



Lunenburg Public Schools

Loxi Jo Calmes
Superintendent of Schools

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, March 20, 2013
Thomas C. Passios Building Room #13 – 7:00 p.m.

Minutes

School Committee

Gregory Berthiaume
Michael Mackin
Colleen Shapiro
Brendan Grady – Mr. Grady arrived at 7:07 p.m.
Todd Blake – absent

Superintendent

Loxi Jo Calmes

Recording Secretary

Mary Landi

Student Representative

Abbey Clark

Guests

Kerry Speidel; Peg Proctor & LHS Students: Rebecca Krowitz
Kyle Lourens, Jennifer Moriarty

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- * Call to Order – Dr. Berthiaume called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.
 - * Chair's Report
 - * Review and Approve Minutes
 - February 6, 2013 Regular Session Minutes
 - February 27, 2013 Regular Session Minutes
 - March 6, 2013 Regular Session MinutesAll minutes were approved by Dr. Berthiaume.
 - * Review and Approve Warrants – Mr. Londa gave an explanation for the line item transfer that he submitted to the committee. The LIT would move \$16,739 from three separate lines for exterior lighting conversion to LEDs at Lunenburg Primary and Turkey Hill Middle School. Superintendent Calmes recommended approval. Mr. Mackin moved and Ms. Shapiro seconded a motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendation.
 - * Superintendent's Report
 - Student Report – Puerto Rico trip – Ms. Proctor and Ms. Hillman were in attendance with three students who participated in the Puerto Rico trip. They shared a slideshow of their adventure and talked about the history and culture of Puerto Rico.
 - Mr. Londa addressed the committee regarding asbestos removal. Cardino ATC submitted a draft report on its findings from the re-inspection of the school buildings. Mr. Londa then sent the report to the Department of Labor to see if it is their intent that we make all the repairs that are noted in the report and to get an understanding of what it would cost. The asbestos abatement list was quite extensive.
 - Superintendent Calmes had a slideshow of plants/flowers and the students who participated in the New England Flower Show. Many students received awards at the show. There was also a slide which showed the sap coming in on maple trees and a Lunenburg High School student intern working with Mr. Jim Lattanzi.
 - Preliminary Design Program Submission – Joslin, Lesser + Associates will be submitting the Preliminary Design Program for Lunenburg High School to the MSBA.

* Student Representative's Report

- Ms. Clark talked about the recent Student Council Conference that was held on Cape Cod. She reported that the students went to workshops and saw many speakers. There was a lot of positive energy working with people you don't know. Ms. Clark said she learned a lot about leadership. Students were very independent at the conference. Ms. Clark talked about lessons learned, which included communication and teamwork.
- Spring track and rehearsals for the school musical are underway.
- Recent LHS activities include a dodge ball tournament, 3-on-3 basketball and LHS on Ice at the Wallace Civic Center.

* Old Business

- a. FY14 Budget – Ms. Speidel joined the committee at the table. There was a discussion around the proposed school budget vs. what the Town Manager has recommended and the gap that remains, which is \$368,000. We will not know the final State budget prior to Town Meeting. Superintendent Calmes will present to the Finance Committee tomorrow night. The superintendent indicated that to close the gap, \$80,000 would need to be cut from curriculum adoption and the rest would need to come from personnel. Ms. Speidel spoke about the minimum increased aid from the state of \$25 per student. Given that, she could then amend her budget by approximately \$40,000. There is also approximately \$48,000 in health insurance savings. Health insurance savings is being worked on with the PEC. Ms. Speidel talked about some possible additional savings (\$100K), but there is nothing concrete yet. There was a discussion around the special education director's position and filling that position. There was further discussion around where we could possibly save money – out of district placements? Microsoft licenses? Dr. Berthiaume thanked Ms. Speidel for coming to the meeting and for her offer of doing whatever she can to assist us.
- b. Third Reading – Revised Policies: 2100 Superintendent of Schools; 5103.01 School Choice; 6503 Executive Sessions. Superintendent Calmes noted that the policies are posted on the website; we have not received any feedback. The third reading was tabled to the next meeting to allow for more time for public feedback.
- c. FY14 Calendar – There was discussion around the school calendar in terms of managing it when some years we have no snow days and some years we have more than the five scheduled into the calendar. We are required to schedule 185 days and attend 180 days. Currently we can adjust the calendar by February 1 if changes need to be made. Should that change? Discussion ensued. Dr. Berthiaume suggested we allow the public a chance to review the calendar for FY14. Feedback is welcome from the public, but we will not reopen the calendar at this time.

* New Business

- a. MOA – Lunenburg Association of Secretaries and Clerks – Superintendent Calmes reviewed the agreement and highlighted the changes to the contract for the secretaries and clerks. It has been ratified by the Secretaries and Clerks Association. Superintendent Calmes recommended approval. Mr. Mackin moved and Ms. Shapiro seconded a motion to accept the superintendent's recommendation. Vote: unanimous. Three copies of the MOA were passed around for committee members to sign.
- b. Superintendent's Salary FY14 & FY15 – Dr. Berthiaume gave some background on the six-year agreement with the superintendent. Superintendent Calmes will receive a 2.5% increase in FY14 and FY15. Vote: unanimous.

* Public Comment

* Reports

- a. School Building Committee – Mr. Mackin reported that the vision and planning workshops were well attended and included a wide variety of participants. The sessions were very engaging and challenging. The CM at Risk discussion is rescheduled to April 2 with the Board of Selectmen. On April 10 the SBC will determine the preferred option they want to take to the MSBA. Mr. Londa joined the committee at the table and reviewed the White Paper he wrote on the future of TCP. This paper articulated the problem, proof the problem exists, basic solution, and recommendation. He reviewed the expenses associated with keeping this building open over the next ten years and he also talked about the options for the school. Dr. Berthiaume asked about the possibility of opening a magnet

school/charter school. The school committee has the decision around whether to keep TCP as a school or give it back to the town. The CM at risk decision rests with the SBC. The White Paper will be posted at the website. Discussion around options and scenarios of the use of school buildings ensued. No matter what the decision is, an emotional response from the community should be expected.

- b. Finance Committee – The next meeting is tomorrow.
- c. School Councils – The next LHS School Council meeting is April 10.
- d. PTO – They met last Monday.
- e. Policy Sub-Committee – Superintendent Calmes reported they will meet on March 26 to discuss partnerships, whistle blower, and possibly health policies.
- f. Capital Planning Committee – Ms. Shapiro reported the CPC is waiting to brief the Finance Committee.
- g. Wellness Advisory Committee – The group met last week; there was nothing new to report out.
- h. PAC/SAL – The meeting was snowed out.
- i. Rep. Benson’s Advisory – This item will be removed from future agendas.
- k. Other

* Continuing Projects/Estimated Date of Completion

* Items for Future Discussion

* Adjournment – Mr. Mackin moved and Ms. Shapiro seconded a motion to adjourn at 9:33 p.m. Vote: unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,



Mary E. Landi
Recording Secretary

c/5/5/31/19/mel

APPROVED

Lunenburg School Committee

Date: 4-3-13

ML
Initials