



Lunenburg Public Schools

Loxi Jo Calmes
Superintendent of Schools

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, April 24, 2013
T.C. Passios, Room 13 – 7:00 p.m.

Minutes

School Committee

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

Superintendent

Loxi Jo Calmes

Recording Secretary

Mary Landi

Student Representative

Abbey Clark

Guests

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- * Call to Order – Dr. Berthiaume called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.
 - * Chair's Report – Dr. Berthiaume expressed his concern for all those affected by the bombing in Boston.
 - * Review and Approve Minutes
 - April 3, 2013 Regular Session Minutes – The minutes were approved by Dr. Berthiaume.
 - * Review and Approve Warrants – Warrants were on the table for review and signatures.
 - * Superintendent's Report
 - Superintendent Calmes welcomed everyone. She expressed her thanks and appreciation to Ms. Kimball and the other adult sponsors who traveled with students to Europe and made them feel safe and comfortable.
 - The Superintendent recently attended a workshop on transgender identity and transgender students. It was a wonderful workshop sponsored by the Massachusetts Gay Straight Alliance in conjunction with the DESE. The students who attended from the high school will be working with the admin team.
 - Student Alyson Wyson was recently honored for her leadership in raising \$2,000 for Callie's Educational Fund. Alyson is also a big sib at the middle school.
 - THMS student Jill Li was honored at the JFK Making a Difference Awards.
 - The Reading Fair at the Primary School was taking place at the same time as the school committee meeting.
 - Regarding Mr. Grady's question on the school district's use of Microsoft software, the operating system is included in the purchase of the new computers, at a cost in the neighborhood of \$100. Also, a large block of licenses was purchased in 2010 and is still serving the district adequately. Moving forward, we will be checking out other options.
 - * Student Representative's Report – Ms. Clark reported on the following:
 - At a recent MICCA competition, the LHS band received a silver medal and the chorus received gold.
 - Transition Night for 8th grade students is May 2, and for 7th grade students it is scheduled for May 3.
 - Advanced Placement exams begin on May 6.
 - Course selection for next year is underway.
 - Special Olympics rally is scheduled for tomorrow.
 - The Greenhouse is selling maple syrup; it can be purchased at the high school office.

- The LHS Chorus is going to perform at the Primary School next week.
- Chris Herren spoke to the students at the high school and gave an excellent presentation.

* New Business

a. Donations

- The Fitchburg State University Association of Professional Administrators donated the funds to pay for Lunenburg athletes, advisors and Best Buddies to attend the Special Olympics at FSU. They have done this for several years now. Superintendent Calmes recommended acceptance of the check for \$348. Mr. Blake moved and Mr. Mackin seconded a motion to accept the donation with gratitude. Vote: unanimous.
- The Leominster Rotary Club donated dictionaries to all third grade students at the Primary School. Superintendent Calmes recommended acceptance and acknowledgement of the generous donation. Mr. Mackin moved and Mr. Blake seconded a motion to accept the donation with gratitude. Vote: unanimous.

b. Superintendent's Evaluation – Dr. Berthiaume indicated this is a transition year moving from using the old evaluation format to the new format. The School Committee is extremely pleased with the superintendent's performance over the past year. She has done an outstanding job with everything. Overall, the Superintendent has been found to be proficient. Dr. Berthiaume reviewed some of the highlights of the evaluation. He thanked Superintendent Calmes for her hard work and dedication to the community over the past decade. Superintendent Calmes appreciated the feedback. She expressed her gratitude and thanked the committee for the opportunity to serve.

c. Non-Affiliated Agreement – Superintendent Calmes requested the reinstatement of the position of Director of Extended Day, which used to be in place when the program was at the primary school. She explained the difference between coordinator and director. This is an hourly position. The coordinator position would still be in place. These positions are completely self-funded through the extended day program; there is no cost to the taxpayer. We will plan to vote on this at the next meeting.

d. Extended Day Facilities Use Charge – We have never charged the extended day program for usage of the facility or custodial service. This program has grown immensely and is currently using four classrooms. There are sufficient funds with our current enrollment to make the adjustments in charging a rental fee and putting in the director's position. Mr. Londa calculated what the charge would be for facilities usage based on square footage. We will vote on this at the next meeting. This program is a service to parents, but not something we are required to provide. The program is self-funding.

e. FY14 Fees – Superintendent Calmes reviewed the FY13 fees and the changes in those fees for FY14. Preschool tuition is increasing, but that increase was approved in FY12. The cost for the early learning center bus from the Primary to TCP will be determined based upon enrollment. The cross country fee would go up from \$35 to \$50 at THMS and there would be a general activity fee of \$25 per semester. There was discussion around the difference in activity fee amounts at LHS and THMS, as well as the difference in what those activities are – clubs vs. activity/projects. Mr. McCauliff joined the committee to discuss the request to increase the athletic fee to \$225. Mr. McCauliff reviewed the history of the athletic fee and there was discussion around how many students are participating in athletics and the number of waivers requested. The average bus trip is \$375, and home games cost \$268 each. This year we cut the number of games, and by raising the fee we can put those games back into the schedule. Dr. Berthiaume asked Mr. McCauliff for more data in terms of student-athlete participation as a percentage of enrollment. There was further discussion on fees, participation, and waivers. Mr. McCauliff then gave an update on spring sports, which have all begun. Marshall Park looks good thanks to Jack Rodiquenz. There are 150 students participating and they are all academically eligible. The unified track meet is on May 18. The increase in the track fee at THMS is due to transportation costs.

f. Release of Executive Session Minutes – Mr. Mackin moved and Mr. Blake seconded a motion to release the executive session minutes from September 5, October 3, and November 14, 2012, as well as January 16, February 6 and February 27, 2013. Vote: unanimous.

* Old Business

a. FY14 Budget Discussion – Superintendent Calmes reviewed where the government is on the budget as of today. Circuit Breaker is still unknown. Our budget will be set at Town Meeting which is a week from Saturday. If we are going to have an additional increase from Chapter 70 due to the change in the

