

**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: June 21, 2021
TIME: 7:00 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.

Roll Call: Heather Brown, Director of Curriculum and Assessment; William Fonseca; Sarah Truoiolo; Gregory Thompson; Gordon Smith, Superintendent of Schools, Antonella Raschilla; Pamela Blair; Asst. Superintendent for Business; Kathy Celetti, Recording Secretary
Absent: Elizabeth Marsian-Boucher arrived at 8:10 P.M.

RECOGNITION OF CHAIR: Gregory Thompson
Mr. Smith presented to Mr. Thompson with a recognition award recognizing the fact that this has been like no other year. You have been incredible in your leadership and we want to recognize that and it says the Power of a Team, presented to Gregory Thompson for your courageous and consistent leadership throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. ELPS, School Committee Chair 2020-21
Gregory: It really has been an honor to be the chair the last two years and we've been through a heck of a lot, all of us collectively, so thank you all for this year, we made it. Thank you everybody, thank you so much.

Approval of Minutes
2.1 Approval of the June 7, 2021 executive session meeting minutes.

William moved to approve the June 7, 2021 executive session meeting minutes, Sarah seconded the motion.
Chair: Any further discussion, hearing none, all those in favor say aye (4), those oppose say nay (0) motion carries (4-0)

2.2 Approval of the June 7, regular session meeting minutes

Antonella moved to approve the June 7, 2021 regular session meeting minutes. Sarah seconded the motion
Chair: Any further discussion, hearing none, all those in favor say aye (4), those oppose say nay (0) motion carries (4-0)

Opportunities for Visitors to Address the Committee:

Committee/Sub-committee Communications

Antonella: I attended an ELEE meeting last week and we went through the grants that teachers have submitted requesting materials for next year.
Mr. Smith: We did receive a list of grant winners. Certainly we want to thank ELEE. It was an incredible boost at the end of the year to have that happen.
Antonella: It was really nice for the teachers to try to get something that they want.
William: Something positive.
Antonella: ELEE has done an amazing job supporting our schools and it's a great group of parents in our community. They put a lot of work into everything that they do.
Mr. Smith: Very much appreciated and we know this is a challenging year for them, they couldn't hold too many events to fundraise.
Antonella: They are starting to plan events in the future.

Presentations:

Superintendent's Report:

5.1.1 End of Year Presentation: Presented by Mr. Smith and Ms. Brown
ELPS - Working through the challenges of a Global Pandemic...
Thank you to all in the ELPS community for pulling together to overcome the challenges presented by the COVID-19. All ELPS staff members are Rock Stars! Thank you to our Town Departments with whom we closely partnered with: EL Health Department; EL Fire Department; EL Department of Public Works, your partnership and support helped us successfully create a safe environment for teaching and learning.
SMART Goal #1: Supporting the Whole Child
All ELPS staff will create a safe, nurturing, and equitable and inclusive learning/working environment in which students are supported in developing the knowledge, skills and the mindset to become resilient and culturally-proficient citizens.

- Keeping a strong connection with our students and families throughout the pandemic
- 90% or higher of students will report in end-of-year surveys that their learning community/classrooms is supportive and conducive to learning.
- 90% or higher of staff will report in end-of-year surveys that they felt supported, had a voice and are in a collaborative work environment.
- The District chronic absenteeism rate will decrease to under 5%.

ELPS finished the year with an incredibly strong connection with our students.

- In each instructional model (remote, hybrid, and in-person) our focus was to build a strong connection with our students and families, and we succeeded. This is a tribute to all involved
- Student attendance was exemplary
- MB 97.1%; MS 97.9%; MV 97.6%; BP 97%; ELHS 97.4% and the District Average was 97.4%
- Chronic absenteeism for the District was 4%

Panorama SEL Survey Data Grades K-2 (Teacher's Perspective)
Emotion Regulation: 84%; Social Awareness 77%; Engagement 73%; Classroom Effort 71%; Self-management 63% Social perspective-taking 61%
Panorama SEL Survey Data Grades 3-5
Supportive relationships 91%; Positive feelings 75%; Challenging feelings 63%; Distance learning environment 56%; Growth mindset 51%; and Emotion regulation 45%.
Panorama SEL Survey Data Grades 6-12
Supportive relationships 85%; Positive feelings 68%; Challenging feelings 60%; Growth mindset 53%; Emotion regulation 52% and Distance

