

**East Hampton
Board of Education
East Hampton, CT 06424**

MINUTES: May 13, 2019

1. The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson, Ms. Barmasse, at 6:33 p.m. in the East Hampton High School T-Bell.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Members present: Mr. Goff, Ms. Barmasse, Mr. Lambert, Ms. Oakley, Ms. Villa, Ms. Amtmanis, Mr. Carlson and Mr. Bushey

Members absent: Mr. Carlson

Administration and others present:

Mr. Smith, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Clark, Director of Curriculum & Instruction
Mr. Mosier, Director of Support Services and Pupil Personnel
Ms. Asetta, School Business Manager
Mr. Rizzuto, Principal of East Hampton High School
Mr. Warner, Interim Assistant Principal of East Hampton High School
Mr. Kissinger, Assistant Principal of East Hampton Middle School
Mr. Sullivan, Principal of Center School
Mr. Gonzalez, Principal of Memorial School
Ms. Gadoury, Assistant Principal of Memorial School (arrived at 6:54 p.m.)

East Hampton High School Student Board Representative: None

Motion by Ms. Oakley, seconded by Ms. Villa, to rearrange the order of the agenda. Voted unanimously.

8. Communications

8.1 Superintendent's Report

- Update of the GOVERNOR'S Budget
- Update on the Board of Education budget
- ECS Update
- Capital Update

8.2 Enrollment Report

8.2.1 Mr. Smith reviewed the May 1, 2019 Enrollment Report for the Board.

11. New Business

11.1 Consideration of Armed Security Officer Policy

- Mr. Goff asked if the SRO will wear a uniform
- Mr. Rizzuto noted that the shootings and violence have become a reality. Time is of the essence. The SRO would carry a concealed weapon.

- Mr. Luke concurred with Mr. Rizzuto. He would go with what is the least disruptive.
- Police Chief Woessner said that he will take any extra help he can get. Mr. Luke's experience makes him an excellent candidate. He is very much in support of arming Dave Luke.
- Mr. Goff asked someone to speak regarding the crisis intervention and the role that Mr. Luke plays with that.
- Mr. Rizzuto reviewed the process for the Board.
- Mr. Bushey noted his concern with the arming of the ASO. Would he consider or want armed body armor? Would the firearm be concealed or not? Would the gun be stored in the building or will the ASO be responsible for storing his firearm? Where would he change clothes or what restroom would he use with his firearm? Use of force? ASO should be properly trained to use force and a firearm. When is he allowed to use lethal force? We need to evaluate what we are being told and what is actually happening. Mr. Bushey noted that he is in support with the ASO.
- Mr. Smith noted that a student in crisis would see a trained professional to work with the student. The ASO would report a need for services. Mr. Luke's role isn't working with the students for psychological needs. Mr. Smith noted that he would always bring every safety upgrade to the Board.
- Mr. Luke explained the annual training for an ASO. It is a 2 day summer course or 1 day course through the police academy. In addition there is firearm training with the Police Chief. The firearm would be Mr. Luke's responsibility to transport and secure the weapon. Bathroom breaks would be in a discrete bathroom and not with students and the weapon would be on his person. Mr. Luke noted that he attended PMT training for staff that may have to restrain a student.
- Ms. Clark explained what PMT training is for the Board.
- Mr. Luke noted that he would have body armor in a discrete location in case it is needed but done in the correct manner so as not to alarm students.
- Ms. Villa noted that she is very on the fence with this. She would like to have the security process completed and it seems we haven't completed 2 of those steps yet. She asked about a student that is autistic or has mental health issues. Would Mr. Luke be informed of those instances?
- Mr. Luke stated that yes he meets with the administration at the school on a weekly basis to discuss any concerns.
- Ms. Villa stated that she is concerned that the ASO is only at the High School. Every single student is just as important in all the schools. Would he be in the other schools as well?
- Mr. Smith stated that right now Mr. Luke would work at the High School. If we felt we needed him in another building we would look at that. The question is do we want to budget for other buildings?
- Ms. Villa asked what other tools would the ASO be carrying? Mr. Luke noted only the gun.
- Ms. Amtmanis noted that being at the high school and knowing the students is important. She noted that a student in her district ended up getting tased for stealing something from the breakfast line. It was a discipline issue not worth getting tased over.
- Mr. Smith noted that we are not asking for a taser. He would only use force against force.
- Ms. Amtmanis asked if anyone monitors social media. Mr. Luke noted that yes he and the Police Department continuously monitor social media.

