



Lunenburg Public Schools

Loxi Jo Calmes
Superintendent of Schools

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, December 5, 2012
Town Hall – 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

Emma Degrace

Guests

Elaine Blaisdell, Timothy Santry
Brian Spadafino, John Londa

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- * Call to Order – Dr. Berthiaume called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
 - * Chair's Report – Dr. Berthiaume stated that we may be looking at restructuring the current budget due to budget cuts from the State. He also noted that later in this meeting, we will be discussing the ratification of the contract with the LEA. Two years have been spent working on this. This is important for the community as well as the schools.
 - * Review and Approve Minutes
 - September 5, 2012 Executive Session Minutes – Tabled to a future meeting.
 - October 3, 2012 Executive Session Minutes – Tabled to a future meeting.
 - November 7, 2012 Regular Session Minutes – Approved by Dr. Berthiaume.
 - November 14, 2012 Executive Session Minutes – Tabled to a future meeting.
 - November 28, 2012 Regular Session Minutes – Approved by Dr. Berthiaume.
 - * Review and Approve Warrants – None.
 - * Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Calmes reported:
 - The annual tree lighting will be held tomorrow evening at 6:00 at the Gazebo. The LHS band will start playing at 5:50. Refreshments will be available at TCP after the tree lighting. Student Council will be selling baked goods as a fundraiser for the food bank.
 - The governor has made cuts under the 9C powers; this will be an ongoing discussion. There will be a five percent reduction or approximately \$20,000 in circuit breaker reimbursement based upon the current allocation.
 - We anticipate an additional \$8,000 in transportation costs for a homeless students and the reimbursement was reduced from 100% to 45% under the 9C cuts.
 - * Student Representative's Report – Ms. Degrace reported:
 - On December 15 Best Buddies will host a pancake breakfast at the high school.
 - Also on December 15, the National Honor Society will offer gift wrapping services from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the LHS cafeteria.
 - This is Ms. Degrace's last school committee meeting. Abbie Clark will be the next LHS student representative to the SC.

* New Business

a. FY14 Proposed Budgets

- Lunenburg Primary School – Elaine Blaisdell, Primary School Principal, addressed the committee and gave an overview of the budget process at the primary. Teacher requests are geared to the school improvement plan and the common core curriculum. She highlighted the areas where there were significant increases and two lines that were decreased. The \$1600 in the technology line is for apps for the iPad cart and protective cases for the iPads. Ms. Blaisdell listed some of the impacts that have been felt at the Primary School this past year. There have been increased demands on staff due to the increase in student population. The decrease in the number of special educators means additional workload for the remaining special education teachers. Students have had a decrease in the amount of time in specials. Teachers’ prep time was reduced. Ms. Blaisdell’s recommendations on what she would bring back to the Primary School include specials and a full-time special education teacher.
- Turkey Hill Middle School – Mr. Timothy Santry, THMS principal, addressed the committee and spoke to the lines that had the largest increase over FY13, including middle school workbooks, library expenses and textbook replacements. There was discussion around some of the increases. With regard to the impact of consolidation, the addition of 120 students impacts the front office and the nurse. We are currently at 502 students. This takes a toll on the administrative secretary. With the elimination of the instructional services director and special services coordinator positions, there is increased responsibility on Mr. Santry to ensure that those programs are being provided to the students at THMS. Mr. Santry would request no decrease in staff for next year. Dr. Berthiaume asked if the data shows any increase in student visits to the nurse, etc., due to anxiety/stress. Mr. Santry will speak with the nurse to get that data.
- Lunenburg High School – Mr. Brian Spadafino addressed the committee. He reviewed the largest increases; the first being in general school supplies for an increase in paper. Other increases include science/lab supplies, math supplies for a new math class that will be offered, English textbooks, and library books. The impact of consolidation at the high school includes space being at a premium, especially for special education testing. Staff and students have handled the consolidation unbelievably well. The high school lost a computer lab, lost some electives and lost some personnel. There has been increased traffic to the nurse’s office. The loss of the Special Services Coordinator and curriculum development instructor has put more responsibility on administrators and department heads. Vertical alignment between schools is more difficult. There are benefits as well. Mr. Spadafino would request no decrease in staff for next year. He has not seen a downside in attendance because of the transportation fee. Superintendent Calmes noted that a request for two mobile carts for the high school is in the capital plan due to the loss of the computer lab.
- Superintendent Calmes reminded everyone that the next school committee meeting will be December 19 at 6:00 at the high school, where the superintendent’s FY14 budget recommendation will be presented. At 7:00 p.m. the Committee will attend the TIGER presentation at the high school.

