

Minutes - Regular Meeting October 24, 2017

Pursuant to notice October 24, 2017 at the Al Merritt Media and Cultural Center at 6:30 PM

Members Present: Dr. Cammarata, Mr. Hayman, Mr. Sjoberg, Mr. Doyle arrived late at 6:59; Mrs. Presser absent

Others Present: Mrs. Tremblay, Mrs. Borseti, Ms. Wane, Mrs. Mauro, Mr. Cyr, Mrs. Ryan, Ms. & Mrs. Ford, Mr. Hathaway, Mrs. Fennessey and two members of the press

6:30

Dr. Cammarata opened the meeting at 6:30

6:30

1. Minutes presented for approval: October 16, 2017

Mr. Hayman MOVED to approve the Minutes for the regular meeting October 16, 2017. Mr. Sjoberg seconded the motion. Mr. Hayman, Mr. Sjoberg and Dr. Cammarata in favor; Mr. Doyle and Mrs. Presser absent

6:31

2. Student Council Report

Mia Ford reported on the following:

- Recent presentation by Ed Gerety who spoke about love and kindness and being a student leader
- Compass Juniors heard about life in a Japanese WWII camp. The woman spoke about her personal experience
- Sophomores and Juniors took PSATS
- First term closing
- All fall athletic teams made it to the tournament rounds
- Drama busy rehearsing for their production of Footloose
- Chorus and band fall concerts

6:32

3. Extended Field Studies - Spain Trip April 14-22, 2018

Ms. Kristin Wane presented the proposed Extended Field Studies trip to Spain to the Committee.

Ms. Wane has been working collaboratively with a teacher from the Marius Torres High School in Spain for a couple of years. Lynnfield students engage in video based collaborative projects with the students at the Marius Torres High School.

Ms. Wane's trip review included:

- Cost of trip - \$2,500.00 based on 18 student and two teacher chaperones
- Direct flight
- Coach buses will be used to travel while in Spain
- Itinerary
- Most of the trip consists of visits to small towns

Ms. Wane will provide the insurance binder and follow up with the tour company to inquire about an evacuation plan if needed as requested by the committee.

* Follow Up after the meeting

Ms. Wane cancelled the Spain trip due to low interest; no vote needed

6:37

4. Update Essex Tech

Mr. Gary Hathaway has been the Lynnfield representative on the School Committee for Essex

Technical and Agricultural High School for more than a year. Mr. Hathaway said the Committee

functions and deals with similar issues as the Lynnfield School Committee members do. His update of happenings at the Tech included:

- Blending the three schools altogether into one contract for teachers and other workers
- Looking to new parameters for incoming students; no longer go by highest rated applicants
- Discussions beginning regarding formally changing the name of the school. The school is known by its abbreviation "Essex Tech." Costly to change everything and member communities will need to share cost.

- 17 member communities and three from the department of agriculture

Mr. Hathaway responded to the Committee inquiry that he is not involved with the admissions/application process. He said that may be stated on the new application so school committee members are not contacted regarding admissions. Mr. Hathaway and Mrs. Tremblay responded to the Committee inquiry regarding postgraduate choices that there is a mix of students who go into trade right from graduation and that go into competitive four year colleges.

6:45

5. Technology Sub Committee Report

Mr. Hayman reported the Technology Committee met over the summer and outlined goals with Mr. Vin Ruocco to refine the mobile app. Due to Mr. Ruocco leaving in September this has been put on hold while the new Director of Educational Technology, Stephanie Hoban, does a high level analysis of the system, portals and needs. After the analysis is complete they will meet to revisit the goals, shifting needs and prioritize.

Mrs. Tremblay joined the conversation and added the app is still a priority but student needs must be covered first.

6:50

6. Next Generation MCAS 2.0 Update

Mrs. Tremblay spoke about the Next Generation MCAS 2.0 test that was administered to students. Mrs. Tremblay said the reason the test was changed is because the DESE received information from higher education that students were not ready for the rigors and tasks needed for continuing education or work skills.

