

**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: February 3, 2021
TIME: 6:00 P.M.
WHERE: Superintendent's Conference Room

Meeting called to Order by : Gregory Thompson, Chair
THIS MEETING IS BEING HELD REMOTELY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GOVERNOR OF MASSACHUSETTS' MARCH 12, 2020 ORDER SUSPENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE OPEN MEETING LAW MA G.L.c. 30A, SECTION 20.

PER THE GOVERNORS' ORDER THE PUBLIC WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PHYSICALLY ACCESS THIS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC CAN ACCESS THE MEETING VIA LIVE STREAM AT:

As a preliminary matter, this is Gregory Thompson, School Committee Chair. Permit me to confirm that all members and persons anticipated on the agenda are present and can hear me. Members, when I call your name, please respond in the affirmative

Sarah Truoiolo - here
William Fonseca - here
Antonella Raschilla - here
Elizabeth Marsian-Boucher - here
Gregory Thompson - here
Gordon Smith, Superintendent - here
Pamela Blair, Asst. Supt for Business - here
Kathy Celetti, Recording Secretary - here
Heather Brown, Dir. of Curriculum - here

Approval of Minutes

2.1 Approval of the January 4, 2021 executive session meeting minutes.

William moved to approve the January 4, 2021 executive session meeting minutes, Elizabeth seconded the motion.

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

2.2 Approval of the January 4, 2021 regular session meeting minutes.

William moved to approve the January 4, 2021 regular session meeting minutes, Antonella seconded the motion.

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

2.3 Approval of the January 19, 2021 regular session meeting minutes.

William moved to approve the January 19, 2021 regular session meeting minutes, Sarah seconded the motion.

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

Opportunities for Visitors to Address the Committee:

The following parent Pastor John Chase thanked the committee for opening up the schools. Mapleshade is doing a phenomenal job! Very thankful, we have seen a visible change in our sons since school opened up. Cohort D, best option for my boys. Thank you for your decision to go back live.

Committee/Sub-committee Communications :

William: CTEC at the Collaborative have been operating on a hybrid schedule since October. The CTEC students are in four days a week, with Wednesday being a fully remote day. They produced their first "Student of the Month" award for January and we have several students from EL that were recipients of these awards. Matthew Marr "Carpentry I"; Nicholas Gour for "Info Support Service & Networking I"; Christian O'Brien "Landscaping Technology/Horticulture II"; Kristopher Boutin "Machine Technology II". Congratulations to all those students.

Sarah: I had a question about committees. I was wondering when we might get an update from the committee that's working on the Social Media Policy. Just knowing that we still have a lot of conversation happening out in the public eye and that we still have members of our ELPS community involved in that, so I just want to make sure that while we do have quite a bit on our plates, that we don't lose sight of that so that we continue to work together to move our district forward around a common mission. I wasn't sure when we could expect that to come back to this committee.

Chair: That group will be meeting after February break. We will be meeting collectively and hopefully start to have some ideas from there and bring back to the committee.

Presentations

Superintendent 's Report

5.1.1 Discussion on Local Health with the Director of Public Health and Medical Advisors.

Mr. Smith said that we report to DESE the positive cases that are in the schools on Wednesdays. I reported to today, it would have run any identified positive cases from January 27 through to February 3rd. MB had a staff and two students positive; MS had two students and one staff; BP had one student positive and the HS had three students test positive. We are seeing that the exposure is still happening outside the district. I send my report to DESE, they populate a spreadsheet. If you go to the website, COVID section, there will be a link (positive cases) in schools.

Ms. Petrosky : In December we had 44 cases (0-19); 145 for ages (20-50); and 161 for ages 51 plus. About (25) of those were in our facilities, so not community-based. In January we had 54 cases (0-19); 124 for ages (20-50); and 110 for ages 51 plus. There is a slight bump in the pediatric cases, we knew this was going to happen when school started up. So far we have been able to properly identify, quarantine and isolate positive individuals. No school-based transmission so far. Parents have really been great about identifying their students or teachers and staff that they are positive and sharing close contact information. Quickly removing students from the general population. Having school one week in and one week out really helped. Once we identify the positive, those students are going to be out. That model is really working in our favor.

Elizabeth : The State puts out their numbers (0-19) and (20-29), why are they clumped together? Do they even break up those numbers? If we could have them by grade, that would be great.

Ms. Petrosky : I could break that down for you and have that at next meeting.

Chair: Ms. LaBombard, we are two and a half weeks in, how is it going?

Ms. LaBombard : The nurses are doing an awesome job. They are doing what they need to do.

Chair: Contact tracing, if family is not receiving information from the school, then you are not a close contact. If kids are coming down with something, they should notify us.

Ms. LaBombard : They should wait for a test/results and stay home. If the test is negative, they can come back.

Ms. Petrosky : Stop the Spread sites are going quick, parents need lab confirmation.

Chair : We spoke about extra sport sessions at a greater risk, how do we go about making a decision?

Ms. Petrosky : Hockey is a high risk #1 cluster, basketball, we are watching state level and will provide that for you.

Chair : Are we finding that students are wearing proper mask?

Ms. LaBombard : Yes, they are.

