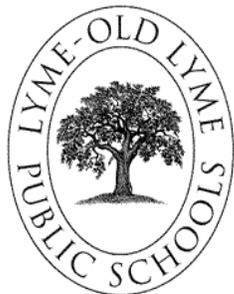


LYME-OLD LYME PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Small Schools, Big Ideas



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REGION #18

Regular Board of Education Meeting

Center School

February 1, 2017

Board Present: Michelle Roche, Chairwoman; Beth Jones, Vice Chair; Jean Wilczynski, Treasurer; Rick Goulding, Secretary; Erick Cushman; Diane Linderman; Nancy Lucas Edson; Mary Powell St. Louis; Stacy Winchell

Administration Present: Ian Neviasher, Superintendent of Schools; Elizabeth Borden, Director of Curriculum; Michelle Dean, Principal of Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School; Melissa Dougherty, Director of Special Services; Holly McCalla, Business Manager; Jeanne Manfredi, Assistant Principal of Lyme-Old Lyme High School; John Rhodes, Director of Facilities & Technology; Neil Sullivan, Assistant Principal of Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School; James Wygonik, Principal of Lyme-Old Lyme High School

Others Present: Gina Wohlke, AFT President; Matthew McCarthy, High School Student Representative; two community members from Lyme-Old Lyme

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairwoman Roche. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

II. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Mrs. Linderman made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Winchell, to approve the minutes of Regular Meeting and Executive Session of January 4, 2017

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

MOTION: Mrs. Lucas Edson made a motion, which was seconded by Dr. Powell St. Louis, to approve the minutes of Special Meetings of January 11, 2017, January 18, 2017 and January 25, 2017.

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

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III. Visitors

1. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

2. Report from Student Representatives

Matthew McCarthy reported on the following activities taking place at the schools:

At LOLHS: On January 28, the Winter Ball took place at the Branford House on the UConn Avery Point Campus. A good time was had by all. The second semester has begun as mid-term exams wrapped up last week. For the second year in a row, students from Mrs. Kelly's chemistry class came in second place in a national crystal growing contest. This Friday, the LYSB is sponsoring an event with former NBA player Chris Herren who will speak to the student body about drug addiction. Also this Friday night will be the second annual freshmen "lock-in." Ninth graders can spend the night in the gymnasium to participate in games, movies, food, and fun. Participants will sleep over night in the gym and wake to a donut breakfast. The Life Skills program was recently recognized by the Town of Old Lyme as their citizens of the year.

At LOLMS: The new year is off to a really positive start at the middle school. The entire student body participated in a CANVAS Boot Camp with the technology and teaching staff so they can start diving into the online learning platform. The teachers have posted course materials and are using the assignment calendar; some are using more advanced features as well. The 8th graders continue their six session series with Safe Futures exploring interpersonal communication, active listening, and boundaries. The 6th and 7th graders will get an abbreviated and age-appropriate program later in the year. The upcoming musical, Alice in Wonderland Jr., will take place on February 10-12. Tickets can be purchased at The Bowerbird or the main office. The 6th grade ROARS recognition assembly was well received; it reflected much support between the 6th grade team and the students. The 7th grade team hold their annual Soup Kitchen service project on February 16. The entire class will participate in food preparation for roughly 200 diners, and about 12 students will be selected by lottery to work at the New London Soup Kitchen in the evening as servers.

At Lyme Consolidated School: On February 2, the 4th grade will be participating in the National Assessment of Educational Process (NAEP). NAEP is the largest nationally representative and continuing assessment of what students know and can do in various subjects. It is administered by the National Center for Education Statistics within the U.S. Department of Education. The results are released as The Nation's Report Card, which provides information about student achievement to educators, parents, policymakers, and the public. Fifth graders Nyla Goulis and Griffin McGlinchey have been selected to attend the 18th CAS Annual Elementary Celebration of the Arts at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington. On February 14, all of the students at Lyme School will participate in activities for "Healthy Heart Day" sponsored by the American Heart Association. On February 24, the PTO will be holding a "movie night."

