

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: March 27, 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, Aimee Dalenta, Elizabeth Marsian-Boucher, Sarah Truoiolo, Gordon Smith, Superintendent, Pamela Blair, Asst. Superintendent for Business, John Fitzpatrick, Student Rep; Samantha Velazquez, Recording Secretary

Approval of Minutes

2.1 Approval of March 13, 2023 Regular Session Meeting Minutes

Antonella Raschilla moved to approve the March 13, 2023 regular session meeting minutes. Elizabeth Marsian-Boucher seconded the motion.

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

Committee/Sub-committee Communications

Aimee- I attended the Mapleshade staff volleyball game, and it was fantastic. It was so great to see the families and the support back for the schools. It was well put together and well attended.

Antonella- I attended an ELEEF meeting; they're working on their next fundraiser which is Celebrity Bartender Night.

I attended the high school informational night; there was a good turn out and a lot of good questions. The presentation gave out a lot of good information.

Opportunities for visitors to address the Committee:

Superintendent 's Report :

5.1.1 Middle School Math Grading Update

- Mr. Allen brought Jill Payant (Math Coach) and Paul Levesque (7th Grade Teacher and Math Dept. Chair) with him to discuss a math change proposal for Birchland Park
- The math team approached Mr. Allen in January and had some concerns with how the current math standards-based grading system was working for families and students
- The new proposal was presented to the School Council with parents present, to get some feedback from them
- The current Standards-Based Grading doesn't have the impact with parents and students as they hoped
- Not getting percentages and traditional report card grades is leading to kids not trying their best
- With the new proposal, the gradebook would have standards-based grading combined with percentages more clearly helping kids track their grades

Elizabeth Marsian-Boucher moved to approve the Middle School Math Grading Update as presented. Antonella Raschilla seconded the motion.

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

5.1.2 Eighth Grade Waiver for ELHS Baseball

- Kevin Magee attended the school committee meeting to get an approval for the eighth grade waiver for the ELHS baseball team
- The baseball team anticipated 30 baseball participants, but they ended up with only 22
- They are anticipating approximately 8 - eighth graders, this will allow them to fill the Varsity team and JV team
- The eight graders will only be allowed to play on the JV team per the MIAA rules

Elizabeth Marsian-Boucher moved to approve the Eighth Grade MIAA Waiver for baseball to include eight graders. 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 Gift of \$500 to ELHS from the Western Mass News Surprise Squad

Antonella Raschilla moved to accept the gift of \$500 to ELHS from the Western Mass News Surprise Squad. Aimee Dalenta seconded the motion.

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

Director of Curriculum and Instruction Report

Old Business :

6.1 Superintendent's Formative Mid-Cycle Assessment

- The Mid-Cycle Assessment will be brought back to the April 10, 2023 meeting

New Business:

7.1 School Choice for 2023-2024 School Year - Discussion

- A breakdown of the current enrollment at each grade level was presented at the school committee meeting
- We try to keep a balanced enrollment at each school as possible
- The recommendation by administration is to accept eight- 3rd grade students for the 2023-2024 school year

Antonella Raschilla moved to accept the school choice for 2023-2024 school year to add 8 spots to the grade 3 level to the 2023-2024 school year. Aimee Dalenta seconded the motion.

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

8. ELCAT

9. Student Rep- John Fitzpatrick

- We had Spartanum, and it went really well. Students were engaged and a lot of students, faculty and parents attended.
- The senior class just finished up the Tour of Italy fundraiser; we raised a lot of money and it will go toward the senior banquet.
- The prom will be on May 12th at Great Horse
- Students that are juniors and below in the high school and Birchland Park students are completing their course selections
- Tomorrow is the sophomore MCAS

Chair: Thank you John and Mr. Maki,

Antonella Raschilla moved to adjourn at 7:18 PM. Elizabeth Marsian-Boucher 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