



Lunenburg Public Schools

Loxi Jo Calmes
Superintendent of Schools

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, December 18, 2013
Thomas C. Passios Building Room #13 - 7:00 p.m.

Minutes

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

Superintendent
Loxi Jo Calmes

Recording Secretary
Mary Landi

Student Representative

Guests

Dr. John Chetro-Szivos
Volunteers for Tolerance and Diversity Advisory Committee

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- * Call to Order – Dr. Berthiaume called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.
 - * Chair's Report – Dr. Berthiaume informed everyone that the meeting was being recorded and will be made public. Dr. Berthiaume also announced that this would be Mrs. Landi's final meeting as recording secretary for the school committee. He thanked Mrs. Landi for her service over the last 11 years and presented her with a farewell gift from the committee.
 - * Review and Approve Minutes
 - November 6, 2013 Regular Session Minutes
 - November 19, 2013 Emergency Session Minutes
 - November 20, 2013 Regular Session Minutes
 - November 20, 2013 Executive Session Minutes
 - December 4, 2013 Regular Session MinutesAll the minutes were approved by Dr. Berthiaume.
 - * Review and Approve Warrants – Warrants were on the table for signatures.
 - * Superintendent's Report
 - Tolerance and Diversity Committee Update – Superintendent Calmes introduced Dr. John Chetro-Szivos, Executive Director of Community Development & Civic Engagement at Fitchburg State University, who came to talk about his work with the district in light of the recent racial incidents. He stated that training will be made available for the captains of the Lunenburg athletic teams. Some faculty members from FSU will be coming over and working with the captains around their biggest challenges. Dr. Chetro-Szivos said they would talk about what worked for the university when it experienced tragic events. FSU is here to help the district in whatever ways are needed. Superintendent Calmes said it is important to talk about our strengths, many of which involve our students. Matt Bruun, media contact in the Public Relations Department at FSU as well as a graduate of Lunenburg High School, will be assisting the district with its public relations.
 - Superintendent Calmes said she hoped people had a chance to see the recent student play and the vocal/band performances as well.

- Student Transportation Update – Atlantic Express currently has our student transportation contract; however, they are in bankruptcy proceedings. We will be awarding a new contract on a bid that has just gone out. Dr. Berthiaume clarified the issue around rebidding the bus contract while currently having a contract in place.

* Student Representative's Report

- * School Building Committee Report – Mr. Mackin reported the SBC is preparing for Town Meeting on January 7. The committee continues its work on a 25-30 minute presentation for the meeting. The ballot vote will take place on January 11 from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mr. Mackin encouraged everyone to show up and vote.

* Public Comment

* Old Business

- a. Recommendation on Article Relative to Debt Exclusion for Construction of New Middle/High School – Mr. Mackin moved and Ms. Shapiro seconded a motion that the school committee support the warrant article relative to Debt Exclusion for construction of the new middle/high school. Superintendent Calmes recommended approval of the motion. Vote: unanimous.
- b. Transfer Ownership of Thomas C. Passios and the Brooks House to the Town – There was discussion around the school buildings and what we would do if the vote fails. If the vote fails, TCP will need to go back online as a school and Brooks House will need to be re-occupied by school personnel or there would need to be significant renovation at THMS for central office staff. If the new school vote passes, administrative offices will likely be moved to Turkey Hill Middle School as well as the Primary School. Extended Day would go back to being building based. Mr. Mackin moved and Mr. Grady seconded a motion that we would transfer ownership of Brooks House and T.C. Passios back to the Town contingent upon a successful debt exclusion vote. Vote: unanimous.
- c. Interviews of Volunteers and Appointment of Tolerance and Diversity Advisory Committee – Dr. Berthiaume gave a brief review of the make-up of the committee and explained the formalities that go along with being a member of an official committee. He also noted that the name of the committee will be changed to Acceptance and Diversity Advisory Committee. Each volunteer in attendance addressed the school committee and spoke about why they wanted to participate on the newly-formed committee. Those people included:

- Casey Voyer – student
- Nicole Hennessy – student

Ms. Shapiro moved and Mr. Mackin seconded a motion to appoint the two students. Vote: unanimous.

- Charlene Stephens – community-at-large member

Ms. Shapiro moved and Mr. Mackin seconded a motion to appoint Ms. Stephens as the community-at-large member. Vote: unanimous

- Richard Beardmore - community at large alternate – Mr. Beardmore was not able to attend the meeting.