At Mile Creek School: January 18 was a School Senate Spirit Day called “Wacky Wednesday.” The students had a blast with mismatched clothing and crazy hair. Starting at the end of January and until mid-February, the elementary schools are holding grade-level meetings to work on curriculum initiatives and to review student data for SRBI. Kindergarten registration was held on January 30 and 31. February 3 will mark another School Senate Spirit Day. In honor of the upcoming Super Bowl, students and staff are invited to wear attire of their favorite teams. On February 9, the 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students will travel to LOLMS to watch the middle school play. On February 10, the kindergarten report cards go home. February 17 is a half day for students with professional development in the afternoon for staff.

In the Preschool Program: Preschool will be completing their unit on hibernation this month and moving on to learn about feelings and emotions. They will be reading books like “It’s Ok to Make Mistakes” and “I Feel Silly.” They will be hosting a Family Fun Day on February 10 at which time the students and family members will be completing a variety of projects that support fine motor skills. At the end of the month, in preparation for Dr. Seuss’ birthday, the preschool classrooms will reading “My Many Colored Days” by Dr. Seuss.

IV. Administrative Reports

1. Superintendent’s Report

Mr. Neviaser reviewed the February Personnel Report which reflected several new hires and resignations.

Mr. Neviaser reviewed the February Enrollment Report which reflected a total of 1,314 students (in-house).

Mr. Neviaser reported on the remainder of the budget process which culminates with the referendum in May.

Mr. Neviaser noted that during the discussion of the 2017-2018 calendar, a question was raised about student absences on half professional development days that occur prior to vacations. In response to that question, Mr. Neviaser provided the following data.

	Lyme School	Mile Creek	LOLMS	LOLHS
October 7	12 (ave. is 2.12)	9 (ave. is 5.81)	13 (ave. is 12)	34 (ave. is 5.18)
December 23	16 (ave. is 2.12)	15 (ave. is 5.81)	37 (ave. is 12)	39 (ave. is 5.18)

Mr. Neviaser reported that the high school faculty collected over \$700 to outfit two Syrian refugee students who attend LOLHS in formal attire for the Winter Ball which took place last Saturday. He noted how this is another example of the caring and compassion of the staff and their commitment to all students.

2. Business Manager's Report

Mrs. McCalla reviewed the Executive Budget Summary as of January 31, 2017. Fluctuations of note:

Administrative Services: reclassification of technology spending.

Instructional Programs: general purchasing down year over year.

Special Education: reduced tuition year over year.

Benefits: due to an encumbrance this year not in system last year.

Mrs. McCalla reviewed the Contingency Maintenance Report which reflected a balance of \$74,444.

New spending is associated with server/security cameras district-wide and some additional spending of \$1,700 at Lyme Consolidated School to troubleshoot boiler issues.

V. Educational Presentation

There was no educational presentation scheduled.

VI. Chairman & Board Report

Mrs. Roche reported that past history reflects a very low turnout at the polls at the budget referendum when the increase is low. Mrs. Roche asked the Board members to get the word out on the referendum and encourage the community to vote.

Mrs. Roche encouraged Board members to contact the building principals if they were interested in touring the facilities to see what is going on in the schools.

VII. New Business

1. Multipurpose Athletic Field Evaluation

The following background information was provided by John Rhodes, Director of Facilities and Technology, on this agenda item:

Over the past few years, it has become increasingly difficult to maintain the multipurpose athletic field quality due to field usage and limited water supply. As part of the school district five year plan, the Facilities Committee has scheduled an evaluation of our three athletic multipurpose fields. The scope of the evaluation will include the three multipurpose fields: track field, soccer/lacrosse field located between the High School and Middle School, and practice field behind the High School. The selected design professional will submit a plan for addressing the needs of the multipurpose plan.

