State Testing

- Required in grades 3-8, 11
- Data used in accountability report
- Data is public

Benchmark

- Nationally standardized assessment
- Used to inform intervention services
- Measures growth over time

Summative

- End of unit assessment
- Grades accessible to student and parent

Formative

- Primary use: inform instruction
- Grades may or may not be included in final averages
- Can take many forms/formats

Question: *Without state data, how do we know if our students are progressing as they should be?*

1. Standards/Skills assessment in Fall 2020
 2. Current pacing guides
 3. Evaluation of curriculum compacting
 4. Available standardized data
 5. Common formative and summative assessments
 6. Benchmark data
-

Pacing Guides

Pacing guides provide a structured timeline/estimation to guide curriculum implementation. Qualitative samples:

- **K-5 Math** - *"We are in the same place, if not exceeding pace, from last year due to implementation of pre-assessments".*
- **MS Science** - *"We are definitely moving slower than we did last year...The biggest challenge has been COVID." (Curriculum compacting to address RLs and key NGSS concepts/skills). NOTE: *MS Science is implementing a new, complex curriculum*

Pacing Guides

Pacing guides provide a structured timeline/estimation to guide curriculum implementation. Qualitative samples:

- **HS English** - *"We are on pace with where we want to be as a result of longer class periods and continuity of instruction. Less time is spent activating prior knowledge since activities can be completed by the end of one class period."*
- **HS Math** - *"Some courses are on schedule [with last year] and some are up to three weeks behind. We are addressing deficits from the spring and adjusting to the block schedule and accommodating every remote learner".*

**HS Math has prioritized concepts in the curriculum units that are best taught 'live'. This has changed the order in which some things are taught and slowed some courses.*

PSAT Data

Fall 2019

ERW	550
Math	533

Fall 2020

ERW	540
Math	540

SAT Data

Spring 2018

ERW	580
Math	580

Fall 2020

ERW	574
Math	566

ERW: 604 Math: 607

Summative Assessment : HS English

2019-2020 Common Assessment gr. 10-11

11.2	88%
11.1	88%
ECE	87.5%
10	82%

2020-2021 Same Common Assessment Gr. 10-11

11.2	88%
11.1	82%
ECE	91.5
10	85%

Summative Assessment : HS Math

2019-2020 Common Assessment

Alg II	81%
Geom.	86%
Pre-Calc.	88.1%

2020-2021 Same Common Assessment

Alg II	88%
Geom.	85%
Pre-Calc.	88.1%

Summative Assessments: MS ELA / Math

Short Story/Narrative

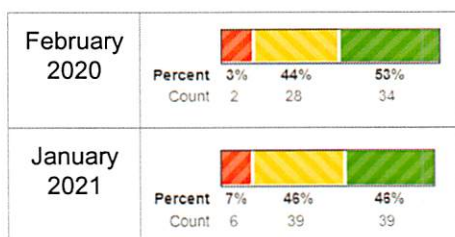
2019-2020	86.6%
2020-2021	81.2%

End of Unit Test, Math

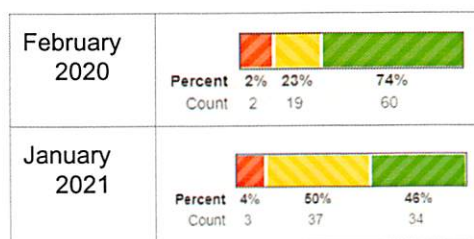
2019-2020	77%
2020-2021	81%

MS IAB: Formative

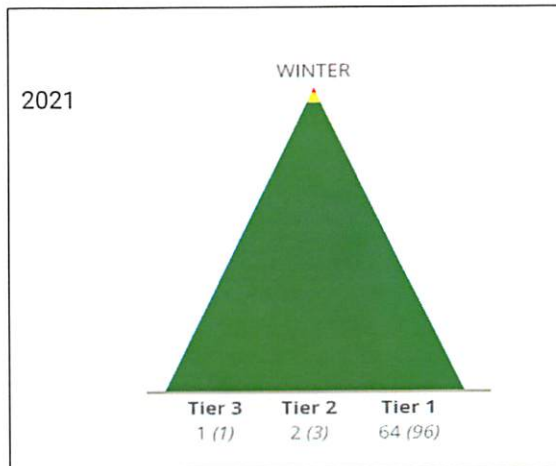
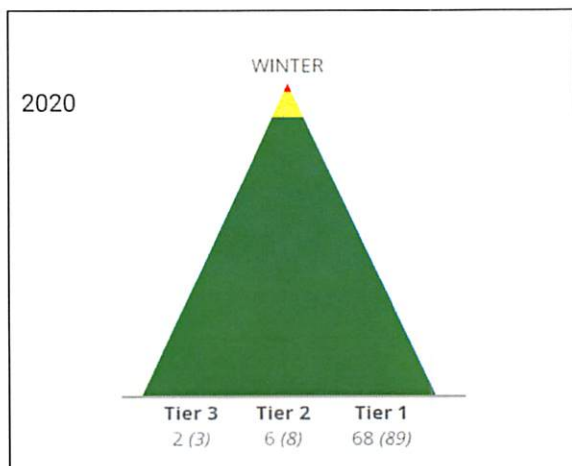
Listening and Interpreting (Cohort Score)



