

EAST LONGMEADOW SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES



DATE: March 13, 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. Board of Health stated that they are recording their portion of the meeting.

Roll Call: 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 February 27, 2017 regular session meeting minutes.

Richard moved to approve the February 27, 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 carries.

2.2 Approval of the February 1, 2017 meeting minutes from School Committee and Town Council Meeting

Gregory moved to approved the February 1, 2017 meeting between School Committee and Town Council minutes, Richard seconded the motion

Chair: Any further discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor please say aye (4 ayes), any oppose (0), (1) abstention, that motion carries.

Committee/Sub-committee Communications

Student Rep: Throughout the week several teachers will be scheduling review sessions for the 10th grade MCAS, which are next week. This is very helpful for anyone who needs it.

Gregory: I want to comment on the presentation on March 7th, "Anxious Parents/Anxious Students discussion. I tell you what, it was great! Well attended. Certainly important information, as a parent and certainly for our students and our own children. I believe ELCAT is going to have that on. Mr. Maki said that's the plan, not confirmed yet.

Gregory: stay tuned. If you get a chance certainly watch it. It will only be on for a limited time because of the licensing and such. It certainly is a well worth, well attended event. Hopefully, we see more stuff like that in the near future.

Mr. Smith: She was very charismatic

Gregory: She was great! She even brought comedy into the whole discussion which really make to the topic of anxiety not so, it's a serious discussion, but certainly makes it a powerful discussion. Deirdre and I both had the opportunity to walk through four of our schools in the past two weeks. Had a tour by the principal, tours of a lot of classrooms. We got to see a lot of the students in action. A lot of issues we've been talking about in the action, technology and such. Also, a lot of deficiencies that we know about. Just a good reminder so, it was good to do that.

Deirdre: Just to tag onto that, I had a great time also. We did get to see a little bit of MakerSpace at Birchland. Actually, it was the 4th graders from Mountain View that was visiting Birchland, taking advantage of the MakerSpace. So it was great to see the schools collaborating. Actually, to see the Space being used, the way they transformed that library was really neat. And to see the amount of technology in every classroom we went into, they either had laptops, they were doing robotics, and the kids they were all doing something, whether it was coding and writing. Just a lot of fun to go in and see the kids. I did talk with them and the kids are so engaged. We are working on this, take a look at that. No qualms about it, whether they were in 3rd grade or 5th grade, they had no problems talking to each other. It was a lot of fun. Spartanum, it was such a great time. I think we all had a change to go see it. Mr. Smith had a great part in Spartanum. Did you do your spinning wheel for tonight? Yemi also had a piano solo, great job; it was really a nice surprise. Every student is so talented, every year I'm just so amazed by what is produced at Spartanum.

Richard: I had the chance to read for the Dr. Seuss contest at Mountain View School that was a lot of fun. Keeping you up to date, I continue to jinx, I went to the hockey game and they lost. I did enjoy Spartanum. I would have to say the biggest laugh for the night was Mr. Smith role. Mr. Smith, you can bring a little bit of comedy to school committee.

Mr. Smith: All the students did a great job, writing and putting that together. All I had to do was spin the wheel.

Elizabeth: The paraprofessional negotiations are going well. We had a couple of meetings. Everything is going well; I think we are working nicely together.

Willie Ross is having a big 50th event this fall. See what's going on with the event as it gets closer. See what we can maybe participate in, or help out with because they are pretty excited about that.

Bill: This past Friday, I attended a MASC/MASS joint conference on Poverty Summit at Clark University in Worcester. A lot of valuable information. This is going to hit every district, upcoming short period of time. A lot of uncertainty with administration in Washington, and the effects that it could have. Some very solid studies on poverty and the effects it has on scores. The message there is no district is immune, it's hitting everyone. As I get information, I'll make sure to get it to the committee. Getting a lot of PowerPoints and emails. It was very good, well attended, a well put together program. The thing I want to keep mentioning, is April 25th, Day on the Hill. The new location is the Grand Lodge Masons, across the common from the State House. The State House is undergoing renovations and can't accommodate us this year. Reduces cost is \$35. It's an opportunity to meet with local legislative to discuss issues that week is the house hearing on budget. The week that we are there is very important. There will be a lot of activities, so we will have the opportunity to follow-up with our local legislators as far as budget or anything else.

Beth: Where is the main event?

Bill: The Grand Lodge Masons, across the common from the State House. As I get more information I'll get it out to everyone. It's still in the planning phase.

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

Gregory motioned to add agenda item 7.4 "Retirement Waiver", Deirdre seconded the motion

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

Superintendent's Report:

5.1.1 The Board of Health - Aimee Petrosky, Health Director; Dr. Sarah Perez-McAdoo; Dr. Kevin Hinchey and Karen Robitaille, Director of Health and Equity Program and Director of the Northampton Prevention Coalition, presented "Marijuana Dispensaries in Municipalities" We would like to share with you some information on the new marijuana law and our recommendations surrounding that. We are thinking about going forward with a ballot, what that would do is place a vote on the ballot "Recreational Marijuana" establishment in the community. This does not affect personal use, but does in terms of selling.

