

## EAST LONGMEADOW SCHOOL COMMITTEE

### MINUTES

DATE: January 23, 2017

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

WHERE: Superintendent's Conference Room

Meeting called to Order by: William Fonseca, Chair

Chair stated that this meeting is being both audio and video taped by ELCAT, is anyone else doing either.

Present: Richard Freccero, William Fonseca, Deirdre Mailloux, Gregory Thompson, Elizabeth Marsian-Boucher; Gordon Smith, Superintendent of School, Pamela Blair, Asst. Superintendent for Business, Valerie Annear, Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; Student Rep; Kathy Celetti, Recording Secretary

#### **Approval of Minutes**

2.1 Approval of the January 9, 2017 regular session meeting minutes.

Rich moved to approve the January 9, 2017 regular session meeting minutes, Deirdre seconded the motion.

Chair: Any further discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor please say aye (5 ayes), that motion passes.

2.2 Approval of the January 9, 2017 executive session meeting minutes

Deirdre motioned to Table the January 9, 2017 executive meeting minutes, Beth seconded the motion.

Chair: Any further discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor please say aye (5 ayes), that motion passes.

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

Student Rep: Last week we had our final exams and that went smoothly. Second semester started today, and this week we will be selling tickets for the Senior Semi-formal which is on January 28<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Smith: Did you attend the library study session, Yemi said no he didn't. Mr. Smith said about 60 students attended the library study session, pretty good success. The library is looking to do it again in the spring.

Deirdre: Just an update on the Health Advisory Council meeting. It was pretty interesting. We had the nurse Ellen Hirschberg from Northampton HS present. She did give a very nice PowerPoint presentation. They have been utilizing the SBIRT Screening at their school. We have brought this up a couple of times with our nurses. She spoke about the experiences they have had at Northampton using this program, they have been doing it for four years now. It's been very helpful. They use this screening along with their eye and hearing screening. The kids and parents are used to it. Also in the meeting we did hear from Diana Gomes over at BP, that they have started screening some of the 7<sup>th</sup> graders and it seems to be going well. I will forward the PowerPoint presentation for everyone to take a look at it. So far Diana Gomes had positive things to say about it. It might be worth it to have them come back and give us an update on the screening. They did have some parents who have opted out, they said that was fine. So far the kids have been very honest and very open. They really want to present it as a way that the kids are comfortable talking with them about everything and that it's not going to be ha ha we got you, you are in trouble. We want to help you. We haven't put it into the high school yet, I believe that's for next year.

Mr. Smith: By law next year we have to have it in the high school, this year was the pilot year for BP.

Rich: The Collaborative Committee met, working through the Grinspoon Award winners for May. We had a Sick Bank meeting. I went to the wrestling match; once again they lost, just to keep my record clean. But one good thing that Bill knows is that we didn't have a wrestling program, it had collapsed for a bit. We have several wrestlers, (2) females, so it was good to see a team out there.

Beth: ELEEf's Winter Ball is coming up February 11<sup>th</sup>; the cost is \$75 a ticket. A portion of the sales goes towards ELEEf and the rest towards the event.

Deirdre: There isn't going to be a Silent Auction this year.

Beth: No but there is going to be a Live Auction. They are going to do "Principal for a Day", which is lovely. Also, tickets for some games and so forth instead of the traditional Silent Auction.

Greg: Plus there is a sponsorship opportunity. I know on the walk in, there on the wall an opportunity for small businesses in town to participate in a sponsorship.

Beth: You are correct, there is going to be a wall where you walk the "Red Carpet" in. There will be a wall that you have your photograph taken, I think they are hoping to have Mass Live there to take some pictures to put in the paper. So hopefully sponsors will get a little bit of that. There might be if it works out "Virtual Reality" by Robert Charles who has that, maybe come in and do it for free. Trying a couple of different things, this year. I think it will be nice.

Deirdre: The high school orchestra will be there.

Beth: The orchestra will be playing, absolutely. It should be a nice night.

Bill: Last Wednesday the Policy Sub-committee met, we started looking at the Fund Raising Policy. We did some research and due diligence and acquired 8-9 policies to go through. We will develop something and bring back to the committee.

