



Lunenburg Public Schools

Loxi Jo Calmes
Superintendent of Schools

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, March 5, 2014
Town Hall- 7:00 p.m.

Minutes

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

Superintendent
Loxi Jo Calmes

Recording Secretary
Liz Petersen

Student Representative
Abbie Clark-Absent

Guests
Julianna Bahosh

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- * Call to Order – Dr. Berthiaume called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.
 - * Chair's Report –Dr. Berthiaume informed everyone that the meeting was being recorded and will be made available to the public.
 - * Review and Approve Minutes-
There were no minutes for approval.
 - * Review and Approve Warrants – There were no warrants on the table for signatures. There were several Line item transfers from Mr. Londa:
 - Due to increased heating costs, there were transfers from several lines to the natural gas line which increased from \$150,000 to \$166,479.
 - Due to sewer costs, \$4950 was transferred from the maintenance of building supply line to dumping fees. This line increased from \$25,832 to \$30,782.
 - Due to repairs needed for the tractor and snow thrower this winter, \$1700 was transferred from the maintenance of building contract line to the repairs line. This line increased from \$2620 to \$4320.
 - Superintendent Calmes recommended approval of all line item transfers.
 - * Superintendent's Report
 - Superintendent Calmes reported on the hockey team win of 4-0 last Saturday against Grafton. She congratulated the students, coaches and Mr. Spadafino. They are playing another game against Worcester today.
 - The Race to the Top Grant has some available funds that have not been expended. To date the funds have been used for NISL training of administrators, time for teachers in the summer to work on common core curriculum, and work groups towards implementing the educator evaluation process. Have been working cooperatively with the LEA on District Determined Measures, as well as with Beth Graham to determine if classrooms are consistent with standards. Commended staff for their flexibility in allowing observations to take place within their classrooms.
 - Exciting opportunity through the state and Race to the Top to participate in a technology application platform through a series of free webinars available for a few years without charge. Thinkgate is the vendor for this program.
 - Another grant from the state provided \$1000 in order to generate smoother data reporting on a daily basis instead of a quarterly basis. This is an opportunity to expedite data as so many fiscal formulas are data driven.

- A student profile form has been generated as a PDF for parents to fill out electronically in order to refresh student information and update military status. Letters to families regarding their balances of \$25 or over for the school lunch program will also be sent. Right now there is a \$6500 deficit in this program. Families will be provided with information concerning financial assistance. Mr. Grady reported that through Google Play or iTunes on an Android device or iPhone, an app could be downloaded for Powerschool which provides school information as well as lunch balances.

* Student Representative - Abbie Clark absent.

* School Building Committee Report – Mr. Mackin relayed that they met today. Landscape design was discussed as well as starting the early package phase at the beginning of July for the fields. This involves clearing of current fields that will be out of service until 2016. A new practice field will be installed coming off of Massachusetts Avenue. Second meeting involved regulatory departments and engineers. There will be an informal site plan review by the planning committee. Next meeting is Wednesday, March 12th at 6:30pm at TCP.

* Public Comment –

* Old Business

- a. FY 15 Budget Update- Superintendent Calmes reported that the budget is showing a 7% increase while the Town Manager is recommending a 3.5% increase. Finance Committee presentation on the budget is 3/20/14. Budget Hearing will be April 2, 2014. Budget has been adjusted to take into account retirements and special education placements which has added \$200,000 to the private tuition line. The state provides some reimbursement but only the year after it has been already spent. Mr. Grady commented as to how critical it will be to find a way to reduce this cost while meeting the needs of students. People should speak to their legislators in reference to the budget.

* New Business

- a. Coordinated Program Review- Ms. Bahosh presented a Powerpoint presentation. Audit done by DESE every three years. Main areas reviewed are special education, civil rights, and ELL. There are 9 components to their review that they consider when doing both staff and parent surveys and interviews. Surveys to parents had a 27.4% response rate from special education, and a 17.6% response rate from ELL parents. District not meeting time requirements for students in ELE area due to ELL teacher being part-time. We were in full compliance in 91% of areas rated however which is a huge accomplishment. Corrective action consisted of procedural: sending 2 complete sets of IEPs to parents, mandates: to have special education training every year which is now done online, and location of services: signed a statement of assurance that all services to students would be provided within a classroom setting. A consultant from the DESE will be reviewing the programs at the end of April/early May to provide more input. Ms. Bahosh commented as to our mailing/copying costs with the addition of the second IEP to be mailed to parents, stating that the technology exists to send a password encrypted copy to parents through our ESPED system. Mr. Grady noted that he appreciates all of the hard work Ms. Bahosh has done and the Commonwealth needs to progress in the technology area. Mr. Mackin suggested people contact their legislators. There will be a CPR March progress report submitted, and a mid-cycle review at the end of June. The district has one year to show implementation and evidence of completion as to the corrective actions taken.

