



Lunenburg Public Schools

Loxi Jo Calmes
Superintendent of Schools

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, January 18, 2012
Lunenburg High School Auditorium – 7:00 p.m.

Minutes

School Committee

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

Superintendent

Loxi Jo Calmes

Recording Secretary

Mary Landi

Student Representative

Jen Markham

Guests

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- * Call to Order – Dr. Berthiaume called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
 - * Reconfiguration – Educational Opportunities and Challenges – Mr. Mackin began with a brief review of the work previously done by the advisory committee. He thanked all the members of the Advisory Committee by name. He also gave an overview of Lunenburg’s history with the MSBA and regionalization issues. Superintendent Calmes talked about the educational challenges we are facing. Mr. Joe Dillon talked about the accreditation process with NEASC and the current warning status. Mr. Tim Santry talked about the middle school model vs. a junior high model and the benefits of the middle school model. Ms. Bonci talked about the pre-school program and trying to expand the program at the high school, which would allow high school students the opportunity for internships. The superintendent talked about decreasing staff while keeping the educational programs for students. Enrollment is currently holding stable, but over the past several years it has decreased. We are just in the early stages of our partnership with the MSBA. Superintendent Calmes described the different possible options offered by the MSBA with regard to the high school project.

Several members of the audience had questions and/or comments.

Andrea Laford, 53 Pleasant Street, asked if there is an opportunity for citizens to visit the model schools. Dr. Berthiaume responded that the community members on the school building committee would have that opportunity. Mr. Dillon said four teachers have visited the model school in Ipswich. He pointed out the benefits of a 6-12 school in terms of its design and common shared areas.

Claude Poirier, 68 Wildwood Road, has a concern about three-percent growth. Superintendent Calmes responded that we have not seen that actualized yet. It is a concern for the MSBA, since the schools they are building have a capacity of about 1000 students. Mr. Poirier asked about school choice enrollment. Superintendent Calmes responded that while we have a quality product and much interest, economically we only get about half of what it costs to educate those students from the state.

Erik Arnold, 105 Hemlock Drive, inquired as to how the shared areas would work - for example, the gym and the cafeteria. Superintendent Calmes responded that this is an area we need to explore some more, but she outlined the efficiencies that can be realized. Larger square footage would be allocated to the shared areas.

Heather Sroka, 567 Northfield Road, asked what the location of the new school would be, if indeed we build a new one. Mr. Londa talked about the DRA Study and some of those suggested options. Superintendent Calmes added that when the study was done in 2007 by DRA the School Committed stressed the importance of the central campus of the Lunenburg School District. The study gave various scenarios for address future school building needs all on the central campus.

Dave Maki, 715 Page Street, asked if there is any opportunity of building with the private sector and then leasing it back. Dr. Berthiaume responded that that is not part of the MSBA process.

Courtney Zivojinovic, 239 South Row Road, asked what is driving the decision on whether we will build a new school or renovate. Superintendent Calmes responded by explaining how the partnership works with the MSBA. It is a process we enter into with them. It maximizes the taxpayers' dollars. The building committee has been appointed; Superintendent Calmes introduced those members.

Anthony Caiozzo, 120 Robbs Hill Road, asked about other districts that have a 6-12 high school. Are there any that just recently made the switch to 6-12 and what challenges have they faced? Superintendent Calmes said we would have to do some research around that.

Brandon Kibbe, 146 Rolling Acres Road, stated that he went through that experience as a high school student in Sutton. His concern is that when the market turns around, we may see increased enrollment. Superintendent Calmes said that is definitely a concern. We are getting enrollment from the new developments, but we are not seeing increased enrollment from them. We will work with the MSBA on enrollment projections.

Greg Roy, 405 New West Townsend Road, asked how long it would be before the MSBA would reconsider partnering with the Lunenburg school district. Mr. Londa responded that the MSBA does not want to come back to a building for 10 years and enrollment projects were only completed by DRA for a 20 year period.

Joseph Friend, 15 Courtland Circle, asked if there would be increased educational opportunities for advanced placement classes. Superintendent Calmes responded that we expect reconfiguration to continue to support improved educational outcomes, but there was not a specific plan to increase the number of AP offerings at LHS. Mr. Dillon talked about the AP classes currently offered at the high school.

