

## Parent Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

February 28, 2018

Attendance: Principal Jim Wygonik, President Dottie Wells and 11 parents.

### Homework Guidelines:

- Lack of communication is often the reason for dissatisfaction with homework.
- When parents or students have issues with homework, they should speak with the teacher as the first intervention.
- Do not wait to speak to teacher until problem escalates. The goal is to solve problems before they become stressful for students/families.
- Parents should use the Homework Guidelines (attached) to begin their dialogue with the teacher. Is everyone following their responsibilities under the guidelines?
  - Is teacher connecting homework to curriculum?
  - Is teacher communicating that connection to students?
  - Is teacher following weekly homework time guidelines?
  - Is student/parent doing their part?
- If problem is not resolved, come speak to Jim. He can help assure that everyone is following through with their roles according to the guidelines. Do not wait until problem escalates to speak to Jim.
- Homework free weekends are designed to help students and families “balance the ride”. Going forward the dates will be put on the high school calendar so that families can plan around the weekends.

### Drug/Vaping Policy Enforcement:

- Vaping is an epidemic across the country.
- LYSB is hosting a community forum on vaping. (Forum rescheduled for Monday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the LOLMS auditorium)
- The school, in conjunction with LYSB, has been doing programs in gym and health classes to educate students on vaping.
- Administration has been ramping up efforts to consistently check bathrooms, gym and other areas where kids may be vaping. They are encouraging teachers to do so as well.
- The parking lot is also being monitored.
- Only one student is allowed per stall in the bathroom.
- The locker rooms have been locked at the school and are only opened when adequate adult supervision is available.
- Administration wants kids to know that there is no safe place to vape at LOLHS.
- School rules apply at all school-sponsored events, including sports games, even away games, and field trips. That means NO VAPING AT ANY SCHOOL SPONSORED EVENTS, even if off campus.
- If kids are caught in possession of vaping equipment they will be punished with a 1 day suspension.
- If kids are caught in the act of vaping they will be punished with a 2 day suspension.
- Kids will also be punished for selling vaping supplies.

-NO VAPING SUPPLIES OR EQUIPMENT ARE ALLOWED ON SCHOOL PROPERTY NO MATTER A STUDENT'S AGE, INCLUDING IN A STUDENT'S CAR.

-A "starter kit" for vaping costs only about \$35.

-1 "pod" equals 1 pack of cigarettes worth of nicotine.

-Students can also use marijuana in Juuls.

- THC concentration is high in THC oil.

-There is a slight odor from vaping but there is no smoke. The out-breath is vapor and heavier than air so it sinks to the ground.

-If a student is caught vaping:

- Parent will receive a phone call
- Student will receive In-School Suspension
- LYSB will meet 1 on 1 with student for a 2 hour education program to explain the dangers of vaping

-Vaping is not being done only by a particular kind of kid. It is being done by ALL kinds of kids.

-Vaping IS an addiction.

-The school is immediately following up on every lead it receives about vaping/drug activity.

-Vaping WILL NOT be accepted at LOLHS.

-Superintendent will be sending a message to parents to let them know that Region 18 is serious about vaping.

-Jim is encouraging parents and students to come forward with ANY information they have about student substance use.

-Once Jim gets information, he is then able to follow up, including searching a student, or their locker, back pack or car.

-The Bullying Hotline (Navigate to: <http://www.region18.org/> then follow links to [Lyme-Old Lyme High School - Counseling/Guidance - Bullying: Anonymous Reporting](#)) has evolved to include information about vaping and other threats. The name will be changing.

-There is currently no way to send pictures or links through the hotline. But anyone can email Jim pictures or links that are of concern.

-Parents or students may also contact LYSB (860-434-7208, [mseidner@lysb.org](mailto:mseidner@lysb.org)) if they have concerns or information about any student.

-Administration and LYSB will keep ALL "TIPSTER'S" INFORMATION CONFIDENTIAL.

### Emergency Safety Protocols:

-In light of recent events, LOLHS is stepping up what they are doing to keep the school safe.

-Administration met with staff in February to review emergency protocols.

-Teachers reviewed protocols with their homeroom students.

-Jim met with each grade yesterday

- He talked about everyone "upping their game"
- Talked to kids about the need to take the drills seriously
- All kids at LOLHS must feel safe here and know that there is a safety plan
- They went over different emergency scenarios:

1. Medical Emergency-everyone must stay in classrooms in order to protect the privacy of the person needing medical assistance.
2. Shelter in Place Emergency-No one is let into or out of the school but business continues as usual inside of the school until notified that all is clear by the police.
3. Lockdown Emergency-Immediately get to the closest room. Door shades are drawn and each room is locked from the inside by the teacher. No one goes in or out until the door is unlocked from the outside by Jim or the police. Gym classes or those outside have special locations to go to in a lockdown emergency. People in the Commons will go to the auditorium. Even fire alarms are ignored during a lockdown. Kids were instructed to listen to the adult in the room. Each teacher has been instructed to use their best judgment in each situation. No one can predict what may happen so each situation has to be judged at the time. Teachers may instruct students to hide in a closet, or potentially, run out of the school. It will depend on circumstances on the ground, at the time of an event. Students MUST listen to the adult in order to minimize confusion. The police do not want innocent students getting in the way or being mistaken for a perpetrator.

-Students were instructed to take care of each other.

-Students seem to be taking this very seriously.

-There is another teacher training already scheduled.

-For everyone involved in Region 18:

- IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING!!!
- It is not snitching. It is helping.

-There are resources available for kids in crisis and the administration focuses on kids in need.

-Building is open from 8am-5pm on weekends and 6am-10pm on weekdays. It is our building and people should feel safe coming and using the facilities.

-Jim wants life at LOLHS to remain open, fun and great for students and families!

### Student-Led Walk-Out

-Scheduled for March 14th

-Jim is working with a great group of seniors to prepare an appropriate and meaningful program.

-The police will be present at the event.

-The school will respect all views and opinions.

-Students will not be required or pressured to participate.

-Teachers may attend the event if all of their students are participating. If any student does not wish to participate, their teacher will remain in the classroom to teach during the event.

-The event will be peaceful.

The next PAB meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March, 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the LOLHS Library Media Center.