



Lunenburg Public Schools

Loxi Jo Calmes
Superintendent of Schools

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, January 22, 2014
Thomas C. Passios Building Room #13 - 7:00 p.m.

Minutes

School Committee

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

Superintendent

Loxi Jo Calmes

Recording Secretary

Student Representative

Abbie Clark

Guests

Jessica Beardmore

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- * Call to Order – Dr. Berthiaume called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
 - * Chair's Report – Dr. Berthiaume informed everyone that the meeting was being recorded and will be made public. Dr. Berthiaume thanked the community for voting in support of our schools. He thanked the Building Committee and Superintendent Calmes for getting the information out in order for people to make informed choices.
 - * Review and Approve Minutes-
 - December 18, 2013 Regular Session Minutes
 - December 18, 2013 Executive Session MinutesAll of the minutes were approved by Dr. Berthiaume
 - * Review and Approve Warrants – Warrants were on the table for signatures.
 - * Superintendent's Report
 - Superintendent Calmes thanked the community on behalf of the students, faculty, and staff for voting in support of the new MS/HS building project. Thanks to the School Committee was given for their support and help as well.
 - Project 351 is a program where one 8th grade student who is nominated by their teachers is chosen to participate in a day of service in Boston. Traditionally this is held on Martin Luther King Day as a representation of service to others. During this day the student will be able to participate in a discussion with the governor, and meet sport stars who are active in various service opportunities. This year Jack Meilleur was the 8th grade student chosen.
 - The Governors' budget was released this afternoon, and showed a 2.3% increase in Chapter 78 funding. Circuit Breaker is level funded this year, and is anticipated to be increased to the 75% level this year depending on extraordinary relief. If extraordinary relief is not utilized by the districts that receive this, the state will redistribute this to all districts.
 - All day kindergarten is at \$25 per pupil expenditure. Area superintendents have been meeting with legislators, and they are pleased to see what areas the revenues are coming from.
 - Cherry Sheets for FY15 are up at the Department of Revenue Website for review by School Committee

- Personnel Update: We have been successful in replacing former administrative secretary to the superintendent with a new secretary, Liz Petersen. Liz has worked in the district as a tutor and in the Special Services Office. She has been an active parent/citizen in town. Leah Megan has replaced Mary Gallant, school nurse at THMS. She received her nursing degree from FSU and has been a substitute. She is excited about joining us on the Wellness Advisory, and has extensive knowledge working with students with diabetes.
- * Student Representative - Abbie Clark gave a report stating that today the LHS Chorus went to Lawrence H.S. to rehearse with their chorus for the Handel and Haydn Societies concert next month at Symphony Hall. Superintendent Calmes commented on what an honor it was to be invited to perform with this Society. In regards to athletics at LHS, students Brook Hansel has broken the mile record, and Jake DeGrace has broken the 5500 hurdle record. The THMS band concert is tomorrow night, and class play Rehearsals have begun at LHS.
- * School Building Committee Report – Mr. Mackin thanked the community once again for their support, and was impressed by the overwhelming numbers as well as relieved to know how much support there had been as a town. The committee met on 1/15/14 and the next steps will be design development. They have secured the project manager, and will soon get to the point where they will have a submittal to the MSBA and DESE for late April/early May. This will take the schematic design to a more detailed one showing structure and systems. Once the MSBA reviews, they will proceed to the final documents which will include early bid packages for steel, and there will be state work on roadway. In September they are hoping to be signing an agreement with the construction manager for the rest of the early field work out in front of the school in order to have flex fields during the project. Completion of school projected to be June of 2016 in order to give time for move in. The plan moving forward is to meet once a month, and in addition have a working group meeting twice monthly.
- * Public Comment – Mr. Dave Matthews commented on a discussion and email in regards to having an exhibition football game in the spring in order to have one more game before the current fields go away, and to have some positive closure regarding the incidents that took place last fall. He recommended that the school committee discussed it tonight or at a later date. Dr. Berthiaume reminded the public that Superintendent Calmes had spoken in December about working with the administration and Advisory Committee for Acceptance and Diversity in order to work towards a solution. In regards to an email sent to all members of the school committee, Dr. Berthiaume stated that he could not respond openly as this would have been a violation of the open meeting law, but he had addressed this with Superintendent Calmes.
- * Old Business
 - a. Student Travel- Jessica Beardmore updated the school committee as to the itinerary for the summer Barcelona trip as it had changed due to low enrollment. There is a senior that is going on the trip that will be graduating before the trip happens. Ms. Beardmore was seeking approval for the change in itinerary and for the graduating student to attend the trip. Superintendent Calmes recommended approval, stating that in regards to the senior, we have set precedence in the past where we have allowed non students/adults to attend these trips in order to decrease the cost for the students involved. There would be a behavioral expectation that would be made clear as well, and did not appear to be an issue with this student. Ms. Shapiro asked why the enrollment was so small, and Ms. Beardmore explained that she suspected that other trips were coinciding, and students had to make financial choices. She also stated that some students had other family conflicts during this time period as well. Dr. Berthiaume asked all those in favor, vote: unanimous
- * New Business
 - a. Donations
- * Public Comment

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Reports

- a. Finance Committee – Dr. Berthiaume stated that they recommended approval of new building project 2 weeks ago
- b. School Councils – Mr. Mackin reported that LHS met today to report on the school culture committee, they will be meeting again to continue their work. There was a discussion about NEASC and preparing a response. Mr. Spadafino, LHS Principal will be doing a NEASC visit shortly. They will be meeting again in February to work on the school improvement plan in regards to 8th grade math.
- c. PTO – Ms. Shapiro reported that they met last Monday. There will be a new fundraiser to sell Lunenburg apparel at different sporting events. Spirit week at THMS, and some lunches. A Parents' Night Out event will happen at The Harley House in March, and there will be information coming soon.
- d. Policy Sub-Committee-Has not met yet.
- e. Capital Planning Committee – Done with remaining work for now.
- f. Wellness Advisory Committee-Ms. Shapiro reported that they met today to discuss preparations for lockdown procedures and protocol. Mrs. Laserte, physical education teacher at THMS has been doing a lot of research behind this. Earlier in the year, Mrs. Laserte and Mrs. Champagne met with the Lunenburg Police Department for an overview of procedures. There will be A.L.I.C.E. Training coming up for school personnel (one administrator and one teacher from each school building) who will be attending this training 2 days on March 10th and 11th. Mr. Mackin asked if we had any drills within the schools around this. Superintendent Calmes explained that drills happen once a year with training around different scenarios and at appropriate developmental levels. She is also incorporating substitute teachers for these procedures /training.
- g. PAC/SAL – Ms. Shapiro stated that they have not met since last reported.
- h. Advisory Committee for Acceptance and Diversity- Dr. Berthiaume stated that they had met on January 9, 2014 and had selected chairs: Charlene Stephens as Primary Chair, Elizabeth Rawlinson as Vice-Chair, and Bob Ebersole as Secretary. There was free form discussion as to finding ways in which to improve the cultural climate, diversity and respect in our district in order to avoid the type of incident that happened last fall. Mr. Mackin commented that they should come up with a timeframe that is deliverable so that something is in place by the end of the year.

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Items for Future Discussion- Dr. Berthiaume discussed scheduling workshops at the next meeting.

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Executive Session- No executive session was taken.

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Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m. at the conclusion of regular session.

Respectfully Submitted,

Liz Petersen