



Lunenburg Public Schools

Loxi Jo Calmes
Superintendent of Schools

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, September 18, 2013
T.C. Passios, Room 13 - 7:00 p.m.

Minutes

School Committee

Gregory Berthiaume
Michael Mackin
Colleen Shapiro – arrived at 7:09
Brendan Grady
Todd Blake – absent

Superintendent

Loxi Jo Calmes

Recording Secretary

Mary Landi

Student Representative

Abbey Clark

Guests

Representative Jennifer Benson, John Londa, Dawn Gearin
Peter McCauliff, Steve Powell

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- * Call to Order – Dr. Berthiaume called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.
 - * Chair's Report – Dr. Berthiaume welcomed everyone.
 - * Review and Approve Minutes
 - July 17, 2013 Executive Session Minutes
 - August 7, 2013 Regular Session Minutes
 - August 7, 2013 Executive Session MinutesAll minutes approved by Dr. Berthiaume.
 - * Review and Approve Warrants – Warrants were on the table for signatures.
 - * Student Report – Ms. Clark reported:
 - 8th grade orientation was very successful.
 - LHS student council is selling Yankee Candles as a fundraiser.
 - This year's homecoming theme is Seasons.
 - LHS open house at the high school is tomorrow night. Superintendent Calmes added that there will be a presentation on the danger of the accessibility of designer drugs at the beginning of open house tomorrow night.
 - * Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Calmes reported:
 - Miles for Myles will be giving \$1000 to the school that has the most participants in the upcoming Miles for Myles event.
 - The MASC/MASS conference is coming up soon.
 - Open houses have been very well attended.
 - Enrollment update: current enrollment is 1592.
 - * School Building Committee Report – Mr. Mackin updated the committee. SBC members have attended all the open houses to be available to inform the public about the high school project. Preliminary cost estimates are forthcoming. We are looking at a reimbursement rate of 58.25 percent from the MSBA. We

are receiving 1.72 percent for our building maintenance program, 1 point for contract manager at risk and 2 points for meeting CHIPS. The next SBC meeting is September 30, 7:00 p.m., at Town Hall.

* New Business

- a. House Bill 1862 Special Education Stabilization Fund – Representative Jennifer Benson addressed the committee to explain the proposed bill which would allow school districts to establish a stabilization fund that could be used to help pay for unexpected and unbudgeted out-of-district special education costs, including tuition and transportation. The establishment of the fund at the district level would need to be approved at Town Meeting. Representative Benson took questions from the committee.
- b. Student Council State Leadership Conference – Initial Approval – Ms. Dawn Gearin brought forth the initial request for the student council state leadership conference which is in the spring of 2014. About a dozen students from the high school, along with their advisors, attend workshops and other events. They travel with Leominster to help defray the bus expense. The cost is approximately \$200 per student. The group leaves on a Wednesday and returns Friday. Superintendent Calmes recommended initial approval. Mr. Mackin moved and Mr. Grady seconded a motion to grant initial approval. Vote: unanimous.
- c. Cafeteria Agreement – Superintendent Calmes reviewed the M OA and highlighted the changes in the Agreement. The Agreement is for one year only. Superintendent Calmes recommended ratification of the Agreement. Vote: unanimous.

* Old Business

- a. Lacrosse Team Update and Final Approval – Mr. McCauliff and Mr. Powell joined the committee at the table. Mr. McCauliff said the league accepted the lacrosse team for boys junior varsity and varsity and girls junior varsity. We will get the schedule in October for this spring sport. Mr. Powell reported that just over \$15,000 has been raised to date. Fifty-eight boys and 24 girls have expressed interest so far. The website with information for interested parties is www.Lunenburglacrosse.com. The program will be fully self-funded. Cost will be approximately \$21,000; athletes need to have their own equipment, which they will be able to purchase at a significant discount. Mr. Grady moved and Mr. Mackin seconded a motion to give final approval for the Lacrosse Team. Vote: unanimous.
- b. MOA - Tutors Title Change – Superintendent Calmes reviewed the MOA (Side Letter of Agreement) which is for a title change for tutor to be changed to paraprofessional. Also, a hold harmless clause is included in the MOA. Superintendent Calmes recommended approval. Mr. Mackin moved and Ms. Shapiro seconded a motion to approve the title change. Vote: unanimous.
- c. Capital Plan – Draft 10-year Plan – Mr. Londa joined the committee at the table with the proposed FY15 capital plan. He first gave an update on the FY14 capital plan. For FY15 there are four projects proposed. The first is an upgrade to the control system for LPS (14K); the second is asbestos abatement at THMS (278K) - this project would replace all the ceilings in the school. Mr. Londa indicated that the MSBA would not assist us in paying for this project. There was some discussion around the strategy for the capital plan. What Mr. Londa presented assumes the new school will get built. Should we have a plan B in place in case the vote doesn't pass? Should we include repairs to the high school on the long-term capital plan in the event the vote doesn't pass? If we don't include repairs to the high school, should we also remove repairs to TCP? After some discussion, Dr. Berthiaume suggested removing TCP from the capital plan completely. Also, it was recommended the asbestos removal at THMS be split into two years. The third item is technology (district-wide) – I pad carts. The fourth item is a shade structure for an outdoor classroom at THMS, including a concrete pad and three picnic tables.
- d. School Committee Calendar – The committee reviewed the proposed schedule of upcoming meetings of the school committee. The School Building Committee was added to the January 8 meeting, with an update from them on December 4. We will have the new school project on every televised meeting.

* Public Comment – Ms. Shapiro commented that the reimbursement rate of 1.72% from the MSBA based on our maintenance program is amazing.

* Reports

- a. Finance Committee – The Finance Committee will meet next Thursday.
- b. School Councils

- c. PTO – The PTO is meeting next Monday. Superintendent Calmes and Mr. Mackin will be providing an update on the school building project.
- d. Policy Sub-Committee – Has not met yet.
- e. Capital Planning Committee – The group met today and saw the new school building presentation.
- f. Wellness Advisory Committee – The Wellness Advisory Committee met today at THMS.
- g. PAC/SAL
- h. Building Re-use Committee – Mr. Londa reported that it would cost \$923,000 to demolish TCP - \$500,000 for asbestos abatement and \$423,000 for demolition.
- i. Other

* 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. None.

* Adjournment – At 8:57 p.m. Mr. Mackin moved and Mr. Grady seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vote: unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Landi
Recording Secretary

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APPROVED

Lunenburg School Committee

Date: 10/2/13

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Initials