



Lunenburg Public Schools

Loxi Jo Calmes
Superintendent of Schools

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING Wednesday, February 1, 2012 Town Hall – 7:00 p.m.

Minutes

School Committee

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

Superintendent

Loxi Jo Calmes - absent

Recording Secretary

Mary Landi

Student Representative

Emma Degrace

Guests

Robert Truax, Josh Koziol and students
Elaine Blaisdell, Karen Martin
Josephine Bowen, John Londa

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- * Call to Order – In Dr. Reif's absence, Dr. Berthiaume called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He welcomed everyone in attendance and informed the audience that both Superintendent Calmes and Dr. Reif were ill and would not be at the meeting.
 - * Chairman's Report – None.
 - * Review and Approve Minutes
 - January 18, 2012 Regular Session Minutes – Dr. Berthiaume approved the January 18, 2012 regular session minutes with the following corrections:
 - Ms. Shapiro noted that it was Ernie Friend, not Joseph Friend, who spoke during the public comment session (page 2).
 - Mr. Mackin noted that there is no "u" in Cortland Circle (page 2).
 - * Review and Approve Warrants – Warrants were on the table for signatures.
 - * Superintendent's Report - Project 351 2012 Overview – Dr. Berthiaume welcomed Ms. Josephine Bowen, 8th grade student at Turkey Hill Middle School. Ms. Bowen addressed the committee. She thanked the committee for allowing her to speak and thanked Mr. Santry for the opportunity to be part of Project 351. Ms. Bowen gave an overview of Project 351, which is a day of service and youth leadership started by Governor Deval Patrick in 2011. She then talked about her experience at this year's Project 351 Day, which was held on January 14. Approximately 7000 people were helped by the students who participated in this year's day of service.
 - * Student Report – Ms. Emma Degrace reported
 - Class play and freshmen speech rehearsals are underway;
 - There was an important track meet today; and
 - Report cards will be going out on Friday.
 - * New Business
 - Discussion
 - a. Special Education Presentation & Proposal to Construct Public Ice Skating Rink – Ms. Karen Martin began the presentation on Lunenburg's personalized learning opportunities. Mr. Koziol, special

services teacher at Lunenburg High School, spoke next to the committee. He gave an overview of the Metacognitive Approach to Social Skills Training – Revised (MASST-R) Program and how he has used that program in his classroom. The program is in conjunction with the University of Kentucky; Mr. Koziol has been working with Dr. Patti Whetstone from the University. There were 71 lessons, which have all been completed. Students learned a lot about themselves and their community. Results from the program include improved attendance rates, improved attention to school tasks, and decreased referrals to the office. Three students from Mr. Koziol’s class spoke about what they learned from the class and how the program has affected them. Mr. Koziol said they are currently on the second strand. The program has been very successful. Three of the students in one of Mr. Bob Truax’s math classes went to the podium to present their proposal to construct a public ice skating rink on the LHS football field. They talked about the construction of the rink, the cost of supplies, donations they were going to request, the labor needed, etc. The students talked about the project’s relation to curriculum. Dr. Berthiaume said the committee would not take action on this today, but would put it on the agenda for next week’s meeting. Ms. Blaisdell spoke next and continued with the PowerPoint presentation that was initiated by Ms. Martin. She talked about the various services offered, as well as the number of students and the various settings for the students. Currently there are 15 students placed outside of the district. Ms. Blaisdell reviewed the related services that are provided to assist students with special needs. She also talked about the Achieve Program, which provides more intensive services to students. Next Ms. Blaisdell gave an overview of the Advanced Community Experience (ACE) Program. She commended Ms. Laura Rudy for her diligent work in building the community partnerships. Ms. Blaisdell talked about disability data comparison, and the costs associated with in-district and out-of-district placements. The DESE website provides graphs and charts on special education data. Ms. Blaisdell listed the commendations given to Lunenburg upon completion of a Coordinated Program Review in 2007. She also talked about the areas of non-compliance and the fact that those areas have been rectified. The DESE will come back again next year for the next CPR. Ms. Blaisdell stated that we continue to look at ways to build upon Response To Intervention (RTI). Dr. Berthiaume thanked Ms. Blaisdell and Ms. Martin for bringing the big picture of personalized learning to the committee. Ms. Blaisdell gave some details around the timeline for the upcoming CPR. Kristin Levine, a former student of the Lunenburg Public Schools, addressed the committee. Ms. Levine said it was only because of Ms. Blaisdell and her department that she got the help she needed for a severe learning disability in math. She would not have gotten to where she is today without the assistance of Ms. Blaisdell. She will be graduating with her bachelor’s degree in professional writing this May. The School Committee thanked Ms. Levine for her comments.

- b. MSBA Process Overview – Mr. Londa talked about the MSBA process. He directed everyone’s attention to a slide that summarized the process overview of working with the MSBA on a new building project. This is approximately a six-year project. He listed the various modules, gave a brief overview of each, and listed the seven actions included in Module 1. The MSBA is a continual partner in the process. Dr. Berthiaume noted that we have begun the actions in Module 1 and do not intend to take as long as the MSBA has outlined and allows for Module 1.

Action

- a. Donations – Dr. Berthiaume gave some background on Alex’s Grant. Ms. Shapiro moved and Ms. White seconded a motion to accept the donation from Greg and Karin Berthiaume with gratitude. Vote: unanimous.

* Old Business

Action

- a. FY13 Calendar – Mr. Mackin moved and Ms. Shapiro seconded a motion to approve the FY13 calendar as presented at the previous School Committee meeting. Vote: unanimous.

Discussion

- a. FY13 Governor’s Budget – Dr. Berthiaume reported that we received good news and the schools may receive an increase of \$500,000 in Chapter 70 funds from the state. Also, health insurance premiums are looking to come in around 5 percent which is good news since earlier projections were significantly higher. Even given the changes in funding, the school department is still \$600,000 over budget. Dr. Berthiaume would recommend the superintendent present a level service budget minus \$600,000. The committee agreed.

* Public Comment

* Reports

- a. Advisory Committee - Reconfiguration
- b. Finance Committee
- c. School Councils – Dr. Berthiaume reported the THMS Council met recently and discussed MCAS and RTI.
- d. PTO
- e. Policy Sub-Committee
- f. Capital Planning Committee – Ms. Shapiro reported the Capital Planning Committee meetings are over for this year.
- g. Health Advisory Committee
- h. PAC/SAL
- i. Regional Planning Committee
- j. 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 8:32 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 relating to contract negotiations. Vote: unanimous.

Vote:

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

* Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at the end of executive session.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Landi

Mary Landi
Recording Secretary

c/5/27/14/mel

APPROVED

Lunenburg School Committee

Date: 2/8/12

ML
Initials