Risk factors: Increase of drug use, delinquency, school dropout, teen pregnancy and violent behavior among youths. Most important domain (Community, School and Family).

A.) Work on how parents are parenting

B.) How schools structure to support a healthy decision making

C.) How the community as a whole feels as a culture you can really make a difference.

Protective factor: Exert positive influence, buffer against the negative influence of risk; reduce the likelihood that youths will engage in problem behaviors. MA data from a 2015: Students in grades 9-12: 34% are current users of alcohol (last 30 day use); 18% binge drinking and 25% are users of marijuana. By senior year 51% are current users of alcohol and 33% users of marijuana. Another issue is opioid. In five year EL death count is at (13 deaths). We have two events coming up: Thursday, April 18th, BPMS @ 6PM: Ruth Potee, will speak regarding the neuroscience of addiction and the effect of substances on the developing. Thursday, April 27th, BPMS @ 6PM: Community forum on local control options regarding retail marijuana sales in EL. The BOH would like the school committee's support, that's why we are coming to you first, to hear your thoughts.

Beth: Put information out to our parents regarding the two event dates. I think what you are doing is really great.

Ms. Petrosky: the BOH will be meeting with all PTO's in April

Rich: So the end result is to have a ballot question.

BOH: Yes, it's the only way to regulate it

Greg: You are talking about a complete ban on retail or the edibles?

BOH: The way the legislation was written, you are not able to regulate the edibles.

Bill: We have one shot at shutting this down, and it's in June. If we extend beyond that the regulations could be in place before our next annual election. Critical that the ballot question goes out in June to shut this down if that's the will of the people.

Rich: You should make a presentation for ELCAT

Beth: What about Council on Aging

Deirdre: What about putting information at the Library

5.1.2 Mountain View 5th Grade VEX IQ Robotics Trip "WORLD" to Louisville, KY from April 23-25, 2017 was presented by Ms. Elaine Santaniello, Principal. Ms. Santaniello said the trophy is on display in the library. One of the requirements for the trip is that a parent goes with their child. There are a couple of community sponsors to help with the cost of the trip. The student will be mission three days of school.

Gregory moved to approve the MV 5th grade Robotic trip to Louisville, KY from April 23 -25, 2017, Deirdre seconded the motion

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

Assistant Superintendent for Business

5.2.1 Birchland Park gift donation from the East Longmeadow Basketball Association for BP Student Council in the amount of \$500 was presented by Ms. Blair

Deirdre moved to accept the BP gift donation in the amount of \$500, Elizabeth seconded the motion

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

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

5.3.1 Restructured New Teacher Induction and Mentoring Program was presented by Ms. Annear. This program provides educators new to profession/district with instructional, professional, and personal support that will improve student learning and support the teacher.

DESE Regulations: (Year 1 - 1:1 Mentoring) for incoming teachers with an orientation and induction program

DESE Regulations: (Year 2 & 3 - Group Mentoring) an additional 50 hours of mentoring beyond the first year to move from initial to professional licensure.

ELPS Design: Facilitate a program that meets the needs of all newly hired educator, 2 & 3 year educators who hold a temporary, preliminary, or initial license.

Collegial learning culture that is committed to ongoing growth and development for beginning and veteran educators; Retain qualified and committed educators in school district; Develop teaching excellence to enhance student learning.

Gregory moved to approve the New Teacher Induction and Mentoring Program as presented, Deirdre seconded the motion

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

Old Business :

6.1 The FY2018 Budget was discussed. Mr. Smith said that he and Ms. Blair had a meeting with Denise Menard, Town Manager and Sarah Menard, Town Acct. We discussed level services budget. They both are encouraging us to process our request (green sheet), plus the three additional budget requests.

Ms. Blair did state that the school committee stipends is separate from this budget.

6.2 The Superintendent's Mid-cycle review was presented.

New Business:

7.1 Policy JJE "Fundraising" was presented for a first reading. There were two suggested edits to the policy. First paragraph: "It is the desire of the EL School Committee that fundraising activities are conducted only for specific purposes that may help defray **and/or enrich** the cost of educational programs or activities" Also add to the form at the bottom of the page: "no later than one week in advance of the start of the fundraising activity". This will be brought back for a 2nd reading next meeting.

7.2 MSBA vote language for Core Program Projects for the high school was presented.

Richard moved, having convened in an open meeting on Monday, March 13, 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 dated on or before April 7, 2017 for East Longmeadow High School, located at 180 Maple Street which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which the 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 building 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 the 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 to the East Longmeadow Public School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority. Gregory seconded the motion.

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

7.3 Results from the Mapleshade staff survey regarding make-up day. Based on the survey, the staff agreed to add an additional day at the end of the school year.

Gregory moved that we add an addition day that MS missed to after the last day of school from 8:15 - 12:30, Richard seconded the motion.

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

7.4 Retirement waiver for final compensation was discussed.

Richard motioned to waive the request for retirement final compensation, Deirdre seconded the motion

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

Chair: The Chair thanked Mr. Maki (ELCAT) and our student rep.

Gregory moved to adjourn at 8:55, Richard seconded the motion.

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