



# Lunenburg Public Schools

Loxi Jo Calmes  
Superintendent of Schools

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
Wednesday, April 3, 2013  
Town Hall – 7:00 p.m.

## Minutes

### School Committee

Gregory Berthiaume  
Michael Mackin - absent  
Colleen Shapiro  
Brendan Grady  
Todd Blake

### Superintendent

Loxi Jo Calmes

### Recording Secretary

Mary Landi

### Student Representative

Abbey Clark

### Guests

Brian Spadafino, Timothy Santry, Elaine Blaisdell  
Jessica Beardmore, Rebecca Krowitz, Kay Hillman  
John Londa

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- \* Call to Order – Dr. Berthiaume called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
  
  - \* Budget Hearing – Superintendent Calmes expressed her gratitude to everyone in the district who helped in the development of the budget. Sandra Curley was instrumental in putting together the FY14 budget document and all the charts and tables contained in the document. The superintendent began her PowerPoint presentation. This year, a lot of time was focused on the new teacher evaluation system. Core curriculum work, funded by Race to the Top grant money, will be done this summer. Wireless in the high school and middle school opened the doors in terms of technology. We are looking at how we can implement a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program for students. Superintendent Calmes reviewed enrollment, which is currently at 1617 students (includes 24 out-of-district placements). She next looked at the slide on FTEs and noted the decrease of 13 percent in staff from FY08 to present, which responds to a 6.8 percent decrease in enrollment. The number of classrooms has decreased, which increased class size; therefore, we have not been able to bring in additional school choice students. Tri-Town and Emerald Place student enrollment numbers were reviewed in terms of students who live in those developments and where they attend school – local, charter, private, or choice. With regard to special education, we have seen an increase in the number of students receiving special services. Currently, 18.4 percent of students have IEPs. There are 40 students in Achieve/Ace Programs, with an increase in the number of students in the Achieve Program at the Primary School. We have also seen an increase in low income numbers, over 250 families at this time. Superintendent Calmes reviewed personnel and non-personnel budget drivers including an increase in special education tuitions and transportation amounting to \$420,000; materials at \$69,558 and health insurance at \$11,000. Items listed to close the \$486K gap include health insurance renewal savings \$42K; increase of \$25 per student in Chapter 70 \$40K; additional income from rentals \$12K (extended day); savings via attrition \$165-\$230K (3 teachers & 1 custodian) - three out of four of these positions have not and will not be advertised; energy credits \$100K (possible, NOT firm); reduction in materials and supplies \$80K; reduction in personnel \$60K; and music at primary \$30K.

Mr. Spadafino addressed the committee and talked about the consolidation at the high school and how smoothly it has gone. He also talked about opportunities and challenges of having the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in the high school. Mr. Spadafino next listed the FY14 cuts that would need to be made at the high school to help close the gap.

Mr. Santry addressed the committee and talked about the consolidation at the middle school. He spoke very favorably about the consolidation while listing the opportunities and challenges. He next listed the impact of non-personnel budget cuts at the middle school for FY14.

Ms. Blaisdell addressed the committee and talked about the opportunities and challenges resulting from the consolidation at the primary school. Major challenges include the loss of the music program, parking, and very tight quarters. She listed the impact of non-personnel budget cuts at the primary school for FY14 to help close the gap.

Superintendent Calmes said we are always looking to the future for opportunities for students at all levels. Next year, we will have 11 master teachers, some of whom will provide after school opportunities for students.

Dr. Berthiaume asked for public comment. Brandon Kibbe inquired as to why we wouldn't eliminate the director of special education position instead of materials and music at the primary school. Superintendent Calmes replied that we knew we could manage without a special services director for one year, but because of the complexity of the special education program management and the time taken away from other administrative responsibilities, we cannot do without for another year. Not reinstating the music program at the primary school would be a last resort.

The Budget Hearing concluded at 8:37 p.m.

\* Chair's Report – Dr. Berthiaume expressed his disappointment in the state legislature not supporting the governor's budget and not supporting the educational issues at hand.

