

Minutes - Regular Meeting April 10, 2018

Pursuant to notice April 10, 2018 at the Al Merritt Media and Cultural Center 600 Market Street

Members Present: Mr. Doyle, Mr. Hayman, Mr. Sjoberg, Mrs. Presser and Dr. Cammarata

Others Present: Mrs. Tremblay, Mrs. Mauro, Mr. Cyr, Ms. Ford, Mr. Westmoreland, Ms. Valle, Mrs. Gravante, Ms. Giacalone, Mr. James Early, Ms. Sally Smith, Mr. Puleo, Ms. Perkins, Mrs. Iannibelli, Mr. Cleary, Mirella Vladova, El Medford, Johnny Millinazzo, Ashley Kellett, Abby Berry, David Blake, one member of the press, 15 members of the community.

6:31

Mr. Doyle opened the meeting

1. Minutes presented for approval: [March 27, 2018](#)

Mr. Hayman MOVED to approve the Minutes for the regular meetings March 27, 2018. Dr. Cammarata SECONDED the motion. Unanimously in favor

6:33

2. Student Council Report

Ms. Mia Ford updated The Committee on the following happenings at the high school:

- April Spring Spirit week
- Wellness week
 - Speaker Jeff Allison - Major League Baseball player spoke about addiction
 - Lynnfield Police Department Opioid awareness
- 23 seniors signed up for internship
- Mock crash after vacation
- Invest in Life Fair for seniors
- National Honor held can drive
- Later this month Jr. Prom and post prom after party
- Busy time of year for students in AP classes

6:38

3. [GSA Update](#)

Mrs. Mary Valle, Special Education Teacher at LMS and Mr. Tom Westmoreland, Director of Instrumental Music are advisors for the High School Gender Sexuality Alliance Group who presented an update about the club to The Committee. The student speakers were: Mirella Vladova, El Medford, Johnny Millinazzo, Ashley Kellett, Abby Berry, David Blake.

The students read a brief overview about the club and some statistics including:

- Having a GSA leads to reduced rate of suicidal thoughts
- Schools with GSA's experience fewer
 - Reports of violence
 - Threats of Injury
 - Absences
 - Reports of homophobic language; bullying

The next steps the GSA group would like to initiate are to provide knowledge and appropriate, useful resources for younger students, start and support a GSA in the middle school, enhance the social and emotional well being of high school students and students moving up. The GSA group feels students in grades 5-8 should be given a safe place to share experiences.

The GSA group suggested the following changes:

- New protocols to make name changes and/or pronoun use easier for students
- Have staff be aware of gender language used in class; identifying boy/girl
 - More staff training
- Change requirements on field trip forms
- Keep discussions open, comfortable

During discussion The Committee inquired how the students feel about the culture at LHS and the students responded they feel it less of an issue in a smaller school, less of an issue of intolerance but more that people are not informed. The culture has been better in the last ten years.

In response to what are some of the challenges faced in the Lynnfield community the students indicated not having a GSA at the middle school and how uninformed the community is about LBGT issues. Mr. Westmoreland who arrived late spoke about resources and the DESE Safe Schools Program which offers faculty training, and PFLAG who do outreach trainings and have done presentations for LHS students in the past.

7:00

4. Destination Imagination

Mrs. Elaine Gravante and Mrs. Radika Maruvanchery updated The Committee about Destination Imagination and the two teams that will be competing at the World Championships in Knoxville Tennessee May 22-27th. Lynnfield will be represented by a high school team and a team comprised of fourth graders. In response to The Committee inquiry to student participant Molly Pifko, she spoke about the high school STEAM challenge which is amusement park rides. Mrs. Elaine Gravante shared the fundraising details which include: Flamingo Flocking, Electronics recycling day, raffle for Red Sox tickets and possibly a fitness camp. The Committee does not need to vote on the trip.

7:12

5. [Extended Field Studies Trip - Italy April 12-19, 2019](#)

Mrs. Lisa Giacalone & Mrs. Julie Sgroi presented a proposal for an Extended Field Studies Trip to Italy April 12-19, 2019 during the spring vacation week. In response to The Committee inquiries regarding chaperones and security Mrs. Giacalone expanded on the EF Educational Tour rules and security procedures, chaperone/student ratio, chaperone hotel hallway coverage and refunds. The Committee will vote on May 8th and include wording to require a minimum of 18 students be signed up for the trip with a full refund date of September 15, 2018.