Mr. Cyr joined the discussion and informed the Committee the scoring categories are very different and a complete change from past years. Mr. Cyr stated the DESE is looking at how students are prepared beyond their grade level. This is year is a baseline year and the bar has been raised. High school students will take the new test in 2019

Mrs. Tremblay shared the scores/rankings for Lynnfield who fared very well including Lynnfield High School being one of seven high schools in the commonwealth who closed the achievement gap.

6:59

Mr. Doyle arrived

7:01

7. Special Education Update

Mrs. Mauro gave the Committee a comprehensive overview of the Special Education Department including review of where they are today as a Special Education Department. Mrs. Mauro answered any questions the Committee had after reviewing each slide. Highlights of the powerpoint presentation included:

- Review of Special Services Population
 - Percentage of students receiving services in each of the four categories

Mrs. Mauro explained the difference between an IEP and 504 for the Committee. The Committee asked if there has been significant growth in ELL and Mrs. Mauro responded yes there has been since she arrived here.

- Disability Categories
 - Showed percentage comparison of the growth of students requiring services for 2017 compared to 2014 and the growth in each of the 12 categories
 - In each category student profiles can look very different
 - Wide variety of programming to consider

Mrs. Mauro addressed the comment regarding swings in categories which she said depends on the population and diagnosis which can shift as students age. There has been a spike in the emotional category which is true to what is being seen across the district. The team is working with families who are in constant communication with outside providers who have made a diagnosis that would fall under the social/emotional category.

- Out of District trends
 - Certain situations where it is better for students to go out of district
 - Social/emotional and/or behavioral needs that could not be met in the district
 - Placements confirmed through settlement agreements and residential care

Some of the district's resources for out of district placements are SEEM Collaborating and NEC.

- Building Leadership Capacity
 - Special Services Leadership
 - Slow build of leaders
 - Team Process Expectations
 - Maintain positive relationships with families
 - Board of Special Education appeals process
 - Mediation
 - Special Education Staff
 - Commended all staff for outstanding work
 - Office staff instrumental in the day to day operations

Mrs. Mauro said the special education staff has grown with the students throughout the years.

- Special Education and General Education Collaboration
 - Collaboration of staff has never been stronger

Mrs. Mauro explained the steps leading up to an outside placement which is a decision not made quickly. Referrals come from data assessment meetings, teachers or parent request. The team tries all strategies and practices first.

- Educator Growth
 - Teacher Evaluation Process
 - Solidified collaboration of all teachers; actively engaged
 - Professional Development
 - Ongoing - designate money as the population is changing; ensure teachers stay current
 - Collaborative Learning Experiences
 - Thrilled with what is going on at all levels
 - Consult Model
 - Educators using one another for cases; build upon work others have done
- Curriculum and Instruction
 - Inclusive practices district wide; more co-teaching opportunities

The Committee asked how many programs were offered to which Mrs. Mauro answered there are Differentiated Learning and Language Based classrooms across all levels.

- Assessment and Accountability
 - District Evaluation tools
 - Staying current; consistency with tools across levels
 - General Education Assessments and Progress Monitoring Tools
 - Monitoring teams in place at each level
 - Assessment meetings take place at elementary and middle school; high school has their own process
 - Individualized Assessment/Monitoring Tools
 - Varies based on student needs
 - All students on IEP's receive progress reports
- Social and Emotional Well Being
 - District wide Focus Area
 - District wide fluctuations in this area
 - General Education and Special Education Collaboration
 - Maker spaces at every level; nice option for students to distract themselves from pressures they are feeling
 - Expansion of Best Buddies program
 - Middle School One Club
 - Tiered Interventions
 - Specialized Instruction and Accommodations

The Committee inquired regarding resiliency if there is anything being done about acceptance of differences. Mrs. Mauro said there is direct instruction school wide.

- Next steps
 - Continue to refine and expand

- External Special Education review; important to have updated reports

8:05

8. Discussion - MASC/MASS Conference Resolutions

Mr. Hayman informed his fellow Committee members he would not be able to attend the MASC/MASS conference and Mrs. Presser would represent the Lynnfield School Committee as the alternate delegate. Mr. Hayman reviewed some of the resolutions including moving the Chapter 70 funding date, lowering the circuit breaker threshold, prohibiting the use of public funds for private education and to preserve the affordable care act. The Committee agreed the delegate would vote affirmative on each of the resolutions.