\* Review and Approve Minutes

- January 16, 2013 Executive Session Minutes
  - February 6, 2013 Executive Session Minutes
  - February 27, 2013 Executive Session Minutes
  - March 20, 2013 Regular Session Minutes
- All minutes were approved by Dr. Berthiaume.

\* Review and Approve Warrants

\* Superintendent's Report

- Student Report – Quebec Trip – LHS student Rebecca Krowicz addressed the committee and spoke about the Quebec trip. Ms. Krowitz said the tour guide was amazing, and it was a fabulous trip. They were in Quebec during Carnivale. The trip was very well planned out and the group had no down time. She talked about some of the things that the group did.

\* New Business

- a. 2014 France/Spain Trip – Ms. Beardmore addressed the committee and provided some information around educational travel and the doors it opens. It exposes students to being part of a global community and expands their world. It also renews motivation for their studies. Ms. Beardmore reviewed the itinerary for the proposed France/Spain trip. The travel company they will use is Explorica, which they have used in the past. Superintendent Calmes recommended initial approval of the trip. Ms. Beardmore will be back at least 30 days prior to the trip for final approval. Ms. Shapiro moved and Mr. Blake seconded a motion to accept the superintendent's recommendation. Vote: unanimous.

\* Student Representative's Report – Ms. Clark reported:

- Unified track got started this week;
- Penny wars is kicking off this week (sponsored by the LHS World Hunger Taskforce); and
- Nurse and secretary appreciation day is April 24.

- \* New Business continued
- b. Donation – Superintendent Calmes recommended acceptance of the \$500 donation from Mr. Mike’s Mobil in Lunenburg (Global Montecello). This year the donation is going to the Primary School. Mr. Grady moved and Mr. Blake seconded a motion to approve the Superintendent’s recommendation. Vote: unanimous.

- \* Old Business
- a. Discussion – Lunenburg High School Building Project – The three options that were chosen are: grades 6-12 add/renovate; grades 9-12 new; and grades 6-12 new. The School Building Committee will select a preferred option from those three next week and then submit it to the MSBA for review. They can either approve that option or suggest a different one. Also under consideration is what to do with the other school buildings. Tours of the facilities will be set up so people are aware of the state of the buildings. Mr. Londa addressed the committee and talked about the cost of the various options. We will be looking at the DRA study and bring those 2007 costs up to today’s costs. A 9-12 school would mean going back to a four-school district. There was discussion around what the options mean. Superintendent Calmes encouraged everyone to attend the SBC meeting on April 10 at Town Hall.
- b. Third Reading – Revised Policies: 2100 Superintendent of Schools; 5103.01 School Choice; 6503 Executive Sessions – Ms. Shapiro moved and Mr. Grady seconded a motion to waive the third reading and accept the revised policies. Vote: unanimous.

- \* Public Comment
- Ms. Hillman, representative of the LEA, invited everyone to join Team Lunenburg at this year’s Relay for Life on June 7 in Gardner. Ms. Laserte will send out a district-wide email.
  - Mr. Grady reminded everyone about the newly revised website, as well as being able to find information about the schools on Facebook and Twitter.

- \* Reports
- a. School Building Committee
- b. Finance Committee – The Finance Committee will be making its recommendations for warrant articles tomorrow night.
- c. School Councils
- d. PTO – Barn Dance Friday night at TCP from 6:00-9:00.
- e. Policy Sub-Committee – Superintendent Calmes reported the policy sub-committee needs to reschedule its meeting. Mr. Grady said he will be traveling for the next three weeks.
- f. Capital Planning Committee – Ms. Shapiro reported the CPC is continuing to talk with the Finance Committee.
- g. Wellness Advisory Committee – Ms. Shapiro reported the next meeting is on April 24.
- h. PAC/SAL
- i. Other – Superintendent Calmes reported two students from our district are going to the JFK Make-a-Difference Ceremony – Meighan McCarthy and Ron Hyatt. Thank you to Ms. Wardwell and the band for performing for the Primary School students.

\* Items for Future Discussion

- \* Adjournment – At 9:23 p.m. Mr. Blake moved and Mr. Grady seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vote: unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Mary Landi*

Mary Landi  
Recording Secretary

LC/5/31/20/mel

Lunenburg School Committee

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*4-24-13*

*ML*

Initials