- Chief Woessner noted that he had a situation last week and explained how the police and the school administration work together. It's a collaborative effort working together. A highly trained individual can make a difference against a shooter.
- Mr. Warner, Assistant Principal at the High School, noted that disciplinary issues are handled with the assistance of Mr. Luke. The Administration initiates the investigation and discipline. Mr. Luke assists us.
- Ms. Oakley noted that after hearing the Police Chief, the administration and Mr. Luke speaking tonight added to her level of comfort. We have a small police department and to have someone so qualified and that that person is armed and can act on the crisis gives her much comfort. Is body armor just a bullet proof vest either under or over the clothing? She would also like to know what the Policy Chief thinks of what the board is doing as a district now for security.
- Mr. Smith noted that the past and present Police Chief reviewed our emergency procedures and our lock down and code red procedures. The Board of Education has been very gracious and proactive with the police department. It truly is a partnership and they want his opinion and input. The Board of Education works very well with the Police Department.
- Mr. Lambert asked Mr. Luke if there is anything that makes him uncomfortable about being armed in the school. Mr. Lambert noted that he feels 100% confident in carrying out that goal. He loves the school and the students and if there was anything that would cause a distraction or a danger he would express his concern.
- Mr. Lambert asked how many entrances do students have to enter the school. If we were to think of metal detectors.
- Mr. Smith noted that for security purposes we won't discuss what doors are open or locked. If the Board would like to have an executive session to discuss these matters we can.
- Ms. Barmasse asked if we tell students if you see something say something. Mr. Rizzuto noted that students re told that often. Ms. Barmasse noted that she would like to believe that guns don't believe in the schools. This year alone there have been 42 school shootings. She would like to know if that number is accurate.
- Ms. Caldwell asked if the Police Chief feels better having Mr. Luke armed. The Chief responded yes.
- Ms. Villa asked if there is a place where she can look and see if there was an armed security officer in these schools that had the school shootings.
- Mr. Goff noted that he attended the high school and takes this personal. He also noted that he knows Mr. Luke and he is more than comfortable having Mr. Luke armed in the schools.

The following are comments from the audience:

- There was a situation in the Portland Public Schools years ago where a student shot a teacher, secretary and killed the custodian. There was no armed security officer at the time. An ASO is the smart thing to do.
- A Board of Education policy should be created for an armed security officer and not just for Mr. Luke. Mr. Luke may leave and we may have a gap.
- Stated that she is a veteran and did not serve her country so that her son has to attend school with an armed security officer.

- This town deserves 20 officers for a town our size with our population. Do we have the backup if there is an emergency? He thinks having Mr. Luke would be beneficial to the safety of our schools.
- It is less safe for the guns to be in school than out of school. Someone could take the gun off of Mr. Luke and use it to harm someone else.
- Agrees with the statement that the town deserves 20 officers for a town our size with our population. Citizens need to get engaged that it isn't just the schools.
- How do we stop guns from coming into our schools in the first place? Are there mental health discussions?
- Is in favor of an armed ASO. Her concern is the safety of her children. She would much rather have an ASO to protect the kids until law enforcement can get to the school.
- What is Mr. Luke's position on being armed? What do the students think about this?
- Some students stood up to a shooter in another state to protect their friends and fellow students and those students lost their lives.
- Mr. Smith noted that the policy will now go back to the Policy Committee. It will then be sent back to the Board for their review and approval.
- Joanne asked if we can survey students and teacher in the school
- Mr. Lambert is concerned with polling the students. The makeup of the student body changes every year.
- Ms. Barmasse would like to see if it is a 50/50% or a 90/10%, etc.
- Mr. Goff asked Mr. Smith and Ms. Clark to work with the High School Administration to get a feeling for the kids.

