



Lunenburg Public Schools

Loxi Jo Calmes
Superintendent of Schools

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, November 6, 2013
Town Hall - 7:00 p.m.

Minutes

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

Superintendent
Loxi Jo Calmes

Recording Secretary
Mary Landi

Student Representative
None

Guests

Julianna Bahosh, Carrie Ford,
John Londa, Eric Short

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- * Call to Order – Dr. Berthiaume called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
 - * Chair's Report – Dr. Berthiaume reminded everyone about the Special Town Meeting on January 7 and he encouraged everyone to be informed and come out to vote for the new school building project. Community members can contact any of the school committee members to have a discussion, ask questions, or voice concerns.
 - * Review and Approve Minutes
 - October 16, 2013 Regular Session Minutes – Tabled to the next meeting.
 - * Review and Approve Warrants – Warrants were on the table. There was also one line item transfer for the high school. The Robotics program is in need of some equipment. The transfer of funds will not change the bottom line.
 - * Superintendent's Report
 - Superintendent's Award – Superintendent Calmes presented Alaina Johannson, one of our outstanding students at the high school, with the Superintendent's Award. Alaina has been a leader, mentor and role model for others. She is the top ranked student in her class and has received many awards and accolades. Alaina's leadership ability is exceptionally strong, as are her athletic abilities. The superintendent awarded Alaina a Certificate of Academic Excellence. Ms. Johannson introduced her parents. She thanked her teachers and her parents for their love and support over the past 12 years. All Worcester County Superintendents' Award Scholars will be recognized at a luncheon in January.
 - Mr. Londa addressed the committee. He reported that there was a problem at the high school when the heat was turned on recently. There is a leak that needs to be dealt with, and we will need an asbestos contractor to come in and remove ceiling material and asbestos inside the ceiling on the pipes. It will not be pretty when completed, because the reconstructed ceiling will not be able to be feathered into the existing ceiling. Cost is unknown at this point.
 - Mr. Londa talked about excess equipment, mostly from the Passios School, and the plan moving forward.
 - Superintendent Calmes stated that Homecoming was fabulous and the students did a great job. The theme was seasons / landmarks of Lunenburg. The community really came together for the event.
 - The PTO-sponsored haunted house was last Friday. High school clubs were there with refreshments and fundraising.
 - November 8 is a full-day PD day. Faculties will be focused on curriculum work.
 - State Treasurer Grossman will tour LHS on Friday. Mr. Grossman is also the chair of the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

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- The State is in the process of revising the annual assessments for students. The new assessments are called PARCC assessments, and they are more aligned with the common core. Not all of our students will be taking the PARCC in March; it is a random sampling. The assessments will be administered electronically, and they will be primarily at the 8th grade level.
- Title I program – Superintendent Calmes talked about the Title I program and the annual review of it. Our students are very much benefiting from this additional support as evidenced by student performance data.
- Dr. Berthiaume asked about PARCC and if the State has considered any other avenues to arrive at assessment questions. Our students are not under-assessed. Superintendent Calmes said we are required to participate in the pilot program, as it is tied to Race to the Top. Two classrooms of 8th graders will take the assessment. Superintendent Calmes will bring the most recent information she has to the committee at the next meeting.

* Student Representative's Report – None.

* School Building Committee Report – Mr. Mackin reported the SBC met on October 23. It continues to work with the design team and Owner's Project Manager to provide the most educationally sound project to the community. To date, one million dollars has been reduced directly from the local share. The first public forum took place at the high school with about 60 people in attendance. There were good questions and feedback. Mr. Mackin and Superintendent Calmes met with MSBA personnel yesterday. The cost of the building project is 72.9M; the Town will receive a 36.3M grant from the MSBA. Members of the SBC will be meeting with various community groups this month. Public forums will be held on December 5 at 3:00 and 7:00p.m. The building reuse committee continues its work and expects to have a decision mid-December.

* New Business

- a. Donations – Superintendent Calmes recommended acceptance of a donation from the Lunenburg Police Relief Association in the amount of \$720 for Nature's Classroom scholarships, as well as a donation from Target in the amount of \$51 to THMS. Mr. Mackin moved and Mr. Blake seconded a motion to accept the donations with gratitude. Vote: unanimous.
- b. FY15 Proposed Nursing Service Budget – Ms. Carrie Ford presented the FY15 proposed nursing service budget to the committee. Ms. Ford highlighted one increase in the budget, which is an increase in the physician's fee from \$3500 to \$4000. It has remained unchanged since 2005.
- c. Special Education Overview, Update & FY15 Proposed Budget – Ms. Julianna Bahosh addressed the committee. Ms. Bahosh gave a PowerPoint overview of "What is Special Education?" Next, Ms. Bahosh reviewed her proposed budget for FY15. She went line by line and gave explanations for the increases in various lines. Dr. Berthiaume suggested Ms. Bahosh adjust the bottom line and reduce it by including circuit breaker funds.
- d. Ice Hockey Trip Request – Mr. Eric Short addressed the committee to request permission for the annual Waterville Valley hockey trip. The itinerary is the same as last year. The trip is being funded by the hockey boosters. It is a group trip with Lunenburg and Ayer/Shirley hockey players. Superintendent Calmes thanked the coaches and the boosters for bringing this forward and stated that it is a good team-building experience. The superintendent recommended approval of the trip. Mr. Short thanked Mr. Greg Dupre for all his work with the hockey boosters. Mr. Mackin moved and Mr. Blake seconded a motion to approve the trip. Vote: unanimous.
- e. Negotiation Team for LEA Negotiations – Dr. Berthiaume and Ms. Shapiro volunteered to serve on the LEA negotiations team.
- f. FLLAC Annual Report – Superintendent Calmes gave a brief review of the FLLAC Educational Collaborative School Committee Quarterly Report dated October 24, 2013. The review included census and referral data and program updates; professional development offerings; and consultant and related service usage.

* Old Business – None.

* Public Comment – Mr. Bob Meek-LaVeck stated that the PTO voted unanimously in support of the MS/HS project at its last meeting.

* Reports

- a. Finance Committee
- b. School Councils

- c. PTO – The principals and Ms. Bahosh attended the previous meeting. The haunted house raised approximately \$1,800. Currently the PTO has 202 members.
- d. Policy Sub-Committee – Reconfiguration of the committee will be discussed at the next school committee meeting.
- e. Capital Planning Committee – The next CPC meeting is tomorrow morning.
- f. Wellness Advisory Committee – The Wellness Committee met last week. Members discussed updating safety and lockdown procedures. This is an ongoing process. They also talked about school start times for high school students.
- g. PAC/SAL – Ms. Bahosh reported that the PAC talked about collaborating with the Fitchburg PAC on professional development opportunities. They are now on Facebook with a link on the special services webpage.
- h. Building Re-use Committee – The group met on Monday.
- i. Other

* Items for Future Discussion – Reassign PAC and policy sub-committee members.

* 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. At 8:30 p.m. Mr. Mackin moved and Ms. Shapiro seconded a motion to enter into executive session, not to return to regular session, to discuss contract negotiations. Vote: unanimous.

Roll Call

Dr. Berthiaume – yes
Mr. Mackin – yes
Ms. Shapiro – yes
Mr. Blake – yes

* Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at the end of executive session.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary E. Landi
Recording Secretary

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