

# EAST LONGMEADOW SCHOOL COMMITTEE

## MINUTES

DATE: March 7, 2016

Time: 7:00 PM

Where: Superintendent's Conference Room

Present: Richard Freccero, William Fonseca, Deirdre Mailloux ; Gregory Thompson, Elizabeth Marsian-Boucher, Gordon Smith, Superintendent of School, Pamela Blair, Assistant Superintendent for Business, Student Rep; Kathy Celetti, Recording Secretary;  
Chair: Is anyone else video or audio taping this meeting - Yes - ABC News

### Approval of Minutes

2.1 Bill moved to approve the February 22, 2016 regular session meeting minutes, Deirdre seconded the motion

Chair: those in favor of the motion say aye (4 ayes), those opposed say nay (0), abstention (1) motion carries (4-0-1)

### Committee/Sub-committee Communications

Student Rep: This Wednesday is a half day for Pk-12; Friday the 4<sup>th</sup> term ends at the high school. Spartanum was a huge success on Friday and Saturday. I saw so much talent in our school, I was amazed. The Robotics' Team is headed to the 2016 VEX World Competition in Louisville, Kentucky on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Winter sports have concluded with some tough losses in basketball and hockey, but some really exciting games. Read Across America Day was Friday; students from the high school got to read to the students at Meadow Brook Elementary School. Really a lot of fun and very rewarding. They were really cute; they really enjoyed the big kids reading to them.

Bill: ELEEF dinner Saturday night was a huge success, great times. Congratulations to all the grant winners, good night. Tomorrow I will be attending a program at Gillette Stadium called "Breaking the Cycle on Poverty One Meal at a Time". An event that is co-sponsored by MASC and New England Dairy Council. They want to start providing breakfast for kids in schools. At some point, this will be a discussion that will happen within this district. I'm going as a representative for our district, as well as a MASC Board of Director. I will bring back information that I will share both with the committee and Lori Pahl, Food Service Director.

Beth: Speaking of ELEEF, it was a good event; they gave a little bit over \$16,000 in grants, which is very nice. ELEEF needs more members, more people to participate, they need help. It's a lot of work for the people that are doing it. If anybody is willing to be brave, come and join them. I want to mention the 5<sup>th</sup> grade Art Show at BP is March 28<sup>th</sup> at 7PM.

Greg: Last week we had a Heritage Park Study Group meeting. The architects came in with a few drawings; we are close to a final proposal options. We found out that it's a very difficult site. The backside is fully sloping, half of the area is wet, and the proposal was \$5.4 million dollars. The whole entire project has netted us one small field, up on a hill with limited parking. The site has so many limitations; it seems to me, that we have to meet one more time. Not really feasible cost wise to spend that kind of money on that specific location. The group is doing its work, talking about it one more time and we will see what happens from there.

Preliminary elections are on March 15<sup>th</sup>, for (6) candidates running for (2) finalist for the final Board of Selectmen position in April. So March 15<sup>th</sup>, preliminary elections for BOS.

Rich: Agenda item 7.4, we are voting on the Statement of Interest for East Longmeadow High School. February 29<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Smith and I visited select people and they already voted unanimously to support the SOI. Tomorrow we continue our negotiations with the Appropriations Committee to get more funds for our projects, along with DPW, Selectmen and Capital Planning Committee. That's tomorrow night at 6:30, meeting with Appropriations. Finally, I want to compliment Mr. Smith, the police and the faculty from Mapleshade and Birchland. I think when things become difficult in schools, very difficult, we pull together, the way they took care of the power outage situation, with the traffic delay and all that, I feel really good about our schools when things could be a real problem and we make it not a problem.

Mr. Smith: It was a combined effort, DPW, police, fire and staff was incredible and the parents.