8:11

9. Superintendent's Report

- Recent presentation to high school freshmen and sophomores by Ed Gerety on acceptance, the choices you make and how to be a good person.
 - Presentation for middle school students on 12/6 during school
 - Presentation for faculty and staff on 12/6
 - Presentation for parents and community on 12/6 at 7:00 PM
- Safety Presentation
The power point presentation and link to view the presentation on website
- Pioneer Pride recipients: Jonathan Luders 2018 & Amy Schumacher 2019
- Kara Mauro was invited to be a Committee member of the Partnership Leadership Team MAICIE Massachusetts Inclusive ConCurrent Enrollment Initiative at Salem State University. Ms. Mauro is the only Special Education Director asked to be on the Committee. This is a grant funded program offering students with disabilities a full college experience.
- Shared recent letter from a former student's parents to Principal Bob Cleary expressing gratitude to LHS for all they do to make students successful. They credit their son being where he is today due to hard work and education from LHS; son graduated in the top 1% of his graduate class.

8:20

10. No Public Participation

8:20

11. Matters for Action

- Vote to approve the [list of Student Activities and Clubs for the 2017-2018](#) school year. Mr. Hayman MOVED to approve the list of Student Activities and Clubs for the 2017-2018 school year. Dr. Cammarata seconded the motion. Mr. Doyle, Dr. Cammarata, Mr. Hayman and Mr. Sjoberg in favor; Mrs. Presser absent
- Vote to approve the maximum allowable amount (\$100,000) in the High School Student Activity Checking Account and (\$75,000) in the Middle School Student Activity Checking Account for the 2017-2018 school year. Mr. Hayman MOVED to approve the maximum allowable amount (\$100,000) in the High School Student Activity Checking Account and (\$75,000) in the Middle School Student Activity Checking Account for the 2017-2018 school year. Dr. Cammarata seconded the motion. Mr. Doyle, Dr. Cammarata, Mr. Hayman and Mr. Sjoberg in favor; Mrs. Presser absent
- Vote to approve the creation of Student Activity Agency and Checking accounts for the Summer Street School and Huckleberry Hill School under MGL Chapter 71 Section 47. Mr. Hayman MOVED to approve the creation of Student Activity Agency and Checking accounts for the Summer Street School and Huckleberry Hill School under MGL Chapter 71 Section 47. Dr. Cammarata seconded the motion. Mr. Doyle, Dr. Cammarata, Mr. Hayman and Mr. Sjoberg in favor; Mrs. Presser absent
- Vote to approve a change in Policy JD to include a maximum checking account balance of \$25,000.00 for Summer Street School and \$25,000.00 for Huckleberry Hill School.

Mr. Hayman MOVED to approve a change in [Policy JD](#) to include a maximum checking account balance of \$25,000.00 for Summer Street School and \$25,000.00 Huckleberry Hill School Dr. Cammarata seconded the motion. Mr. Doyle, Dr. Cammarata, Mr. Hayman and Mr. Sjoberg in favor; Mrs. Presser absent

- Vote to approve a maximum checking account balance of \$25,000 for Summer Street School and \$25,000.00 for Huckleberry Hill School.
Mr. Hayman MOVED to approve a maximum checking account balance of \$25,000 for Summer Street School and \$25,000.00 for Huckleberry Hill School Dr. Cammarata seconded the motion. Mr. Doyle, Dr. Cammarata, Mr. Hayman and Mr. Sjoberg in favor; Mrs. Presser absent

8:24

Mr. Hayman MOVEDED to adjourn the meeting at 8:24. Dr. Cammarata seconded the motion.

Mr. Doyle, Mr. Hayman, Mr. Sjoberg & Dr. Cammarata in favor; Mrs. Presser absent

Respectfully submitted

Diane Borseti

School Committee Secretary

Documents referenced:

Minutes - October 16, 2017

Extended Field Studies - Spain Trip, April 14-22, 2018

Special Education Update

Student Activities and Clubs 2017-2018

SC Policy JD

Community Collaborative Links:

[NEC](#)

[SEEM](#)