



# Lunenburg Public Schools

Loxi Jo Calmes  
Superintendent of Schools

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
Wednesday, December 17, 2014  
T. C. Passios- 7:00 p.m.

## Minutes

### School Committee

Gregory Berthiaume  
Michael Mackin-absent  
Colleen Shapiro  
Brendan Grady  
Heather Sroka

### Superintendent

Loxi Jo Calmes-absent

### Recording Secretary

Liz Petersen

### Student Representative

Sophia Holman - absent

### Guests

John Londa, Director of Facilities  
Pete McCauliff, Athletic Director

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- \* Call to Order: Dr. Gregory Berthiaume called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.
  - \* Chairs Report: Dr. Berthiaume relayed that due to Superintendent Calmes absence tonight due to illness, he would be passing over certain items of new business. He wished everyone a great holiday season & Happy New Year.
  - \* Review and Approve Minutes: There were no minutes for approval.
  - \* Review and Approve Warrants: Warrants were on the table for signature and there were two line item transfers. First transfer for Special Services was for \$5,000 from the out of district coordinator line to go to BCBA for instructional materials. This was passed to the committee for signatures. Math Department line item transfer put on hold for clarification of expense lines.
  - \* Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Calmes was absent due to illness, so no report was given.
  - \* Student Representative's Report: none
  - \* School Building Committee Report – Mr. Mackin was absent and no formal report was given. Mr. Grady noted that there is now steel construction beginning, and we are still on schedule currently.
  - \* New Business:
    - a. Superintendent's Recommended FY16 Budget: Dr. Berthiaume stated that he would pass over the Superintendent's budget for tonight, and this would be revisited during the first meeting in January due to the Superintendent's absence due to illness.
    - b. FY16 & FY17 School Calendars: Proposed school calendar discussed. Recommend posting both calendar years on website for public comment. Differences between calendar recommended by calendar advisory committee and the one internal committee recommended was where PD days fell. Will be posted tomorrow on website. Public feedback recommended and can attend meeting in January for public input. Dr. Berthiaume noted that the winter break on the FY16 calendar is reduced. Break will begin on December 24<sup>th</sup>. Significant changes to note are that February break is

reduced to two days in length on Monday & Tuesday for a 4 day weekend. It is proposed that there will be four days of school before Labor Day. Dr. Berthiaume reminded the public that the reason these changes are being proposed is due to the impending move to the new building. Graduation is proposed for the end of May. Will send a public message via the Alert Now system to encourage people to look at the calendar before voting.

- c. Donation: Connor B. Lourens Memorial donation for \$2,500 to provide scholarships for trips. Recommend approval and sending a letter for their generosity. \$1,500 for Washington DC & \$1,000 Nature's Classroom. Motion to accept donation with gratitude from Mr. Grady, Ms. Shapiro seconded. **Vote: Unanimous**
  
- d. Excess Property-Modular classrooms: Mr. Londa stated that there is one at TCP and one at THMS-2 sets the district bought in 1997 and used until 2005. Became storage areas after reorganization of schools. Have offered to Town for town uses, but they have not accepted the offer for removal from school grounds. \$156,000 spent for the purchase of two sets of modular classrooms originally. Conditions now have deteriorated with roof leaks. Poor condition. Mr. Londa proposed to declare excess and first offer to the town for their use, then put up for sale to public if town is not interested. Need to remove foundations. Demolition will take place if public is not interested in the sale. THMS modular classroom is currently being used for storage purposes, but will need to dispose of it as new storage shed will be relocated to this site. Superintendent Calmes recommends approval. Motion to declare excess property by Mr. Grady, seconded by Ms. Shapiro. **Vote: Unanimous**
  
- e. Superintendent's Contract Amendment FY16-FY18: Negotiated 6 year contract, in third year currently. Raise for this year was a 2.5% raise. School Committee is obligated by January of every year to negotiate. New proposal is for a 3% increase for each remaining year of contract. This is substantially below surrounding districts. Question as to the amount of salary replacement if employment changed in any regard. Would not be able to replace the Superintendent position at the same salary rate currently. Motion to approve contract amendment by Ms. Shapiro, seconded by Ms. Sroka. **Vote: Unanimous**
  