Reading informational text (Cohort Score)

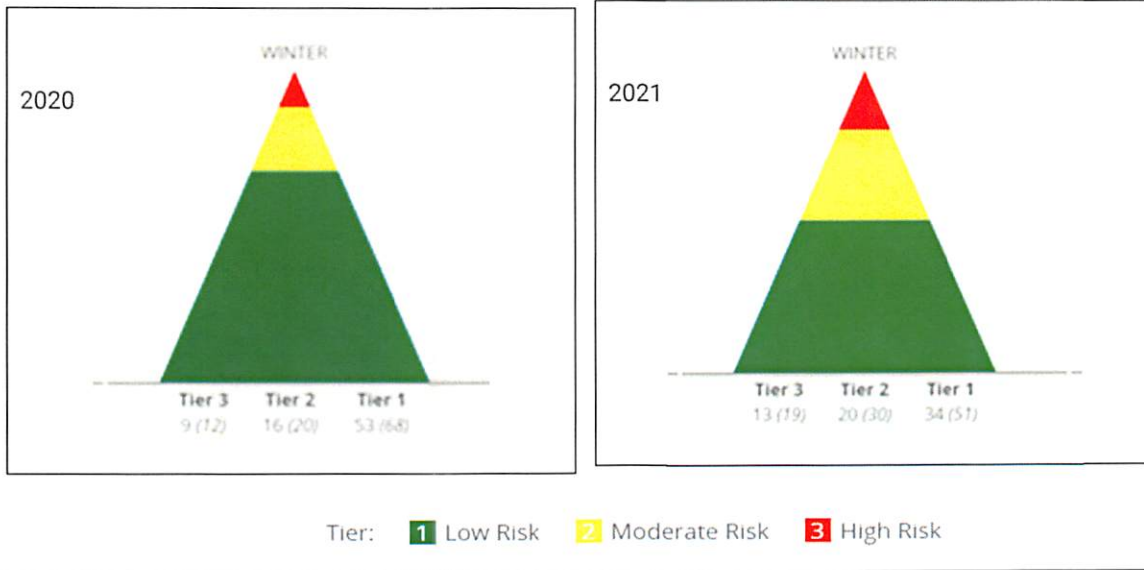


Aimsweb Benchmark Cohort Comparison (Math)



Tier: 1 Low Risk 2 Moderate Risk 3 High Risk

Aimsweb Benchmark Cohort Comparison (E.Lit)



ELA Foundations Tracker (Formative/Summative)

Test Date	Sounds (5)	WORDS		SENTENCES		Total % Correct
		Spelling (5)	Marking (5)	Phonetic (5)	Trick (5)	
12/18/2020	5	5	5	5	5	100%
12/18/2020	5	4	5	4	4	88%
12/18/2020						
12/18/2020	5	4	5	5	4	92%
12/18/2020	4	5	4	4	4	84%
12/18/2020	5	4	5	3	4	74%
12/18/2020	5	5	5	3	2	
12/18/2020	4	5	5	4	5	92%
12/18/2020	4	3	0	4	5	64%
12/18/2020	4	3	3	4	1	60%
12/18/2020	4	5	5	5	5	96%
12/18/2020	4	4	4	4	2	72%

Grade level sample from recent unit assessment:

83% of students scored at or above benchmarks

Data is used to inform instruction:

- Re-teaching
- Targeted intervention
- Monitor growth over time

Bridges Pre-Assessment (Formative)

MCE Student solves at least 6 facts correctly.	MCE Student solves a 6 x 8 array accurately for finding product.	MCE Student solves at least three problems correctly.	MCE Student solves at least three problems correctly.
1	1	1	1
1	1	1	1
1	1	1	1
1	0	1	1
1	1	1	1
1	1	1	1
1	1	1	1
1	1	1	1
1	1	1	1
1	1	1	1
1	1	1	1
1	1	1	1
1	0	0	1

Grade level sample from recent unit pre-assessment:

90% of students scored at overall mastery level

Data is used to inform instruction:

- What off grade level standards need review/reteaching
- Whole class vs. targeted support
 - Curriculum compacting

Continue to monitor student growth including RLs when possible

Plan for expanded summer programs K-11

2021-2022 school year:

Implement measures to monitor student readiness, esp. RLs



Prepare students for Spring state assessments

Transition meetings between grade levels/sharing of data

While we are pleased and confident in the growth students are making, we would be remiss if we didn't **CELEBRATE** our teachers.

Thank you to our staff, students and families who have worked to support in-person learning and managing safety protocols.