Greg: Fund Raising

Bill: Yes

Greg: Good, thank you

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

#### **Superintendent's Report:**

5.1.1 Makerspace presentation was presented by: Dr. Allen, Ms. Santaniello and Mr. Fredette

Makerspace is a place where ALL teachers can bring students to get out of the normal classroom to create projects which are tied to curriculum. To problem-solve and collaborate and extend their learning in new and exciting ways. This is collaboration between Mr. Maki, Ryan Quimby and three schools (Birchland Park, Mapleshade and Mountain View). A committee was formed with representatives from the schools. Ms. Schloyer, Librarian at BP was a huge supporter of Makerspace. The Makerspace resources are: 3-D Printer, Laser Cutter, MacBook's and all sorts of recyclables donated by families and the community. About 80 participate in Makerspace.

#### **Assistant Superintendent for Business:**

5.2.1 Birchland Park gift donation from Premier Source in the amount of \$500 for the Youth Safety Committee was discussed.

Greg moved to accept the \$500 gift donation from Premier Source for the Youth Safety Committee, Beth seconded the motion.

Chair: Any further discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor please say aye (5) ayes that motion passes.

5.2.2 Birchland Park anonymous gift donation from a parent was presented by Ms. Blair. The gift donated of \$200 with a matching gift donation of \$200 from Cornerstone Real Estate Advisors totaling \$400 to be used in the Sapphire Team Health Room and special need classroom was discussed.

Greg moved to accept the BP anonymous gift donation of \$200, and matching gift of \$200 from Cornerstone Real Estate Advisors LLC for a total of \$400, Rich seconded the motion.

Chair: Any further discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor please say aye (5) ayes that motion passes.

5.2.3 Mapleshade library gift donation of \$25 from Ms. Tiago in memory of Samuel Jones was discussed.

Beth moved to accept the \$25 gift donation from Ms. Tiago in honor of Samuel Jones, Rich seconded the motion.  
Chair: Any further discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor please say aye (5) ayes that motion passes.

5.2.4 The FY2017 December Budget Report was presented by Ms. Blair

Greg motioned to accept the FY2017 December Budget Report, Rich seconded the motion  
Chair: Any further discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor please say aye (5) ayes, that motion passes

**Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction** : None

**Old Business :**

6.1 Superintendent's Contract was presented.

Rich motioned to accept the Superintendent's Contract as negotiated from July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2022, Greg seconded the motion.  
Chair: Any further discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor please say aye (5) ayes that motion passes.

**New Business:**

7.1 MSBA Vote Language to approve the submission for Accelerated Repair for Meadow Brook Elementary School was presented. Mr. Smith said that in order to submit a Statement of Interest in their Accelerated Repair Program we needed to use the specific language from MSBA. This Accelerated Repair for MB is specifically the roof, windows and doors.

Greg moved, having convened in an open meeting on Monday, January 23, 2017, 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 for the Accelerated Repair Program dated on or before February 17, 2017 for the Meadow Brook Elementary School on 607 Parker 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 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;

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: Any further discussion?

Rich said that his concern is that if we do this, will it muddy the waters with getting a new high school.

Greg: What it's going to entail is some money from the town \$1.5 million

Mr. Smith: The roof is our estimate of \$1.5 million. If we are invited, design and develop, we would then know the actual cost.

Greg: Then it would require approval of Town Council, some sort of funding by town vote, correct? Debt exclusion/bonding.

Bill: There are several options for funding.

Greg: Free cash, but it would require the town to commit to at least \$750,000 appropriating the whole amount. So, we will have to approve the \$1.5 million, plus the design and in the end it will cost us whatever the number is minus the reimbursement.

Beth: It's very important to also understand that MB is a school that is solid, it's not going anywhere. We are not thinking, if we do this, it means we are thinking, any foreseeable issues for 20 plus years. That we are interested in taking the school down, that's important too. It does concern me that folks up there think that we are throwing money at an old school, but what we've done is we are trying to keep the school where it needs to be so we don't have to build a new school.

Bill: If you go back to the facilities study, the recommendation was the high school and two elementary schools, keep your middle school which is the newest of the buildings, and K-2 school MB. Invest money so we wouldn't be looking for new projects. Concentrate on the high school which we are doing now. Further down the road, we can look at the elementary schools. Keep MB going that's what we are doing. I agree with Rich, we don't want to muddy the waters, or try and mislead anybody. We are still committed to submitting another SOI for a comprehensive project at the high school.

