

EAST LONGMEADOW SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES



DATE: March 27, 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;
Absent: Kathy Celetti, Recording Secretary

Approval of Minutes

2.1 Approval of the March 13, 2017 executive session meeting minutes.

Deirdre moved to approve the March 13, 2017 executive session meeting minutes, Richard seconded the motion.

Chair: Any further discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor please say aye (5 ayes), oppose (0) that motion carries.

2.2 Approval of the March 13, 2017 regular session meeting minutes

Richard moved to approved the March 13, 2017 regular session meeting minutes, Deirdre seconded the motion

Chair: Any further discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor please say aye (5 ayes), those oppose (0) that motion carries.

Committee/Sub-committee Communications

Student Rep: Last week the 10th graders did the English and Long Composition for MCAS. Term 3 is ending this Friday

Richard: Mr. Thompson, you and I enjoyed MakerSpace last week. Finally Dr. Allen nailed down a date. I enjoyed my time with Bill and Greg. I counted (51) students that were there. Dr. Allen said that some students didn't show up for whatever reason. It was amazing! We had a Collaborative meeting. Teacher recognition, the list is phenomenal from 20 year to 40 years for one of our staff, Dr. Welch, has been with us for 40 years. The recognition is Thursday, June 8th.

Elizabeth: Working on paraprofessional negotiations, it's going well. We have a couple of more meetings scheduled. I have to give a shout out to Mapleshade, Mr. Fredette. Even though I didn't make it there, I did see the video that Mr. Smith showed us. "Learning Carnival", it was packed. I am sad that I didn't go. It wasn't even on my radar. But the cafeteria was packed, standing room only. Looks like the kids had a really great time. Kudo's out to him, it was a great event, also a shout out to Mr. John Wiedersheim.

Mr. Smith: I think the finished product is up on their website.

William: I'm going to piggyback on what Rich said. The MakerSpace was a very well put together event. The kids were really enthusiastic. They really gave it their best, to try and get this project to work. Two of the teams exactly succeeded. Kudo's to Dr. Allen and his staff for pulling it off. It was a good time.

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

Superintendent's Report:

5.1.1 The new Special Education Course "Personal Wellness" was presented by: Dr. Welch, Director of Student Services; Dr. Flanagan, Principal and Ms. Reed, Special Education teacher and Team Facilitator. This is a new course for next school year.

Rational: Due to increase in IEPs and 504 requiring services for social, emotional and behavioral disabilities, the high school has been looking to create a program to better support our students. We believe that this course will not only provide our students the useful skills related to self-awareness and social development, but also help to reduce out of district placement and services for student with these needs. Ms. Reed will develop an official curriculum with a scope and sequence during the summer. Ms. Reed will be the teacher for this course and it will be co-taught with Mr. Kelleher our Adjustment Counselor. Mr. Maccarini will be teaching units related to career skills and development. Personal Wellness - self-awareness, health and wellness, helping students deal with issues (personal, hygiene, and anxiety. Be responsible citizens, active in the community. This course would meet the graduation requirements for Health, Practical Arts and/or P.E. The team will determine specifically and put in the IEP a waiver of the graduation requirements.

Richard moved to approve the "Personal Wellness" course and that the team will decide through the IEP meetings or 504 meetings the waiver of the graduation requirement.

Greg: And we are going to write that in the course description. The committee was told yes. Greg seconded the motion.

Chair: Any further discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor please say aye (5 ayes), those oppose (0), that motion carries

Assistant Superintendent for Business

5.2. The Meadow Brook library beneficiary of \$500 in honor of Rebecca Lekberg was presented by Ms. Blair

Greg motioned to accept the generous donation of \$500 honoring Becky Lekberg, Elizabeth seconded the motion.

Chair: Any further discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor please say aye (5 ayes), those oppose (0) that motion carries.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction - none

Old Business :

6.1 Policy JJE "Fundraising" was presented for a second reading. Mr. Smith stated that he did make the recommended changes on the policy and form.

