

EAST LONGMEADOW SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES



District Mission

"Our mission in the East Longmeadow Public Schools is to promote achievement and accountability in all endeavors as we educate today for the challenges of tomorrow"

DATE: January 23, 2023

TIME: 6:00 PM

WHERE: Superintendent's Conference Room

Meeting called to Order by: Greg Thompson, Chair

Chair stated that this meeting is being both audio and video taped, and asked if anyone else was taping the meeting.

Roll Call: Greg Thompson, Antonella Raschilla, Elizabeth Marsian-Boucher, Aimee Dalenta, Sarah Truiolio, Gordon Smith, Superintendent, Pamela Blair, Asst. Superintendent for Business, Julia Boucher; Student Rep, Samantha Velazquez, Recording Secretary

Approval of Minutes

2.1 Approval of January 9, 2023 Regular Session Meeting Minutes

Elizabeth Marsian-Boucher moved to approve the January 9, 2023 regular session meeting minutes. Aimee Dalenta seconded the motion.

Chair: Any further discussion? All those in favor say aye (4), those oppose (0), abstain (1), motion carries (4,0,1)

Committee/Sub-committee Communications

Antonella

- ELEEF Gala will be February 11th and you can still buy your tickets
- ELEEF gives a lot back to our schools and teachers

Aimee

- I've attended several Collaborative meetings and there are a lot of exciting things happening. They have a couple new hires in different positions coming up.
- Collaborative has obtained some funds for electric busses, every district will have at least one

Opportunities for visitors to address the Committee:

Superintendent's Report:

5.1.1 Seventh Grade Waiver for ELHS Softball

- Two years ago we did not have a JV team
- Last year the School Committee approved an 8th Grade Waiver and we had 4 - 8th graders player on our JV team
- About two months ago the School Committee approved another 8th Grade Waiver for this year
- 21 potential softball players interested this year, that includes 2 - 8th graders; we would be at risk of not having a JV softball team with numbers being low
- a 7th Grade Waiver is being requested for approval with hopes of getting enough players for the JV team

Elizabeth Marsian-Boucher moved to accept the 7th Grade MIAA waiver for Softball as described by Mr. Magee today. Antonella Raschilla seconded the motion.

Chair: Any further discussion? All those in favor say aye (5), those oppose (0), motion carries (5-0)

Assistant Superintendent for Business Report

5.2.1 FY 2023 Budget Development

- Chapter 70 numbers have gradually increased throughout the years and it's mostly because of the Student Opportunity Act
- There was a drop in FY21 and FY22 and it's due to the pandemic and the drastic drop in enrollment
- There are some areas of focus for budget development: MB Preschool staffing and the Special Education Out of District tuition
- There is a 14% increase in Out of District tuition, normally the increase is around 2%
- Paraprofessional negotiations are also taking place, the next meeting is February 7th
- The current ELPS FY2023 Budget: \$33,319,015

Director of Curriculum and Instruction Report

Old Business:

6.1 2023-2024 School Calendar

- Attendance was provided by Mr. Smith for the half day before Christmas and Thanksgiving from last year to determine what the daily percentage was for staff and students
- The School Committee discussed whether we should make December 22, 2023 a half day or a full school day
- The Collaborative voted on a half day on December 22, 2023

Antonela Raschilla made a motion to have December 22nd in the 23-24 School Calendar a full day and the rest of the calendar as presented.

Elizabeth Marsian-Boucher seconded the motion.

Chair: Any further discussion? All those in favor say aye (5), those oppose (0), motion carries (5-0)

6.2 School Committee Financial Discussion and meeting date for joint meeting with Town Council - February 7, 2023

- The Town Council has invited the School Committee to a mandatory by Charter meeting between the Town Council and School Committee for February 7th at 6:00 PM.

New Business:

7.1 FY 2024 Capital Plan Adjustment

- Mr. Fenney reached out to Mr. Smith and asked if we can move the roof repair project at Birchland Park to our most urgent project
- Greg mentioned that since this project doesn't need to be funded by the Town, it shouldn't be on the list with the other projects that need to be completed
- Instead of the Town funding the Birchland repair project, it will be funded with the Building Rental Funds from Birchland Park

Elizabeth Marsian-Boucher moved to allow the Superintendent of Department of Public Works the ability to use the Building Rental Funds for Birchland Park in order to do the roof repairs and any reconstruction from the water damage above the cafeteria as discussed. Antonella Raschilla seconded the motion.

Chair: Any further discussion? All those in favor say aye (5), those oppose (0), motion carries (5-0)

8. ELCAT

9. Student Rep- Julia Boucher

- Last Wednesday Term II semester ended
- There's Reading Across America day on Friday, March 3rd - All Juniors and Seniors have the opportunity to read in classes at Meadow Brook and permission slips need to be turned in by February 28th
- Many sports have been doing well
- The senior class is having a fundraiser called "Support a Senior Night" at the Thunderbirds game on January 28th; the tickets are \$24 each

Chair: Thank you, Antonella Raschilla moved to adjourn at 7:13 PM. Aimee Dalenta seconded the motion.

Chair: All those in favor say aye (5), those oppose (0), motion carries (5-0)

For a more detailed version of this meeting, go to: www.eastlongmeadowma.gov (ELCAT)

Minutes Recorded by: Samantha Velazquez
Respectfully submitted by: Gordon Smith

Signature