A request for proposals was issued for design professional bids to perform this field evaluation. Three of the four bidders were interviewed by the Facilities Committee. One bidder was disqualified for not meeting the bid delivery date. A list of the bidders is listed below.

FIRM NAME	CONCEPT DESIGN LUMP SUM	CONCEPT DESIGN LUMP SUM WITH ALTERNATES	PROJECT DESIGN WORK
Gale Associates	\$9,165	\$33,215	\$17,700
Kaestle Boos	\$16,500	\$42,300	5%
Milone & McBroom	\$19,250	\$29,000	5-6%
BL Companies *delivered 12/22 at 3:35pm (after bid opening at 2pm)	\$16,500	\$39,500	6%

Based on the interviews, the Facilities Committee recommends hiring Milone and McBroom to perform the evaluation of the three multipurpose fields.

Mr. Rhodes addressed various questions from the Board on the specifics of what these companies do, purpose behind getting the evaluation, the background on choice selection, and community involvement in the process.

MOTION: Mr. Cushman made a motion, which was seconded by Dr. Powell St. Louis, to award Milone and McBroom the contract to perform an evaluation of the three multipurpose fields for \$29,000 funded from the undesignated fund.

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

2. Approval of 2017-2018 Proposed Budget

MOTION: Mrs. Wilczynski made a motion, which was seconded by Dr. Goulding, to approve the proposed 2017-2018 budget in the amount of \$33,634,271, a 0.49% increase over the current budget.

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

Mr. Cushman advised on the proper placement of the American flag at Board meetings.

VIII. Old Business

1. Update on Oil Tank on Main Campus

Mr. Rhodes gave an update on the oil tank on the main campus and the additional charge of \$115,000 that the company of record is charging the district. The Director of Facilities is working with the installer on coming to an agreement on a fair market value for the additional work that has been done on the installation of the oil tank.

2. Search and Seizure Policy

Mr. Neviasser reported that he requested a written opinion from Shipman and Goodwin in response to Mr. Cushman's question from last month as to whether or not to include the use of drug “sniffer” dogs to search student lockers in the current district search and seizure policy and how it would impact the district’s liabilities. The Board reviewed the opinion of legal counsel summarized below:

- Courts general hold that the use of a sniffer dog on property located in a public place is not a “search” for purposes of the Fourth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.
- Connecticut courts have not addressed whether the use of a sniffer dog on property located in a public place is a “search” for purposes of the Connecticut constitution.
- The constitutional and statutory standards applicable to searches of individual students.
- Searches of lockers in public schools by drug sniffing dogs generally have been found to be constitutional.
- Courts generally find that it is unconstitutional for a district to have drug sniffing dogs sniff individual students.
- Additional considerations with regard to the constitutionality of searches by drug sniffing dogs:
 - The use of reasonably reliable dogs.
 - Limit the involvement of police.
 - Document a justification for a planned sweep by drug sniffing dogs.

Mr. Wygonik, Principal of the High School, Michelle Dean, Principal of the Middle School, and Matt McCarthy, student rep to the Board, gave their opinion on drug usage at the high school and the impact that drug sniffing dogs would have on the student body. Mrs. Linderman discussed whether there was a need for a policy change or the development of a regulation. Additional comments were made on how to implement a policy should it be developed, the importance of informing the community about the possibility of this new process, and the importance of it being well documented and thought out. The possibility of lawsuits was also discussed.

The Policy Committee will review the current search and seizure policy at their meeting scheduled for February 15 at 6:00 p.m. and report back to the Board at a future meeting.

3. 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.

4. Reports of Committees

- a. *Facilities*. No report.
- b. *Finance*. No report.
- c. *Communications*. No report.
- d. *Policy*. This committee will meet on February 15 at 6:00 p.m.
- e. *Learn*. No report.

IX. Correspondence

There was no correspondence to report.

X. Executive Session

There was no need for an executive session.

XI. Adjournment

Upon motion by Mrs. Winchell and a second by Mr. Cushman, the regular meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Goulding, Secretary