Rich: This project is not in the discussion of bonding this year.

Mr. Smith: This project we prioritized for just the roof, not the exterior renovations. So it could be in the discussion for bonding. And that was actually one of the questions the group that's looking at Capital looked at and we said that we are possibly pursuing the Accelerated Repair Program. The earliest we would know is May. So if we learn in May, they could take it off the list and probably look at other items on the list.

Greg: Or that could be the place holder for the town that might actually work towards our advantage. So that should be part of the discussion.

Bill: I think we will know before the final budget by the Town Council. Because of the timing, this money has to be taken out of FY17 MSBA funding; it's not the FY18 budget. The money is sitting there in Accelerated Repair Program. I think because of the quick turnaround that Mr.

Smith alluded to; I think we are going to find out probably before the end of the fiscal year. And I would suspect that the Town Council and if you look at the Charter and the time-line, there is plenty of time for the project either funded through Capital project or remove totally with a different form of funding depending on debt exclusion.

Greg: And that should be our discussion with Town Council. It's strategic as well as in terms of debt exclusion verses capital expenditure, whether it is bonding or free cash, because of potential future projects.

Bill: If you remember what's happened in the past, the Council also has to approve this submission. They will be getting the same language at their next meeting to approve, it has to be certified. This will be in our minutes in their next meeting, because we have to approve the minutes and also this motion plus our minutes approving the motion has to be attached to the application along with the minutes of the Council. The vote of Council certified by the town clerk also has to be attached before Mr. Smith can submit the application. We have been working on strategically lining everything up so that we have everything done by then.

Beth: Assuring that the MSBA knows it's two different funds

Bill: It's the same funds

Beth: It's the same funds, two different groups. If we ask for this we should be clear. I just want people to understand that we are not going to put that aside, that we are still working on it.

Bill: Two years ago, they changed their qualifications and in the past they looked at all the projects. But now they separated it out, its Accelerated Repair and designated that as a separate entity of its own with the funding source being the same as MSBA gets funded. But it doesn't hurt the Statement of Interest for long-term building projects.

Deirdre: But yet there is no guarantee that we would even qualify.

Mr. Smith: It's one smaller group submitting.

Bill: It depends on what the community or districts are looking as far as long-term, building projects are going to be. Because we are agreeing to their terms, say 20 years, but I'm sure if it's 18 and something severe happens out there, they are not going to hold us accountable.

Greg: if we do get approve for the project (windows, roof) is there anything to say that we couldn't do a Comprehensive Renovation and apply for MSBA funding or is that not even an option?  
Mr. Smith: If you go through the Accelerated Repair, you are saying, let's say that you did all three (boiler, windows and roof), you are saying that once they provided that money, you have done that project; you're not coming back to the MSBA.  
Greg: For that building, for anything.  
Mr. Smith: For a core program for 20 years, which would be a Comprehensive Renovation? So if we would go into a Comprehensive Renovation project that would be on us.  
Greg: Got it, great, thank you.  
Chair: Any further discussion, we have a motion and a 2<sup>nd</sup>. All those in favor please say aye (5 ayes), that passes.

7.2 Revisions to Policy EGAB "Fees for Copies of Public Records" were discussed.

Rich moved to approve the fees to Policy EGAB "Fees for Copies of Public Records" and the waiving of 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, Deirdre seconded the motion.  
Chair: Any further discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor please say aye (5) ayes that motion carries.

7.3 Waiving of 12 month Retirement Notice for Final Year Compensation.

Rich motioned to approve the (2) request for Waiving of 12 month Retirement Notice for Final Year Compensation that was discussed in executive session, Beth seconded the motion.  
Chair: Any further discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor please say aye (5) ayes that motion passes.

7.4 Conflict of Interest Training was discussed. Mr. Smith said that every employee including School Committee members must complete this training. You need to sign the Acknowledgement of Receipt, and take the on-line training, complete the Certificate at the end of the training and hand it into Central Office.

Chair: The Chair thanked Mr. Maki (ELCAT) and our student rep.  
Rich moved to adjourn at 9:00, Greg seconded the motion.

Chair: All those in favor (5 ayes), oppose (0). That motion is unanimous