learning environment 37%.
 ELPS Staff Spring Survey Results
 On most days, how enthusiastic are you about teaching? 61.5% Quite Enthusiastic; 19.2% Somewhat and 17.7% Extremely
 On most days, how enthusiastic are the student about being in school? 42.3% Somewhat; 33.8% Quite; 13.8% Slightly; 8.5% Extremely.
 Overall, how much do you feel like you belong at school? 47.7% Completely; 30% Belong quite a bit; 16.9% Belong somewhat.
 Do you have someone at your school to whom you can go to help you resolve challenges you may face? 96.2% YES.
 SMART Goal #2: 100% of ELPS teachers will support students through providing 21st Century Learning experiences and creating an inclusive learning environment rooted in Universal Design for Learning and culturally sustaining pedagogy. Survey
 How useful do you find the feedback you receive on your teaching? 37.7% Quite useful; 30.8% Somewhat useful; 13.8% Extremely useful; 13.1% Slightly useful.
 How helpful are your colleague's ideas for improving your teacher? 50% Quite helpful; 28.5% Somewhat helpful; 13.8% Extremely helpful.
 How often do you utilize feedback (direct or indirect) from students about your teaching? 55.4% Frequently; 20% Somewhat; 17.7% Almost always.
 How often do you have the opportunity to work and plan with grade-level or department-level colleagues? 27.7% Once in a while; 23.8% Sometimes; 22.3% Frequently; 20.8% Almost never.
 Our grade-level/department team continues to evolve the use of our collaborative time to help us learn and support our students. 35.4% Neutral; 36.9% Agree; 12.3% Disagree; 10.8% Strongly agree.
 I have a voice in creating the systems and processes we use to ensure all students' needs are met. 36.9% Agree; 28.5% Neutral; 14.6% Disagree; 14.6% Strongly agree.
 SMART Goal #3: All students will be challenged and supported to achieve a high standard of academic performance and growth through the implementation of a standards-based instructional program aligned to MA Curriculum Frameworks

- Maintain aggregate student growth within the typical growth range of 40% - 60%.

Assistant Superintendent of Business Report :

Old Business
 6.1 Superintendent's Evaluation was presented
 Instructional Leadership: Rating Proficient to Exemplary
 All planning groups in the district were solely focused on providing ELPS staff the support and professional development needed to effectively implement each of the three instructional models (remote, hybrid, and in-person). We have all acknowledged every year, throughout the year how much of a challenge this is.
 Management and Operations: Rating is Proficient
 Created and facilitated operations, operations planning group for the district to review how standard operations would need to change in order to operate effectively during the COVID-19 pandemic. With everything that had occurred this year was around the pandemic.
 Family and Community Engagement: Rating Proficient to approaching Exemplary.
 Over the last twelve months, 652 unique messages were sent to families through the Blackboard Connect System. All three elementary schools are utilizing Bloom's Messaging System. Coordinating this elementary platform has allowed for more frequent messaging by both the schools and to the schools into the classrooms and families. This platform also allows for transition into different languages which we are all seeing.
 Mr. Smith: That's a team effort, Ms. Brown, the principals putting that all together.
 Professional Culture: Rating is Proficient
 Organized and facilitated working committees with people from all roles in the District from July through the school year in order to plan and structure safe and engaging learning spaces for each of the three instructional models (fully remote; hybrid and in-person). The committees utilized the skills of people throughout the district. The four committees were the following: ELPS Leadership Team; ELPS Instructional Planning; Health and Operations and ELPS ELEA Planning and negotiating committee. The planning and effort of each group allowed ELPS to successfully enter into each instructional model in the different points of the school year.
 And the overall rating was Proficient.
 Chair: It has been an exemplary year indeed all around. Gordon, thank you for your leadership throughout the District. Thank you for your time and effort this past year.

**William moved to approve the Superintendent 's Evaluation as presented , Sarah seconded the motion .
 Chair: Any further discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor say aye (4), those oppose say nay (0), motion carries (4-0)**

New Business
 7.1 MASC Voting Delegate was discussed.
 William said that he wouldn't mind being the voting delegate and Elizabeth volunteered to be back-up.

**Sarah moved to appoint William Fonseca be the MASC voting delegate for 2021-22 and Elizabeth Marsian-Boucher for the alternate for the 2021 MASC conference , Antonella seconded the motion .
 Chair: Chair: Any further discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor say aye (54), those oppose say nay (0), motion carries (5-0)**

7.2 Early Bird Registration - MASC/MASS Joint Conference on November 3-6th, 2021 was discussed.
 The Chair asked that a reminder be sent out to the Committee in a couple weeks, to see if anyone is interested.

7.3 School Committee's participation in the 4th of July was discussed.
 Elizabeth stated that she will not be able to participate in the 4th of July parade. So in attendance is (4) school committee members and Superintendent.

7.4 Transportation Stipend - Discussed in executive session. The recommendation would be a \$3,000 stipend and a \$1,500 stipend for the backup position. This would help up in our attempt to cover what was once covered by the Transportation Director. This would be: Customer Service; registration process; and anything from a daily standpoint in terms of customer service as well as the Unipay accounts. Making sure that that is dealt with monthly and organizing reports.

**William moved to approve the two stipends as discussed in executive session, Sarah seconded the motion
 Chair: Any further discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor say aye (4), those oppose say nay (0), motion carries (4-0)**

Thank you everyone for your time and energy, your efforts this year. It 's been an amazing incredible year, I believe we are all stronger and better for what we have all been through collectively and individually. We are going to take a break in July, we do have our re-organization meeting on July 1st.

**William moved to go into executive session at 8:20 , for discussion about non-union contract negotiations and return only to open session to adjourn , Sarah seconded the motion.
 Chair: Any further discussion? 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: Kathy Celetti
Respectfully submitted by: Superintendent Smith

Signature