3. Liaisons

3.1 Inter-Board Liaisons - None

3.2 Labor Union Representative - None

3.3 Update from Principals and Director of Curriculum & Instruction

The Principals and the Director of Curriculum & Instruction provided brief updates of current events at their respective schools.

4. Audience of Citizens - None

5. Consent Agenda

5.1 April 22, 2019 minutes

5.2 April 29, 2019 minutes

5.3 Approval of Resignations as stated in 13-1-13.5

Motion by Mr. Lambert , seconded by Mr. Bushey, to approve the consent agenda. Voted unanimously.

6. Student/Staff Recognition - None

7. Committee Reports

7.1 Student Representatives for East Hampton High School - None

7.2 Personnel Committee - None

7.3 Policy & Curriculum Committee

7.4 Finance, Transportation, Buildings & Grounds Committee

7.5 Liaison Reports - None

- LEARN
- High School Building Committee

9. Program Presentation - None

10. Unfinished Business - None

11.2 Motion by Ms. Barmasse, seconded by Ms. Villa, to appoint Funk Boiler Works, Inc. for the boiler replacement project at Center School in the amount of \$159,000. Voted unanimously.

12. Future Business - None

13. Personnel Actions - None

13.1 To accept Lois Sprague's resignation and a music teacher at Center School effective June 30, 2019. Ms. Sprague is retiring.

13.2 To accept James Angelo's resignation as a Technology Education Teacher at the High School effective June 30, 2019. Mr. Angelo is retiring.

13.3 To accept Carmina Herron's resignation as a 4th grade Teacher at Center School effective June 30, 2019. Ms. Herron is retiring.

13.4 To accept Ian Lynch-Passarelli's resignation as a STARS Special Education Teacher effective June 30, 2019.

13.5 To accept Jonathan Baine's resignation as a Special Education Teacher effective June 30, 2019. Mr. Baine is retiring.

14. Audience of Citizens - None

15. Calendar of Events as attached

16. Adjournment

16.1 **Motion by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Bushey , to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m. Voted unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jarad Bushey
Acting Secretary
JA/PS/rs

Dates to Remember

East Hampton High School

- Apr. 24: High School Tri-M Music Honor Society Induction, 7:00 p.m.
- Apr. 25: High School National Honor Society Induction, 7:00 p.m.
- Apr. 28: "Laps for Sarah" to support Sarah Barney at the High School Track, 8:00 a.m.

East Hampton Middle School

- Apr. 9: PTO Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- Apr. 12: PBIS Assembly/Step-up Program

Center School

- Apr. 22: Elementary PTO Meeting, Memorial School @ 6:00 p.m.
- Apr. 24: School Performance of Center School Musical, "Willy Wonka" @ 10:00 a.m.
- Apr. 24: Center School trip to Middletown High School for Salt March Opera, 12:00 – 1:00
- Apr. 25: Center School Musical, "Willy Wonka", 7:00 p.m.
- Apr. 26: Center School Musical, "Willy Wonka, 7:00 p.m.

Memorial School

- Apr. 8: Kindergarten Informational Night, 6:00 p.m.
- Apr. 10 & 11: Pre-K Lottery Screenings
- Apr. 11: PTO Pasta Dinner, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- Apr. 22: Elementary PTO Meeting, Memorial School @ 6:00 p.m.
- Apr. 23: Spring Pictures at Memorial School
- Apr. 30, May 1 & May 2: Kindergarten Screening at Memorial School, 9:00 – 2:00

Districtwide

- Apr. 15-19: Spring Recess – No School
- Apr. 22: Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m. in the High School T-Bell