

**EAST LYME BOARD OF EDUCATION
East Lyme, Connecticut**

**Board of Education Special Meeting/Retreat Minutes
Tuesday, January 19, 2010
6:00 p.m.
Room B101 (INTV Room), East Lyme High School**

Board Members Present: Tim Hagen (Chair), Elizabeth Groeber (Secretary), Mary Broderick, Melissa Ford, Laura Greenstein, Tim Hagen, Al Littlefield, Marlene Nickerson, Kevin Seery

Board Members Excused: Jaime Ellis

Administrators Present: Dr. James Lombardo (Superintendent), Wayne Sweeney (Administrative Consultant to the Superintendent)

I. CALL TO ORDER -6:14 p.m.

II. DISCUSSION/ACTION

A. Board Discussion re: Operation and Committee Structure

Chair Tim Hagen and Dr. Lombardo presented to the Board a proposal for a new committee structure. It was felt that the old structure was no longer optimal for serving the needs of the district. Under the proposed structure, current Personnel Policy Committees will be kept. However, for the 2010 calendar year, the standing committees of Policy, Long-Range Planning, Buildings and Grounds, Transportation, Finance and Budget Review, and Community Relations will be replaced with two major standing committees, as follows:

1. **Academics, Athletics and Activities Committee**: This committee will be charged with reviewing and making recommendations regarding all programs that directly affect the education of students, including policies that relate to these areas.
2. **Finance and Facilities Committee**: This committee will be charged with reviewing and making recommendations regarding all fiscal and facilities issues, including policies related to these areas. This committee also will be charged with the review and monitoring of the proposed annual budget.

Pros and cons were discussed by the Board. Pros include overall fewer meetings, better scheduling for both Board of Education members and administrators, greater exposure by more board members to the workings of the various subcommittees, and more proactive planning. Cons included less opportunity for leadership roles for board members and less relationship building (as was experienced in the smaller committees). Based on the discussion and feedback, the next regular meeting, January 25, will include an agenda item for Discussion/Action that will recommend to the Board suspending the current policy for committee structure and adopting the new standing committee structure for 2010. The Board will review the workings and performance of the new structure late in 2010. The current ad hoc committees and Board Liaison positions were also reviewed. Tim will work with Jim and Board members to update these lists and recommend changes appropriately for 2010.

III. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Elizabeth Groeber, Secretary
East Lyme Board of Education