7:24

6. [LHS: Modern Drama](#) - Senior elective

Mr. Joey Puleo, High School English Teacher and Ms. Sarah Perkins, Digital Learning Coach shared a silent film project seniors created for the Horror Fiction and Writing Course. Mr. Puleo, who teaches the course, collaborated with Ms. Perkins and Ms. Alpert (Media Specialist) to create the project using a Google template and the web based application WeVideo.

The project allows students to study language, writing styles, genre and what makes a scary story. Students worked in groups to create short films by using a Google storyboard template and using WeVideo as their editing tool. Short clips from the stories created were shown to bring the project to life.

7:40

7. [Special Education Overview](#)

Consultants Mr. James Earley & Ms. Sally Smith who are contracted providers for Northshore Education Consortium (NEC) conducted the Special Education Overview in October and November for the LPS. Mr. Early commended the staff that participated in evaluation process were extremely enthusiastic, open, thoughtful and dedicated to the children.

Mr. Early gave an overview of the methodology used including an email survey and parent interviews and staff positions interviewed for the one on one interviews. Immediately after the onsite work was completed an exit interview was held with Mrs. Kara Mauro the Director of Student Services.

Ms. Smith gave the overview of the commendations of which there were 50 specific commendations cited in the report which show all the things LPS is doing well. Some were:

- High visibility of Ms. Kara Mauro
- Commitment to inclusion; including complex kids
 - Credit to the system the number of programs LPS has developed
- District wide data/assessment teams

- Use of Merrimack Fellows; certified teachers
- Preschool Program; nice changes since move
 - Part of a building
 - Work with kindergarten teams

Ms. Smith also reviewed the basic factors that impact Special Education including seeing an increase in the severity of needs. Mr. Early continued with the Notable Observations which are the foundation for the recommendations. Fourteen of those recommendations were about programming and staff oversight which a program development issue. Among the recommendations made one was to develop an entrance criteria for the program and to continue the co-teaching and in-classroom support models. When asked by The Committee how LPS compares to like districts Mr. Early stated very well especially in the last eight years since he was last in Lynnfield. The district is in very good shape. The complete report and findings are posted on the Lynnfield Public Schools website on the Student Services page.

8:05

8. Discussion of Superintendent's Evaluation

Mr. Doyle informed the community due to the change in School Committee Board Members this evening the Superintendent's Evaluation will include the new board member as well as the outgoing board member (Dr. Cammarata). Also, because the new member will have limited knowledge there will be alot he/she will not be able to go into depth about in the evaluation.

8:08

9. Superintendent's Report

Mrs. Jane Tremblay updated The Committee on events and happenings in the schools

- [Winter Varsity Sports recognitions](#) All League and All Star
- Attended State House recognition on April 5, 2018 - LHS recognized as 2017 Massachusetts Commendation School for High Achievement and High Progress
- College Acceptances to date
- Bus Survey 2018-2019
 - going out before vacation
 - must be completed by May 7, 2018
 - change this year is parents/guardians must fill it out if child using bus
- Recognition of Dr. Sal Cammarata

Mrs. Jane Tremblay thanked Dr. Cammarata for his years of service. A performance microphone has been ordered for the drama program in his honor. Dr. Cammarata read a [statement](#) about his experiences as a member of the School Committee, commending his colleagues past and present, teachers, the Administrative Leadership Team, Superintendent and supportive parents. Each Committee member shared a personal message with Dr. Cammarata.

8:21

10. No Public Participation

8:21

11. Matters for Action:

VOTE: Last day of school 2017-2018

Mr. Hayman MOVED to approve June 20th as the last day of school for 2017-2018 provided there are no more snow days. Dr. Cammarata SECONDED the motion. Unanimously in favor

Dr. Cammarata MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:22. Mrs. Presser SECONDED the motion. Unanimously in favor

Respectfully submitted
Diane Borseti

School Committee Secretary

Documents referenced:

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GSA Update

Extended Field Studies Trip - Italy April 12-19, 2019

Modern Drama - Senior elective

Special Education Overview

Dr. Cammarata's statement