5.1.2 Mr. Smith gave an update on ELPS learning models

Mr. Smith : We are in our third week of the hybrid model. We have been in two full weeks with each cohort. It's great to see that with us in person and remote learners, we are averaging 97.9% attendance. At MB (97.7%); MS (98.4%); MV (98.5%); BP (97.25%); and HS (98.17%). We are all connecting, that seems to be going really well. We are still dealing with some technology issues, so IT has been with us shoulder to shoulder trying to figure out those situations. In some of those cases we are doing hard wiring to solve some of those issues. We may start renewing staff computers over the next few weeks to make sure we have a computer that can handle all the different devices. Transportation is currently going well. We have 373 students who are riding and we are preparing for a significant number of students in the C cohort who would be eligible to ride. Students in K-6 who are two miles or more are eligible to ride. We are looking at that, how do we start to prepare for March 1st, for families who are looking to come in from cohort C to cohort A or B. We will be reaching out families letting them know that they are eligible for bus transportation. We are also looking at families who have siblings in that K-6 range, but also have siblings in that 7-12 range. Are we able to invite BP (6-8) two miles or more and the HS (9-12) two miles or more? As March approaches, can we off that transportation safely, we would like to do that.

Elizabeth : I know families who want to come back, say the students at BP, maybe they can get them to school, but can't get them home, or if they are old enough to be home for a certain period of time, would this be a lottery process if there is an extra spot available. I know of two families that would like to come back, the issue is the bussing. So if we have space, think about opening it up as a lottery basis.

Mr. Smith : The ridership that's eligible within the two miles is 224 (BP) and 352 (HS), if we can expand through that safely and possibly add more, we certainly can look at that lottery approach. If families are struggling, please let us know that, we've worked through all sorts of different challenges with parents and would like to continue to do so.

5.1.3 Mr. Smith presented the Mater Plan Visioning Session for February 13, 2021 - Mrs. Blair and I are on the Master Planning Committee for the Town. This group is looking to update and put a new Master Plan for the Town in place. They are sponsoring an opportunity for all town residents from 10-12 on February 13th, log in and take part in this visioning session and look at what in the future do we want the Town of EL look like and provide for its residents. We will share this out with the schools.

5.1.4 Mr. Smith and Ms. Brown presented the MCAS Schedules - COVID-19 Context Changes:

- Longer testing windows to test students who may be in school on certain days.
- Suspended requirement for concurrent testing on prescribed dates for high school.
- Postponement of January testing for 12th graders. The Class of 2021 will be eligible for a modified competency termination for ELA and math by passing approved courses and demonstrating competency in that subject in lieu of qualifying MCAS score. Seniors who want to take the test may take them later this school year.
- DESE will reduce testing time for students in grades 3-8 through a session sampling approach, which students take only a portion of each MCAS assessment in each subject. Instead of taking two sessions ELA, Math, and STE, they only take one session.

Testing Dates

- January 7th-May 10th (ACCESS for ELL's) all grades
- February 8-12th and 22-26 (Biology MCAS for 9th graders)
- May 18-27th (ELA and Math/Next-Gen MCAS) 10th and 11th grade, optional for 12th
- April 5th-May 7th (TENT) (ELA MCAS) 3rd-8th grade
- April 26th - May 28 (TENT) (Mathematics MCAS) 3rd - 8th grade
- April 27th - May 28 (TENT) (STE MCAS) 3rd - 8th grade

Assistant Superintendent of Business Report:

5.2.1 Ms. Blair, Asst. Superintendent for Business presented the FY21 2nd Quarter Financial Report.

Old Business:

6.1 Mr. Smith gave an update on the Budget Development for FY22.

Mr. Smith said that currently our budget is \$31,594,089 (every .5% increase equates to approximately \$158,000). The Preliminary budget numbers for level services are: (\$828,106 contractual salary increases) and (\$119,986 contracted services increase) = \$948,092. Level services equates to approximately a 3% increase for FY22. Mr. Smith listed the positions that were lost during the FY21 budget process: HS Asst. Principal; HS Instructional Technology Specialist; BP Spanish Teacher; BP Literacy Support Teacher and MS/MV Academic Coach.

Chair: We do have a scheduled town meeting on Feb 9th with Town Council to discuss preliminary ideas on the budget, and then we will continue to move forward.

Sarah asked if some of the grant funds that you mentioned Pam that will be coming sometime this month, can some of those funds be used for purchases potentially next academic year?

Ms. Blair: That is my understanding. I believe the grant will end in 2023, so that's very promising.

Sarah: That might be another spot that we can tap into to finish out this academic year, but put us in a place to meet with success at the onset of the next academic year.

New Business:

7.1 School Committee meeting dates for 2021-2022 was discussed.

Elizabeth stated we should re-organize maybe before the fourth of July.

Chair: As we get closer to July, we can look at that 1st or 2nd and schedule that.

William moved to approved the 2021-2022 School Committee meeting calendar as presented, Elizabeth seconded the motion.

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

7.2 MOU with ELEA that was presented in executive session.

Elizabeth moved to accept the MOU as written retro active as of February 1, 2021, William seconded the motion.

Chair: Any further discussion?

Sarah: There are parts of the MOU that I am in favor of and other parts that I am not, so I cannot vote on it segments, so I just wanted that to be clear.

Chair: All those in favor say aye (4), those oppose (1), motion carries (4-1)

William moved to adjourn at 7:06 PM, Antonella seconded the motion.
Chair: Any further discussion? All those in favor say aye (5), those oppose (0), motion carries (5-0)
Chair: Thank you Mr. Maki

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

Minutes Recorded by: Kathy Celetti
Respectfully submitted by: Superintendent Smith

Signature