

On Dec 11, 2024, at 11:32 AM, Naomi Rodriguez <NaomiR@ledyardct.org> wrote:

Good Morning Councilor Ryan,

Great Report. Thank you for attending this meeting, it is important to have a town council representative present and to provide input along with clarifications.

Thank you again for your help in this matter.

Respectfully,

Naomi Rodriguez

From: Timothy Ryan <tryan@ledyardct.org>

Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2024 10:58 AM

To: Roxanne Maher <council@ledyardct.org>

Cc: Town Council Group <TownCouncil@ledyardct.org>; Fred Allyn, III <mayor@ledyardct.org>

Subject: Notes from 12/10 BOE Meeting

Rox / Council Members - my submitted notes from the 12/10 Board of Education Meeting are provided below; let me know if you have any questions and my apologies again for not being able to be present at council tonight.

Separately, I just wanted to note that I was impressed with how the meeting was run. I observed a well managed meeting where the chair kept the agenda moving and maintained discussions so that they were, respectful, concise and germane to the topic at hand. Of note, outside of the public comment agenda item, at no time were there any comments or interjections allowed from anyone who was not a regular or ex-officio member of the Board. This, in particular, helped tremendously to maintain focus and increase efficiency.

Ledyard Town Councilor Timothy Ryan

Notes from 12/10/24 Board of Education regular meeting:

- Mr. Anthony Favry and Ms. Mary Harris were elected as chair and vice chair, respectively.
- There was one comment from the public, and it was a concern regarding the proposed use of the Cashman property and its proximity to JWL and LMS; vis-a-vis health concerns (air quality, noise, etc.)
 - Member of the public requested a BOE member to be at the next public hearing and/or meeting regarding the property.
- A LPS staff member, Catherine Dowler, was the 2024 recipient of the DoDEA Inspire Award.
- LMS Gym floor is nearly complete; should be ready by Monday 12/16/24.
- The board's budget is 89% spent (actual + encumbered costs), and is currently projecting to be \$37k under budget.
- Councilor Ryan provided an overview of recent Finance Committee actions that have an impact on the Schools.
 - Councilor Ryan stated that, for any projects \geq \$5k in value, three quotes would need to be obtained. Additionally it was stated that for any projects \geq \$15k in value, the work would need to go out to bid, unless a state contract was available.
 - The solid surface for the JWL Playground was received with some apprehension, as a design has not been approved by the board yet. Councilor Ryan reiterated that federal guidelines only mandated that funds needed to be obligated for a specific use, and not necessarily started, by the end of this calendar year. Councilor Ryan encouraged the school administration to work with the town executive staff to come up with a potential path forward.
- A presentation was given regarding the 'Ignite Reading' program that is planned for implementation next year for the early elementary grades; the program is a 1:1 interactive online reading tutor program that pairs students with a dedicated tutor

with a goal to improve literacy. Data was provided that indicated the program has experienced success in other districts.

- A discussion regarding the status of the budget development for school year 2025/26 took place, and it was noted by the Board Finance Chair (Mr. Ty Lamb) that, currently, the projection was indicating a 6.4% increase over this current year.
 - Drivers include costs associated with special needs education, transportation, and annual contractual increases.
 - Work is continuing by the board to prioritize expenditures within the budget and hopefully mitigate the projected increase.
 - There will be some changes to how the ASTE grant line items are funded to the town, but the board is expecting the total amount of ASTE funding to be at least equivalent to the current year (if not slightly more).
 - A discussion was had regarding joint finance meetings with the town finance committee, and it was noted that the board desired to have the town finance committee chair present at the meetings to support discussions.
 - Councilor Ryan indicated that he supported the idea of regular meetings between the town and board finance committees, and that he would talk to the town finance committee chair about ensuring a representative from the town finance committee would support future meetings (if not the town finance committee chair).

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