Eric Arnold of Hemlock Drive stated he works in the Uxbridge school district, which recently partnered with the MSBA. He said the MSBA is difficult to work with and they have a lot of restrictions.

Superintendent Calmes talked about the path moving forward: formation of the school building committee; enrollment projections; funding a feasibility study. We don't yet know which school will come off line.

Dr. Berthiaume invited everyone to attend the next few meetings.

Mr. Mackin talked about the need for community support to get funding for the feasibility study.

* Chairman's Report – Dr. Berthiaume thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

* Review and Approve Minutes

- January 4, 2012 Regular Session Minutes – Approved by Dr. Berthiaume.

* Review and Approve Warrants – Superintendent Calmes gave an explanation for the line item transfers and then recommended approval.

* Superintendent's Report

- Superintendent Calmes reviewed the draft FY13 calendar, which will be posted at the website for input from the community.

- Changes are underway on the report cards at the primary and elementary schools. They will now be part of the electronic student information system.
- The Quabbin Regional School District has requested membership to the FLLAC Collaborative. All participating districts must be made aware of the request; the FLLAC Board will take final action.

* Student Report – Ms. Markham reported that the National Honor Society raised \$500 for the community food bank by wrapping Christmas gifts.

* Public Comment

* New Business

Action

a. Donations

- The PTO’s fundraising efforts provided \$7,385.23 to the Primary School.
- Box Tops for Education sent a check in the amount of \$57.60 to Primary School. Cheryl Salvatore is the volunteer at the primary school who processes the box tops.

Mr. Mackin moved and Ms. White seconded a motion to accept the donations. Vote: unanimous.

b. Bus Contract – McCarty Limousine Service won the bus bid. Superintendent Calmes reviewed the bid numbers, which totaled \$2,120,205 for three years. The cost to install video monitors would be \$1,250 each. The superintendent asked the bus company to do an analysis to see if it would be possible to drop a bus, reducing the current 10 buses to nine. It was determined that would not be possible, as some students would need to be on the bus for longer than an hour, and that is not allowed. Superintendent Calmes recommended awarding the transportation contract to J.H. McCarthy Limousine Service. Mr. Mackin moved and Ms. Shapiro seconded a motion to award the contract as recommended by the superintendent. Vote: unanimous.

c. Grant Application – Superintendent Calmes gave an overview of Grant 115, working in conjunction with FLLAC – This grant will provide funds to explore improving regional opportunities and operational efficiencies; special education transportation; and looking at collaboratives to provide services. Superintendent Calmes requested permission to apply for the full amount of \$30,000. Mr. Mackin moved and Ms. Shapiro seconded a motion to grant permission for application of the grant. Vote: unanimous

* Old Business

Discussion

a. Request to Tap Maple Trees on School Property – Superintendent Calmes has not identified any surrounding area school districts that allow tapping of maple trees on school property. The committee decided it would ask Mr. Lattanzi to clearly articulate what the curriculum connection is and what educational opportunities could be provided for the students. Mr. Lattanzi also needs to provide the school department with a liability insurance binder. There was further discussion around tapping season. Mr. Lattanzi will be given 60 days to submit the curriculum documentation.

* Public Comment – None.

* Reports

- Advisory Committee - Reconfiguration
- Finance Committee
- School Councils – The Primary School Council met last week and is working on creating a parent survey about everything to do with the school. The Council will be seeking feedback from the primary school parents.
- PTO
- Policy Sub-Committee
- Capital Planning Committee
- Health Advisory Committee
- PAC/SAL
- Regional Planning Committee
- Rep. Benson’s Advisory

k. 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. At 8:50 p.m. Mr. Mackin moved and Ms. Shapiro seconded a motion to enter into executive session, not to return to regular session, for the purpose of discussing strategies with respect to collective bargaining. Vote: unanimous.

Roll Call

Dr. Berthiaume – yes
Mr. Mackin – yes
Ms. White – yes
Ms. Shapiro – yes

* Adjournment – Ms. Shapiro moved and Ms. White seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 p.m.
Vote: unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Landi
Recording Secretary

c/5/28/13/mel