b. Donation – The Terren family of Lunenburg is donating \$5,000 for special education/Achieve classroom supplies. Superintendent Calmes recommended acceptance of the donation. Mr. Mackin moved and Ms. Shapiro seconded a motion to accept the donation with gratitude. Vote: unanimous.

c. Ratification of Teacher Contract – Mr. Dave Matthews, representative from the Town side of government, joined the committee at the table. Dr. Berthiaume gave some background and indicated there is a Memorandum of Agreement ready to be signed. Dr. Berthiaume gave a summary of the MOA in terms of the financial impact and other minor changes. A major change in the contract is how teachers will be evaluated; we will be implementing a new teacher evaluation system. Superintendent Calmes recommended ratification of the contract. Dr. Berthiaume moved and Mr. Mackin seconded a motion to ratify the Memorandum of Agreement on the table. Mr. Matthews thanked everyone involved. Dr. Berthiaume also thanked Tim Normandin, LEA contract manager, for going well above and beyond in helping to find the common ground the school committee is voting on tonight. Vote: unanimous.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Blake – yes

Mr. Grady – yes

Ms. Shapiro – yes

Mr. Mackin – yes

Dr. Berthiaume – yes
Mr. Matthews – yes

* Old Business

- a. Capital Plan Change Recommendation – Superintendent Calmes gave an update on the capital plan, which included removal of the THMS ceiling project and \$15,000 for asbestos management at Turkey Hill Middle School. Mr. Mackin moved and Ms. Shapiro seconded a motion to accept the capital plan as modified. Vote: unanimous.
- b. FY14 Line Item Adjustments – Superintendent Calmes explained the line item changes, which are due to the settlement of the contract. Funds are being moved from the expense side (legal line) to the salary side. Funds were also added to the overtime line for school secretaries; this budget is based on what is known. The superintendent also reviewed additional line changes.

* Public Comment – Superintendent Calmes reported we will be participating in a Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Coordinated Program Review in December and January. They will be reviewing our special education program, civil rights, ELL services and Title I program. Anyone interested in being interviewed by the DESE personnel should contact the superintendent's office.

* Reports

- a. School Building Committee – Mr. Mackin reported that the Designer Request for Services proposals was posted in the Central Register and Telegram & Gazette. Received proposals from 38 firms. A walk through was held on December 4. Proposals due back by December 13. The Design Selection Committee will meet on January 8 in Boston. The next SBC is scheduled for December 17.
- b. Finance Committee – The Finance Committee will tour schools tomorrow afternoon.
- c. School Councils
- d. PTO – Ms. Shapiro reported they will be meeting next Monday at 7:00 to review teachers' request for funds.
- e. Policy Sub-Committee – Mr. Grady reported they will meet on January 7.
- f. Capital Planning Committee – Ms. Shapiro reported the CPC met today and they will be joining the finance committee for the school tours.
- g. Wellness Advisory Committee – Ms. Shapiro reported they will meet next Wednesday at 3:40 in the THMS library.
- h. PAC/SAL
- i. Community Engagement and Outreach Advisory Committee – Mr. Grady reported they met last night. They are looking at two work streams – one long term and one short term. Will meet next on December 18.
- j. Rep. Benson's Advisory
- k. Other

* Continuing Projects/Estimated Date of Completion

* Items for Future Discussion

* 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 – Mr. Mackin moved and Ms. Shapiro seconded a motion to adjourn regular session at 8:28 p.m. Vote: unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Landi

Mary Landi
Recording Secretary

c/5/31/12/mel

APPROVED

Lunenburg School Committee

Date: 12/19/12

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Initials