Ms. Shapiro moved and Mr. Grady seconded a motion to appoint Mr. Beardmore as the community-at-large alternate. Vote: unanimous

- Jamie Matozzo – parent
- Bob Meek-LaVeck – parent
- Elizabeth Rawlinson – parent
- Gemma Crouch – parent
- Heather Scott – parent
- Paul Bertrand – parent
- Jane Gallagher – parent
- Darrunee Vann – parent

There was discussion around having a parent alternate as well. Mr. Mackin moved and Mr. Grady seconded a motion to alter the make-up of the acceptance and diversity advisory committee to add two alternate parent members. Vote: unanimous. Mr. Grady recommended Darrunee Vann as a parent member; seconded by Mr. Mackin. Mr. Mackin recommended Elizabeth Rawlinson as a parent member;

seconded by Mr. Grady. Mr. Mackin moved and Mr. Grady seconded a motion to Bob Meek LaVeck as a parent alternate. Mr. Grady moved and Mr. Mackin seconded a motion to appoint Paul Bertrand as a parent alternate. Vote: unanimous. The committee thanked everyone who came out tonight and encouraged them to stay involved.

* New Business

- a. FY15 Superintendent's Recommended Budget – Superintendent Calmes presented her recommended FY15 budget. Included are: three tutors, no social worker, and no special education teacher for the high school. All out-of-district placements are accounted for, without any unanticipated placement holders. There are two to three students who may be coming back into district. Those “freed up” out-of-district funds will be repurposed to pay for new positions. Our transportation cost is not concrete due to the current situation with the bus contract. There is also an increase in the line with the copy machines as many of our copiers are coming off lease and we will be replacing them with new machines. The personnel side of the budget includes a new position of a part-time network administrator in the technology department. This will be a shared position with the town. The overall increase is 6.2% - 4.83% increase on the personnel side and 9.28% increase on the expense side. There was further discussion around the legal expense line and how we might close the gap.
- b. Transportation Contract – Superintendent Calmes stated we can stipulate an end date to the contract; it could be December 20 or December 30. Superintendent Calmes recommended entering into the agreement and stipulation that the end date be December 30 to accommodate any athletic events that may take place and require transportation. Mr. Mackin moved and Ms. Shapiro seconded a motion to accept the superintendent's recommendation. Vote: unanimous. The bid opening will be December 30. We have had five requests for bid packages. The opening will be at 4:00 p.m. on the 30th. A bid bond is part of the package. Ms. Shapiro moved and Mr. Grady seconded a motion to have Dr. Berthiaume be the designated signatory for the contract. Vote: unanimous. Cameras have been removed from the current buses and will be reinstalled in the new buses. The bond that was part of the current contract was a bid bond not a performance bond. It is not necessarily a benefit to the community to try to recapture expenses related to the bankruptcy of Atlantic Express.
- c. Donations – Superintendent Calmes recommended acceptance of a donation from Hannaford Helps School to the Primary School in the amount of \$1,000 and Box Tops for Education to the Primary School in the amount of \$1,302.20. Mr. Mackin moved and Mr. Grady seconded a motion to accept the donations with gratitude. Vote: unanimous.

* Public Comment – Mr. Meek LaVeck gave a brief overview of the PTO's decision around a donation of technology.

* Reports

- a. Finance Committee – The next meeting is tomorrow night to vote on the warrant for Town Meeting.
- b. School Councils – Ms. Shapiro said the primary school council met recently. At that meeting Ms. Blaisdell reported on how we are moving forward.
- c. PTO – Ms. Shapiro said the last meeting was a positive one. There are some good ideas for some fundraising.
- d. Policy Sub-Committee
- e. Capital Planning Committee – The CPC met today. It is working on prioritizing the capital plan.
- f. Wellness Advisory Committee – The committee met last week and discussed several suicide prevention programs. Also, the CDC has released new recommendations around children with food allergies and that was discussed as well.
- g. PAC/SAL – Ms. Shapiro attended the meeting on Friday. There was a presentation on Title I. The Lunenburg PAC is looking at partnering with the Fitchburg PAC to bring in some other groups.
- h. Building Re-use Committee – This committee will have one final meeting.
- i. Other – Superintendent Calmes thanked Mr. Londa for attending the meeting.
- j. Mr. Mackin reported that the planning board met on December 9 to support the school project.

* 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 9:08 Mr. Mackin moved and Ms. Shapiro seconded a motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations with the paraprofessionals union, not to return to regular session. Vote: unanimous.

Roll Call

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

- * Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m. at the conclusion of executive session.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Landi
Recording Secretary

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