Greg said it would be a good idea to know what percentage of the fundraising money actually goes to the schools. Track the percentage of money. Mr. Smith said that we can add that to the form. Ms. Annear: What percent of fundraising is donated? Is it a community organization or is it an ELPS organization? See how much is going to community service, how much is actually going back to the school.

Chair: Revise the form, the policy is ok. Bring back to next meeting with revise form.

6.2 The Statement of Interest was presented by Mr. Smith. Richard complimented Mr. Smith. Deirdre gave a shout out to a parent in town who has some concerns about the high school. Also read some of the past SOI, so we tried to go back and reflect some of the same language from other school. On page 6, "has the district had any recent teacher layoffs or reduction (NO)? Move custodian and paraprofessionals to next line "has the district had any staff layoffs.

Richard moved to approve the SOI for the ELHS for the upcoming year with the recommended amendments, Deirdre seconded the motion.
Chair: Any further discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor please say aye (5 ayes), oppose (0) that motion carries.

New Business:

7.1 Participation in School Choice for 2017-2018 was discussed. Mr. Smith said that by law, each year the School Committee needs to vote whether to participate or not participate in the School Choice Program.

Richard moved to participate in the School Choice Program for the upcoming school year, Deirdre seconded the motion.

Chair: Any further discussion?

Greg: How strongly is the recommendation of the leadership team? Do they really want to do it? Are they willing to do it?

Mr. Smith: In some cases, it's hard through the survey to get that. Last year there were some that were more passionate than others not.

You have people who are willing to get involved in opening up certain grade levels. Some more passionate than others. Some who responded in the survey said no. If we were to get involved with School Choice, start at the lower level wherever possible, so that the student is growing up in ELPS instead of coming in at the 9th grade level.

Richard: Like the METCO Program

Elizabeth: Can we increase the METCO Program

Mr. Smith: We can, we are looking to do that. We are under enrolled in the METCO Program. I did meet with Ms. Jackson and the principals to look at grade level. For whatever reason the students are withdrawing, so not the METCO program isn't represented at those grade levels.

Elizabeth: More worthy, METCO program has been here for years

Richard: Makes more sense

Chair: All those in favor say aye (1aye), those oppose say nay (4 nays), motion carries (1-4) not to participate in School Choice.

7.2 Communication strategy on the Statement of Interest for the high school was discussed. Mr. Smith stated that this was brought to his attention by Ms. Mailloux. Very good ideas. Ms. Mailloux stated that some things have been brought to her by parents "what's going on with the high school". We do try to get the information out to parents through the internet, ConnectEd, schools. We need to strategize a way of getting the information out in the community, parents. When Greg and I toured the schools, we asked the building principals about their website, none of them are connected. It would really be nice to see some consistency through those websites. It started out as communication strategy for the SOI for the high school, but can be expanded to the district.

Mr. Smith: You have the news section on the website which seems to be getting more people viewing it. Also a section at the bottom, no matter how you add to the news section, if you click view all, you see all.

Greg: We need to tweak social media. Need to make people aware or send them there.

Richard: All schools send out newsletters, we need to add a paragraph to the newsletter.

Greg: When re-staffing central office, make more of a social media presence as part of a job description "getting word out to the public". We need a dedicated person to manage this. I get news through twitter.

Ms. Annear: I had some concerns at first, really made me re-thing it, changed my mind on "twitter".

Ms. Annear said she wouldn't mind doing it until we have a designated person in place.

Elizabeth: I know the high school and Birchland Park have their own website.

Mr. Smith: Link it through Rediker, set-up to connect to student portals.

Elizabeth: Meadow Brook, Mapleshade and Mountain View have no consistency. It's important as move on, to be able to link to one another.

Chair: Let's put this on the next agenda for further discussion

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

Deirdre moved to adjourn at 8:20, Elizabeth seconded the motion.

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