



Lunenburg Public Schools

Loxi Jo Calmes
Superintendent of Schools

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, January 4, 2012
Town Hall – 7:00 p.m.

Minutes

School Committee

David Reif - absent
Gregory Berthiaume
Michael Mackin - absent
Donna White
Colleen Shapiro

Superintendent

Loxi Jo Calmes

Recording Secretary

Mary Landi

Student Representative

Jen Markham

Guests

Jim Lattanzi

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- * Call to Order – In Dr. Reif’s absence, Dr. Berthiaume called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.
- * Budget Hearing – Superintendent Calmes welcomed everyone and stated she would begin her presentation of a level service budget. The superintendent welcomed administrators and thanked them for their work on the budget. She also thanked Ms. Curley, Ms. Cooper and Ms. Landi for their assistance in the preparation of the budget documentation. Superintendent Calmes began her presentation by articulating what that budget supports: guaranteed viable curriculum for all; preparing all students for success in college, career and life; facility maintenance/improvements; and technology for instruction and effective management. The superintendent reviewed enrollment numbers over the past six years. We are holding steady in FY12, down by only two students since October 1. The biggest decline over the past several years has been at the high school level, which was expected. Superintendent Calmes next reviewed the FTE numbers in terms of personnel and noted that that number has decreased as the student population decreased. The next slide looked at FY11 actuals; FY12 current and FY13 level service budget numbers. Non-personnel expenses are driving the increase in the FY13 budget. Superintendent Calmes highlighted those expenses: out-of-district tuitions (FY12); loss of Ed Jobs funding from the federal government (FY13); increase in health insurance cost – anticipating 10 percent; and school bus transportation. Anticipated revenues were looked at next. Superintendent Calmes listed the FY12 grants and the amount of funding from revolving accounts for FY12. The budget will be posted at the website with historic information and line items by noon on January 5. This is just the beginning; as we receive more information, there will be further discussion on this issue.
- * Chairman’s Report – Dr. Berthiaume wished Dr. Reif a speedy recovery. He also encouraged everyone to attend the many upcoming meetings.
- * Review and Approve Minutes
- December 7, 2011 Regular Session Minutes – Approved by Dr. Berthiaume.
 - December 7, 2011 Executive Session Minutes – Approved by Dr. Berthiaume.
 - December 14, 2011 Regular Session Minutes – Approved by Dr. Berthiaume.
- * Review and Approve Warrants – There were two line item transfers from TCP. Superintendent Calmes recommended approval of both.

* Superintendent's Report

- Superintendent Calmes encouraged parents and community members to attend the upcoming meetings to give their input and ask questions around the reconfiguration and our work with the MSBA. Upcoming meetings will be on January 18 (reconfiguration), February 1 (special services presentation and review of MSBA workflow), February 8 (school building committee), and February 15 (budget).
- LHS principal position will be posted tomorrow. Mr. Dillon is our interim principal for just this one year. We are looking for interested people for the search committee.

* Student Report – None.

* Public Comment – None.

* New Business Discussion

Request to Tap Maple Trees on School Property – Superintendent Calmes gave a brief overview of the situation. Maple trees are being tapped on the school property at Turkey Hill Middle School. We have not found any record of action being taken on this. Mr. Jim Lattanzi addressed the committee. He is a Lunenburg resident and farmer. He and his wife are in the process of purchasing the Ewen's maple sugar company. Mr. Lattanzi's understanding was that permission to tap the trees was in place all along; however, the paperwork cannot be located. There are 178 taps at the THMS location. The company has been doing this for 40 years. Mr. Lattanzi explained why the green tubing is used and he requested permission to continue to do what he has been doing. The original tubing was purple and off-white; new tubing is blue and green. The trees were last tapped in 2009.

Mr. Paul Smith, who lives on Northfield Road, asked if the committee members received a letter from him, which addressed his concerns. Mr. Smith does not believe the property should be used for commercial purposes.

Mark Ewen, whose father previously owned the Sugar House, stated that many years ago his father approached the townspeople at a selectmen's meeting to get approval. He said it's been at it at least 40 years. Mr. Ewen would like agriculture to be able to continue in this town.

Dr. Berthiaume stated that it is only the School Committee, not the Selectmen, that has jurisdiction over the school property. The school district is liable for what happens on that land.

Mr. Lattanzi read a letter from neighbors living in that area.

Mr. Dave Matthews, Board of Selectmen Chair, stated he wasn't aware of this issue. He suggested that perhaps some type of trade-off could be worked out giving educational opportunities to the students.

There was additional public comment in support of Mr. Lattanzi.

Superintendent Calmes talked about how this fits with our policies and procedures in terms of facilities use. The superintendent will research commercial use policies in other towns similar to Lunenburg.

Action

Appointment of School Committee Representatives to Building Committee – Superintendent Calmes stated that Ms. Shapiro and Mr. Mackin both volunteered to be on this committee. Ms. White moved and Dr. Berthiaume seconded a motion to appoint Ms. Shapiro and Mr. Mackin to the School Building Committee. Vote: unanimous. Also, Ms. Shapiro moved and Ms. White seconded a motion to appoint Dr. Berthiaume to the high school principal search committee. Vote: unanimous.

* Old Business

* Public Comment

- * Reports
 - a. Advisory Committee - Reconfiguration
 - b. Finance Committee
 - c. School Councils – Dr. Berthiaume reported the THMS School Council met recently.
 - d. PTO
 - e. Policy Sub-Committee
 - f. Capital Planning Committee
 - g. Health Advisory Committee
 - h. PAC/SAL
 - i. Regional Planning Committee
 - j. Rep. Benson’s Advisory
 - l. Other

* Continuing Projects/Estimated Date of Completion

* Items for Future Discussion

- Workshop Sessions
- Facilities Use Procedure
- Civic Engagement

* Executive Session - M.G.L. Chapter 39, Section 23B [3] To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the government’s bargaining or litigating position. None.

* Adjournment – At 8:15 p.m. Ms. Shapiro moved and Ms. White seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vote: unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Landi

Mary Landi
Recording Secretary

c/5/28/12/mel

APPROVED

Lunenburg School Committee

Date: 11/18/12

ML
Initials