- f. First Reading of Revised Policies: Dr. Berthiaume stated that they were not addressing the discipline policy at this meeting as the policy sub-committee needed time for further discussion of this policy first. Change to tuition fees policy to incorporate the possibility of tuition income resulting from enrollment of non-resident students, who do not qualify under school choice. The fee assessed will be the most recent average per pupil expenditure, calculated by the DESE. Change to policy regarding emergency drills to include fire drills taking place now 4 times a year. Motion to waive first reading Mr. Grady, seconded by Ms. Shapiro. **Vote: Unanimous.** Policy will be put on website for public input. Environmentally sustainable practices updated to codify current practice. Prefer to buy energy star rated products and environmentally green cleaning products if possible. There is no financial obligation to comply with this policy, and if there is a significant financial impact to these products, we do not have to purchase these. Motion to waive first reading by Mr. Grady, seconded by Ms. Shapiro. **Vote: Unanimous**  
Diversity Advisory Committee: Dr. Berthiaume explained this would be to establish a committee that parallels the Wellness committee making sure we are compliant with all of the practices fostering social justice and civil rights. Once diversity policy is adopted this committee will be formed from members of the school and community. This will be a formalized team to ensure compliance that provides the civil rights coordinator with additional support. Motion to waive first reading by Mr. Grady, seconded by Ms. Shapiro. **Vote: Unanimous**

\* Old Business: none discussed

\* Public Comment – Ms. Luck commented on her appreciation of next year's calendar. March and May have four full weeks of school, and the continuity of education is well served when there are full weeks. She indicated that she is partial to the PD days at the beginning and end of year so as not to disrupt the flow of education. She asked why modular classrooms were not disposed of earlier. Mr. Londa commented that these

were kept for the possibility of swing space if needed. Ms. Luck also questioned the teacher's salary increase. Average increase estimated over the 3 year contract was approximately 2.5% a year. This included steps. Finally, Ms. Luck asked for an example of tuition that would not be school choice. Dr. Berthiaume relayed an example would be a non-resident student that was inadvertently in Lunenburg schools which was a rare circumstance. The current policy needed to be revised for this reason for clarity.

\* Reports

- a. Finance Committee – Dr. Berthiaume reported that have not met. Town Manager gave her 5 year projection for the budget last night.
- b. School Councils – There were no reports for school council meetings.
- c. PTO- Ms. Sroka reported meeting last Monday. Square One Art fundraiser netted over \$5K for the Primary school and 68% of parents participated. Ixtapa fundraiser drew in \$163. Barnes & Noble night netted \$641 dollars. Career fair will take place in February. Giftmart was very successful. Buddy bench dedication will have a January date TBD. Parent night out March.
- d. Policy Sub-Committee- Dr. Berthiaume reported they had met and will meet in January again.
- e. Capital Planning Committee – Ms. Sroka reported that they had met yesterday. Will meet again next Tuesday.
- f. Wellness Advisory Committee –Ms. Shapiro relayed that she was unable to attend the meeting last week.
- g. PAC/SAL – Ms. Shapiro reported that the next meeting is on Friday. Only she and Ms. Harvey attended the last meeting in which there was no quorum and they could not proceed.
- h. Re-Use: Mr. Mackin absent, no report given. Dr. Berthiaume commented that the committee will be discussing the TCP transfer
- i. Calendar Advisory Committee- Ms. Shapiro reported that the next meeting will be in January.

\* Items for Future Discussion: Dr. Berthiaume indicated there was a need to start discussing a new name for Turkey Hill. Other districts have used the term of “intermediate” in similar cases.

\* Adjournment – Mr. Grady made a motion to adjourn regular session of the meeting at 7:41 p.m. Ms. Shapiro seconded. **Vote: Unanimous**

Respectfully Submitted,

Liz Petersen  
Recording Secretary