Ms. Bahosh discussed moving the ACE program from LHS to TCP to create their own day program that is more conducive to a work environment. Has moved forward with starting process of acquiring day program approval from the state. Students will still be connected to LHS through lunches, best buddies, etc. If moved this will open up a classroom at LHS to provide students with social/emotional needs a place other than the regular classroom setting. Mr. Mackin commented to be aware that TCP may be a temporary space for the ACE program as there have been no decisions as to the future of the building. Ms. Bahosh is aware of this, and would still like to move forward.

- b. First Reading Policy Section 3000- Policy committee consists of Superintendent, Dr. Berthiaume, and Mr. Blake. There were language changes in order to be more specific and not just suggestions. The student activity accounts language was changed to reflect that they are not by building anymore. LHS has a balance of \$20,000, and all other schools a balance of \$10,000. When funds are spent they are reapplied through policy and warrants are signed to reimburse the account. Policy changes will be posted on website for input. Other policy changes consisted of new standards for the transportation bid, fire drills now done on quarterly basis instead of monthly as regulation. Added information as to the senior privilege of attending school activities at no charge. At tournament time we need information as

to who is attending ahead of time. Updated language around facilities use and fees assessed. Language surrounding procedures for free and reduced lunch was also updated. There will be two more policy readings. Mr. Mackin moved to waive first reading, and Ms. Shapiro seconded. Vote: unanimous.

c. Donations- none noted.

- * Public Comment – Mr. Matthews recommended the public look at the broader scope of education and the funding that is lacking. If Commonwealth is lessening funds coming into the town, funds lessen to the schools. Gave example of North Middlesex receiving 45 million for 3400 students, while Lunenburg received 17 million for 1638 students, which is an unbalanced ratio that the state needs to consider. Recommended reaching out to state representatives to try and close the gap.

Mr. Mackin stated that this Friday at 7pm at LHS was the “Are you Smarter than a Sixth Grader” event sponsored by the Boys and girls Club. This will be recorded for later broadcast. The Town Caucus is Monday, March 17th at THMS.

- * Reports

- a. Finance Committee – Dr. Berthiaume stated that there is a discrepancy between what the Town Manager recommended for the budget and what the school district actually needs. The committee is working to try and close this gap. School presentation to the committee is on March 20th, and budget hearing is on April 2nd.

- b. School Councils – have not met since last week.

- c. PTO – Ms. Shapiro reported that they will meet next Monday. Saturday March 22nd is the Night Out event at the Harley House. There is a dinner and live band for \$25. Purchase tickets on the PTO website.

- d. Policy Sub-Committee- Mr. Blake reported they had their first reading of Policy Section 30000.

- e. Capital Planning Committee –

- f. Wellness Advisory Committee- Ms. Shapiro reported that they will meet next week.

- g. PAC/SAL – Ms. Shapiro reported that the last meeting was canceled due to weather conditions, and they are meeting on Friday.

- h. Advisory Committee for Acceptance and Diversity- Dr. Berthiaume stated that they canceled last Thursdays meeting in order to attend the Finance Committee meeting. They meet again tomorrow at 7pm at TCP.

- i. Building Reuse Committee- met on Monday for an organizational meeting.

- * Items for Future Discussion- Dr. Berthiaume proposed workshops to be held on either March 15th or March 22nd. The committee will check their schedules and advise Dr. Berthiaume of the best date for all to attend.

- * Executive Session- 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.

- * Adjournment – Dr. Berthiaume spoke to the need to move to Executive session and adjourn regular session. Mr. Mackin so moved. Ms. Shapiro seconded. Adjourned at 8:14pm.

Roll Call

Dr. Berthiaume-yes

Mr. Mackin-yes

Ms. Shapiro-yes

Mr. Grady- yes

Mr. Blake- yes

Respectfully Submitted,

Liz Petersen