

# EAST LONGMEADOW SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE: May 23, 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, Kathy Celetti, Recording Secretary;

Chair: Is anyone else video or audio taping this meeting - No

Mr. Smith: We would like to do a Moment of Silence for our Nurse Leader, Kelly LaBombard. She lost her son, Thomas Flanagan to a car accident on Sunday night. Please take a moment to keep the LaBombard and Flanagan family in our thoughts and prayers.

Recognition of Student Rep: Thank you for all your contributions to the School Committee meetings.

## **Approval of Minutes**

2.1 Richard moved to approve the May 9, 2016 regular session meeting minutes, Gregory seconded the motion

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

## **Committee/Sub-committee Communications**

Rich: I finally went to an athletic event were the boys team won. I think all of us are appreciative of our town meeting.

Beth: I'm speechless, graduation is next week and my kids are graduating, Bill's daughter is graduating. It's going to be a good day.

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

## **Superintendent's Report:**

5.1.1 Request for Interest - DEP Assistance Program for testing lead and copper in school drinking water was presented by DPW Superintendent Bob Peirent. In a recent announcement by Governor Baker there is 2M dollars set aside to assist schools with a comprehensive testing for lead and copper in schools drinking water. The MassDEP is soliciting interested school districts to receive a free of charge analysis service to assess the status of lead and copper in our drinking water. We do need to apply for this by May 27<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Smith said that our schools for the past 10 years have been checked. Mr. Freccero asked if we will continue with our formal procedure and test all five schools this year. Mr. Smith answered yes.

Rich moved to do the Request for Interest (RFI)-DEP Assistance Program for testing lead in school drinking water, Beth seconded the motion.

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

5.1.2 Green Energy Project for Mountain View and Meadow Brook was presented by Matt Payne, John Alba and Bob Peirent. Mr. Alba said this is a positive cash flow, will be paid off in under (5) years. It does have a (10) year warranty. Rich asked if this would be done over the summer. Mr. Alba said they would start construction when school gets out and be done by August 19.

Deirdre moved to accept Green Energy Project for Mountain View and Meadow Brook Elementary School, Greg seconded the motion

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

5.1.3. An update on students in good standing was presented by: Dr. Flanagan, Mr. Marchewka and Mr. Paige.

Mr. Smith stated that this was presented to the school committee last year, and the school committee asked for an update. Mr. Marchewka said since we started this program, we have seen a 56% reduction in tardiness. We still maintain over a 95% daily attendance rate. Administrative detention infractions are down by 23%. Mr. Freccero said that he was envious of this program, spectacular. Bill asked if this trend will continue and Mr. Marchewka stated yes. Dr. Flanagan said we are very lucky, are kids are awesome! Beth, in the old policy you could work of tardy points, but in the new program you can't. Mr. Marchewka stated, you asked us to use our professional discretion, which we are.

5.1.4 East Longmeadow High School Handbook revisions for 2016-2017 were presented by the high school administration. These revisions have been approved by the Principal Advisory Council.

Topic # 1 - "School Social Functions" Proposed Change: Dr. Flanagan said we added an age cap, must be under 21, submit a guest application and have a CORI done. Our reasoning for this is to ensure our students are safe. Greg had a question regarding the CORI "what is the determining factor you would use" Mr. Smith gave some clarification to the CORI process. Rich: If you're a 22 years old, you cannot attend the prom? I have a major issue with this. What this policy does is take the discretion from administration and puts it right to the school committee. Here's a scenario: if a young lady whose boyfriend served in the military and comes back from wherever he was, he's 22, she appeals to the high school administration, then appeals to the superintendent and then it comes to us. I don't like that decision making. It belongs at the high school administration. Mr. Smith stated this is not a school committee policy. Rich: I commend how the administration feels, but this is how I feel. I feel the administration has proven their worth on making discretionary decisions. I don't think they need to add under age 21, I trust them explicitly.

Greg moved to accept Topic #1 School Social Function changes as presented, Deirdre seconded the motion

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

Topic #2 - "Co-Curricular Code Attendance" Proposed Change: If a student is absent, attends less than a full day of school, or comes in late (after 8:00AM) on the day of an event or on the Friday preceding a Saturday event, he/she will not be allowed to participate or attend unless his/her tardiness has been cleared by an administrator. Rationale: Students who wish to participate in after-school co-curricular must be present during the school day as their education is their main priority.

Rich moved to accept the Co-curricular Code Attendance as amended, Deirdre seconded the motion.

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

Topic #3 - "Physical Education Language Update" Proposed Change: Must pass (3) Physical Education courses and some language changes. BMI "This is a state mandate". Rationale: These changes reflect current practice and state mandates. Add "Opt Out for Parents"

Greg moved to accept the changes to the Physical Education Language to include parents have the right to Opt Out of BMI, Beth seconded the motion

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

Topic #4 - "Student in good Standing" Proposed Change: Students, who reach four hours of administrative disciplinary action during the current athletic season as defined by the MIAA, will lose eligibility from athletics and/or extracurricular activities for one week. Clubs and other extra-curricular activities will also follow the MIAA calendar. Furthermore, within the same athletic season, each subsequent disciplinary action will result in an additional week of suspension from extra-curricular activities. Rationale: Tweaks to this policy are necessary to make it more equitable from one season to the next.

Greg moved to approve Topic #4 Student in Good Standing as presented, Rich seconded the motion

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

**Assistant Superintendent of Business :**

5.2.1 Birchland Park Middle School beneficiary donation of \$675.60 from "Box top for Education"

Rich moved to accept the beneficiary donation of \$675.60 from "Box top for Education", Deirdre 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 East Longmeadow High School beneficiary donation from Veritech Corporation was discussed. This had to do with the MassMutual filming a commercial at ELHS.

Deirdre moved to accept the beneficiary donation of \$250.00 from Veritech Corporation to ELHS, Beth seconded the motion

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

5.2.3 East Longmeadow High School beneficiary donation of \$200.00 from Target "Take Charge of Education Program"

Rich moved to accept the beneficiary donation of \$200.00 from Target "Take Charge of Education Program", Beth seconded the motion

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

5.2.4 Meadow Brook beneficiary donation of \$100.00 from Target "Take Charge of Education Program"

Greg moved to accept the beneficiary donation of \$100.00 from Target "Take Charge of Education Program", Deirdre seconded the motion

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

5.2.5 Mountain View beneficiary donation of \$200.00 from Target "Take Charge of Education Program"

Beth moved to accept the beneficiary donation of \$200.00 from Target "Take Charge of Education Program", Greg 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 - None**

**New Business**

7.1 Just a reminder that on June 9<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 is the Staff Recognition and Hall of Fame induction. This will take place at ELHS.

7.2 Jaycees request for use of baseball field and high school, school grounds for the fireworks display on July 3<sup>rd</sup> was discussed.

Greg moved to approve the Jaycees request for use of high school grounds, fields and parking lot for fireworks display on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, Deirdre seconded the motion

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

Chair: Senior Projects went well, very enjoyable. Also thank you to ELCAT volunteer Mr. Maki.

Deirdre moved to adjourn at 8:00 PM, Beth seconded the motion.

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