**Opportunity for visitors to Address the committee** - No one wished to address the committee

### Superintendent's Report:

5.1.1 The East Longmeadow High School leadership team presented their new scheduling system. The main focus: what's best for the students; maximize time on learning and reduce the learning gaps between sequential and core courses. Our priorities: full-year sequential and core academics; maintain long blocks and classes to meet 4-5 times per week. What are the benefits of this new schedule: more flexibility when scheduling courses, more choices for full-year and semester based courses; students can take core subjects for a full-year with no gaps between academic years; full-year and semester courses offer longer block periods for activities and projects; teachers have same amount of prep and duty time. Our next steps are to secure funding for new books; input the new schedule into Rediker, continue to message out new schedule to parents/students and order any necessary textbooks.

### Assistant Superintendent of Business :

5.2.1 Ms. Blair presented her mid-year budget report.

Greg motioned to accept the mid-year budget report, Beth seconded the motion.

Chair: those in favor of the motion say aye (5) ayes, those opposed say nay (0), motion carries (5-0).

5.2.2 Mountain View beneficiary gift of \$330.97 donation from Target "Take Charge of Education Division Target"

Greg moved to accept the \$330.97 donation for Mountain View from the "Take Charge of Education Division Target", Bill seconded the motion.

Chair: those in favor of the motion say aye (5) ayes, those opposed say nay (0), motion carries (5-0).

### Old Business

6.1

### New Business

7.1 School Committee evaluation was discussed. Deirdre stated that she is in favor of the evaluation. The committee agreed to hold on the evaluation until a later date.

7.2 Memorandum of Understanding with the East Longmeadow Bus Drivers was discussed.

Beth moved to accept the MOU for the bus driver's contract for July 1, 2015- June 30, 2018 dated March 7, 2016, Deirdre seconded the motion.

Chair: those in favor of the motion say aye (5) ayes, those opposed say nay (0), motion carries (5-0)

7.3 Custodian Contact and Memorandum of Agreement was discussed.

Deirdre moved to accept the between East Longmeadow School Committee and East Longmeadow Public Schools Custodians Association starting July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2019, Beth seconded the motion

Chair: those in favor of the motion say aye (5) ayes, those opposed say nay (0), motion carries (5-0)

7.4 Statement of Interest for East Longmeadow High School. The Chair stated that the BOS have approved this unanimously on February 29<sup>th</sup> if this year. Bill is going to read the motion that we need to have officially read tonight.

Bill: Having to convened in an open meeting on Monday, March 7, 2016, prior to the closing date, the East Longmeadow School Committee of the Town of East Longmeadow, in accordance with its charter, by-laws and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest form dated on or before April 8, 2016 for East Longmeadow High School located at 180 Maple Street which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future: Priority #3 (Loss of Accreditation); Priority #5 (Replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility); Priority #7 (Replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range

of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements); and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the East Longmeadow Public School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority. Deirdre seconded the motion.  
Chair: those in favor of the motion, Bill (Yes), Beth (Yes), Greg (Yes), Deirdre (Yes), Rich (Yes) motion carries (5-0)

7.5 A Town Human Resource Department was discussed. The chair said that we are in favor of a town HR Department; however we the school department still need to have our department. The Appropriations Committee is recommending an HR Department and is asking each elected board to discuss and vote on it. DPW has already done so. Mr. Smith has drafted a letter telling our town administrator that we are in favor of it, with the understanding that we still have to have our department, collect bargaining agreements, employee supervision, policy manual, principals hiring and firing, etc. Deirdre said that she understands how important this is for the town. Bill said with the FMLA regulations, the HR department can take it on.

Greg moved that we recommend the creation of an HR department within the town of East Longmeadow with an understanding that the school department and school committee have specific responsibilities that may be unique to the school employees and should remain as school department responsibilities. This would include but not be limited to the school committee conducting the collective bargaining with the school department collective bargaining units along with school department administrators being responsible for the hiring, evaluation, discipline, and dismissal, should it be necessary of the school department employees. Bill seconded the motion.

Discussion: Greg asked that once this position is created that the school department be kept in the loop and be part of the decisions as it's developed, that's important.

Chair: those in favor of the motion say aye (5) ayes, those opposed say nay (0), motion carries (5-0)

Bill moved to adjourn at 8:15 PM, Greg seconded the motion.

Chair: those in favor of the motion say aye (5 ayes), those opposed say nay (0), motion carries (5-0).