



Lunenburg Public Schools

Loxi Jo Calmes
Superintendent of Schools

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, November 20, 2013
Lunenburg High School - 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
Sophia Holman

Guests
John Londa

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- * Call to Order – Dr. Berthiaume called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.
 - * Chair's Report – Dr. Berthiaume informed everyone that the meeting was being recorded. He then welcomed those in attendance. Dr. Berthiaume expressed deep sorrow for the acts of hatred that took place during the past week. The vigil on Sunday evening was a remarkable outpouring of support.
 - * Review and Approve Minutes
 - October 16, 2013 Regular Session Minutes
 - November 7, 2013 Executive Session MinutesDr. Berthiaume approved the minutes.
 - * Review and Approve Warrants – Warrants were on the table for signatures.
 - * Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Calmes stated that she would be releasing a statement tomorrow outlining the timeline around the recent incidents.
 - * Student Representative's Report – Ms. Holman reported that there is a petition in place asking students to not use derogatory language. The powder puff game is scheduled for this Friday.
 - * Public Comment – Dr. Berthiaume gave some brief background on the cancellation of the football games. He reminded everyone where the final decision-making authority lies, which is with the school committee. He outlined the ground rules for the public comment period of the meeting. There was no public comment from the board. For the next hour, many members of the community, including current and former students, came forward to voice their opinion on the current situation and the cancellation of the Thanksgiving football game, as well as to offer support to the Phillips family. At the end of public comment, the School Committee did not take a vote to reconsider its original decision.
 - * School Building Committee Report – Mr. Mackin reported on the meeting today with the MSBA. Approval was given by the MSBA for the project to move forward. Mr. Mackin gave further details on the project and said they will be entering into the design and development phase. The SBC will meet again tomorrow night.
 - * New Business
 - a. FY15 Maintenance Budget – Mr. Londa addressed the committee to present his proposed FY15 maintenance budget. The two largest increases are in capital improvement and natural gas. Mr. Londa talked about the savings we have realized by changing our heating systems to natural gas – approximately

\$174,000 since 2004. The increase in capital improvement is for folding chairs and a replacement air compressor for the middle school.

- b. Advisory Committee on Tolerance – There was discussion on the composition of this new committee. It was decided to include two school committee members, one member from the Board of Selectmen, one student, one alternate student, one community-at-large member, one community-at-large alternate, and two parents. The advisory committee will be charged with assessing the cultural climate and tolerance and diversity status in district and recommend changes and improvements to our program. How can we improve tolerance, respect and diversity in our district? There will be an internal parallel committee with administrators; Superintendent Calmes will be on that committee. Mr. Mackin moved and Ms. Shapiro seconded a motion to constitute this advisory committee. Vote: unanimous.
- c. Reassign subcommittee members for policy and PACSAL – Dr. Berthiaume volunteered to sit on the policy sub-committee; Mr. Blake will remain a member of that committee as well. Ms. Shapiro will be the school committee representative to PACSAL. Dr. Berthiaume and Mr. Mackin volunteered to be the school committee representatives on the new advisory committee. Mr. Mackin moved and Ms. Shapiro seconded a motion to appoint the members as stated. Vote: unanimous.

* Old Business – None.

* Reports

- a. Finance Committee
- b. School Councils
- c. PTO Policy Sub-Committee
- d. Policy Committee
- e. Capital Planning Committee – Ms. Shapiro stated the CPC is working on finalizing the capital plan.
- f. Wellness Advisory Committee
- g. PAC/SAL – Ms. Bahosh
- h. Building Re-use Committee – Mr. Blake reported they will meet with Board of Selectmen on December 3. The committee's report will include what it will cost us if we do nothing. He indicated that there are still questions: Will public access have a room in the new school? Where will the superintendent go?
- 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. At 8:58 p.m., Mr. Mackin moved and Ms. Shapiro seconded a motion to enter into executive session, not to return to regular session, for the purpose of discussing negotiations with union personnel. 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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