



Lunenburg Public Schools

Loxi Jo Calmes
Superintendent of Schools

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, September 19, 2012
T.C. Passios Elementary School, Room 13 – 7:00 p.m.

Minutes

School Committee

Gregory Berthiaume
Michael Mackin
Colleen Shapiro
Brendan Grady
Todd Blake

Superintendent

Loxi Jo Calmes

Recording Secretary

Mary Landi

Student Representative

Abbey Clark

Guests

Brian Spadafino

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- * Call to Order – Dr. Berthiaume called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
 - * Chair's Report – Dr. Berthiaume welcomed everyone to the new meeting room. He also shared that the School Committee received a letter from FLLAC recognizing Mr. Londa and Superintendent Calmes for welcoming them to TCP. They like their new school facility very much.
 - * Review and Approve Minutes
 - June 20, 2012 Executive Session Minutes – approved by Dr. Berthiaume.
 - July 18, 2012 Executive Session Minutes – approved by Dr. Berthiaume.
 - September 5, 2012 Regular Session Minutes – approved by Dr. Berthiaume.
 - September 5, 2012 Executive Session Minutes – tabled to next meeting.
 - * Review and Approve Warrants
 - * Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Calmes reported:
 - Enrollment is down nine students in the last two weeks. This is to be expected; the superintendent will keep everyone updated. We are right at the levels predicted.
 - Superintendent Calmes and a small group of parents from PTO, PACSAL, and Mass Family Network are working with Dr. Julia Byers around change, community building, and a vision for the TCP building.
 - School sports teams are ramped up.
 - Overview of MCAS results – Mr. Spadafino gave a quick review of the high school results and reported they are included in a group of schools that are number one in the state for ELA – grade 10. Superintendent Calmes reported out on THMS results, where they reached the target on 20 out of 22 areas. TCP overall met targets. There was further discussion on MCAS numbers.
 - * Student Report – Ms. Clark reported:
 - Float meetings are starting this week.
 - Homecoming will be on October 13.
 - Freshmen elections were held today.

* Old Business

- a. Use of Donations Horticulture Program – Mr. Spadafino addressed the committee and spoke about the Horticulture Proposal. Twenty-one students are currently enrolled – five from the Achieve Program. There are three adults in the class. Mr. Spadafino would like to hire a greenhouse supervisor for 12 hours per week; this would be hourly position (\$10.89/hr.). The program would run first semester and then second semester only for students maintaining their plants for the flower show. Students are volunteering to sell plants to fundraise for the program. There was further discussion around the specifics of the program. Mr. Spadafino thanked the donors for making this possible. Ms. Shapiro moved and Mr. Blake seconded a motion to approve the proposal and accept with gratitude the donations directed toward the horticulture program.

* New Business

- a. LHS Student Council Trip – March 6-8, 2013, on the Cape. Mr. Spadafino indicated that 12 students will attend the conference with chaperones. Lunenburg shares a bus with Leominster High School. Students are responsible for paying for the conference; they fundraise to lessen the amount out of pocket. It is a very educational experience and good networking opportunity. Initial approval is being requested so students can begin fundraising. Mr. Spadafino will be back 30 days prior to trip for final approval. There is no cost to district. Superintendent Calmes recommended approval. Mr. Mackin moved and Ms. Shapiro seconded a motion to give initial approval for the trip. Vote: unanimous.
- b. Communication to the Community – Dr. Berthiaume suggested a workshop session be scheduled in the next month or two to discuss the topic of Communication to the Community. There was discussion on everyone’s availability, as well as how to get people’s opinions. One suggestion was to send out an Alert Now message asking for people to email their concerns/opinions to the school committee and then discuss those concerns at the next meeting. Dr. Berthiaume will put together a note for the superintendent to send home asking for suggestions on how we can improve communications and include all the SC members’ email addresses. School committee members need to let Dr. Berthiaume know when they could meet for the workshop session. Dr. Berthiaume will also check on the availability of the PTO and Anthony Caiozzo to attend the meeting.
- c. Workshop Sessions – Ms. Shapiro would like to discuss fundraisers and see how much money is raised through them. Some people would prefer to make a donation, instead of purchasing a product. Mr. Mackin would like to see a workshop on the budget for next year. Mr. Blake would like a workshop on the Relief Project – us vs. them is how it felt last year. It was decided upon that the school committee will not meet as a group at the special town meeting next Tuesday.
- d. Request to Tap Maple Trees on School Property - Superintendent Calmes gave a brief review of the issue involving the tapping of maple trees, which takes place on THMS property. The superintendent met with Mr. Jim Lattanzi recently to further discuss this issue. If allowed to continue the tapping, Mr. Lattanzi will be working with the high school to set up a connection with the students’ curriculum. Also, the lines will be up for a shorter time period; they will go up in December and come down in March. Superintendent Calmes recommended allowing the tapping for the coming year. There was a discussion around the benefits of and objections to the tapping. Mr. Smith of 60 Northfield Road distributed some photographs to the members of the committee so they could see the green tubing that is visible from his property, which is directly across from the woods where the tapping takes place. Mr. Smith read from a prepared statement, voicing his objection to allowing the tapping to continue. Mr. Mackin moved and Ms. Shapiro seconded a motion to deny the request to allow the tapping of the trees. Vote: 4-1. Mr. Grady opposed.

* Public Comment – None.

* Reports

- a. School Building Committee – Mr. Mackin reported the SBC met last Wednesday. They have 12 OPM proposals to review and score. October 2 & 4 are the reserved dates for the interviews of the finalists. Those meetings will be at 7:00 p.m. at TCP. Once the OPM is selected we will move on to the next phase of the feasibility study.
- b. Finance Committee
- c. School Councils

- d. PTO – Ms. Shapiro reported on the PTO meeting. It was well attended with lots of discussion. Superintendent Calmes was the speaker. The Haunted House fundraiser is coming back and will be hosted at TCP.
- e. Policy Sub-Committee – Will be meeting next Monday at 7:00 p.m.
- f. Capital Planning Committee
- g. Wellness Advisory Committee – Superintendent Calmes reported the Wellness Advisory Committee met today. The major focus is on nutrition and sensitizing staff to students who have experienced trauma. There is a list of allowable foods (John Stalker A List) for class celebrations, which will be provided by Ms. Sandra Laserte.
- 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. No need for executive session.

* Adjournment – Ms. Shapiro moved and Mr. Mackin seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:59 p.m. Vote: unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,



Mary Landi
Recording Secretary

c/5/31/5/mel

APPROVED

Lunenburg School Committee

Date: 10.3.12

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Initials