



Lunenburg Public Schools

Loxi Jo Calmes
Superintendent of Schools

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, February 15, 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

Guests

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- * Call to Order – Dr. Berthiaume called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
 - * Chairman's Report – Dr. Berthiaume welcomed everyone in attendance. He gave some background information on how the budget process works in terms of arriving at a final budget.
 - * Review and Approve Minutes
 - January 18, 2012 Executive Session Minutes
 - February 1, 2012 Executive Session Minutes
 - February 8, 2012 Regular Session Minutes
 - February 8, 2012 Executive Session MinutesAll minutes were approved by Dr. Berthiaume.
 - * Review and Approve Warrants – Warrants were on the table for signatures.
 - * Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Calmes reported on the high school principal position. There are three finalists – Dr. Christopher Lord, Mr. Brian Cote and Mr. Brian Spadafino. Next steps include site visits and a tentative public form on March 6 to ask questions and get to know the candidates.
 - * Student Report – None.
 - * New Business – None.
 - * Old Business
 - Discussion
 - a. Update Superintendent's Goals – Superintendent Calmes updated the committee on the progress she is making on each of her goals for this year. She asked for additional time on goals three and four since we will be discussing increasing fees due to the circumstances of the budget.
 - b. Update School Committee Goals – Dr. Berthiaume stated that with regard to the goal of putting together a five-year plan, the school committee is unable to complete that at this time, given the financial uncertainty of the school and Town budgets at this point. It will have to wait until after May of this year.

- c. Budget – Superintendent Calmes thanked everyone for coming out tonight. She reviewed the timeline around the dynamic process of the budget from last fall through Town Meeting in May. The total budget numbers from FY11, FY12 and FY13 were noted. The next slides reported out the enrollment numbers from FY07 through FY12 and full-time equivalent numbers. The superintendent talked about class sizes and student-to-teacher ratios, which have risen over the past five years. We made the reductions in staff in response to the decrease in students. Enrollment is now stabilized. The major drivers contributing to the \$1.7M increase in the budget were listed. Next, the superintendent looked at the changes since January 2012, which included an increase of Chapter 70 funds and a health insurance savings (3.55% instead of 10%). The Chapter 70 increase has covered loss of Ed Jobs funding, the decline of Shirley revenue and increased tuition. This has partially closed the gap. We still need to close a \$1.2M gap. Superintendent Calmes listed the reductions including \$850K in personnel and programs, as well as increased revenues from user fees and an override. A new bus fee would be \$1.00 a day and an increase to lunch prices will be additional 25 cents per meal. We will also look at increasing facility fees and athletic fees. The superintendent presented an overview of programs that may be reduced or eliminated. Central office administrators will need to be reduced from five to three. Those responsibilities will have to be reassigned at the central office or building level. We will also need to decrease special education teachers at each of the schools, and there will be a loss of common planning for teachers.

Dr. Berthiaume addressed the audience about the possibility of a Proposition 2 ½ override. It requires community involvement. It won't happen with just the school community.

Mr. Rob Bowen, 1686 Massachusetts Avenue – Mr. Bowen asked the School Committee to put together a projection of some sort because it may help with an override.

Ms. Milree Keeling, 324 Sunny Hill Road – Ms. Keeling stated that Lunenburg has had a very efficient government for many years. She asked if an advocacy group for the override has been formed. Superintendent Calmes responded that the papers have not yet been filed.

Tonya Leguina, 15 Old Farm Road – Ms. Leguina asked what an override would mean to the average citizen. Dr. Berthiaume replied that we don't have that information yet.

Dave Matthews, 571 Mulpus Road – Mr. Matthews, Selectmen Chair, stated that the preliminary budget would be presented next week. The Town is in the same predicament as the schools.

Courtney Zivojinovic, 239 South Row Road – Mr. Zivojinovic asked what the teacher/support staff cuts look like. Dr. Berthiaume responded that we will try to make the least impactful cuts possible. Superintendent Calmes said we will have that information for the March 7 meeting.

Brendan Grady – Mr. Grady, 161 Robbs Hill Road, asked that the links to pertinent information be shared with the community so everyone can understand what we get for our investment, the “bang for our buck.”

Tom Alonzo, 284 Lancaster Ave. – Mr. Alonzo is the vice chair of the Selectmen. He spoke about the importance of a good education and how it is important for the community as a whole.

Clarence Floyd, Goodrich Street – Mr. Floyd stated his opposition to an override for this purpose.

Liz Petersen, 20 John Street – Ms. Petersen stated she has worked in the schools for 20 years and she has seen firsthand how these reductions have affected the students in the classrooms.

Dr. Berthiaume encouraged everyone to attend the next meeting.

Action

- a. District Reconfiguration – Superintendent Calmes recommended support of the Advisory Committee's recommendation of forming a grades 6-12 middle/high school and reconfiguring from a four-school to a

three-school district. Mr. Mackin moved and Ms. Shapiro seconded a motion to accept and approve the superintendent's recommendation. Vote: unanimous.

* Public Comment – None.

* Reports

- a. Advisory Committee - Reconfiguration
- b. Finance Committee
- c. School Councils – Ms. Shapiro reported that the Primary School's parent survey will go out electronically to all parents after February break.
- 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
- 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 8:13 p.m. Mr. Mackin moved and Ms. Shapiro seconded a motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing strategies relating to collective bargaining. Vote: unanimous.

Roll Call

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/5/28/16

APPROVED

Lunenburg School Committee

Date: 3/7/12

MLL
Initials