



Lunenburg Public Schools

Loxi Jo Calmes
Superintendent of Schools

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, January 21, 2015
T. C. Passios- 7:00 p.m.

Minutes

School Committee
Gregory Berthiaume
Michael Mackint
Colleen Shapiro
Brendan Grady
Heather Sroka

Superintendent
Loxi Jo Calmes

Recording Secretary
Liz Petersen

Student Representative
Sophia Holman

Guests

-
- * Call to Order: Dr. Gregory Berthiaume called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.
 - * Chairs Report: Dr. Berthiaume had no chairs report.
 - * 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 line item transfer is for Special Services, school psychology services for students. Need for services to be contracted for a period of time due to the school psychologist's absence. School psychologist completes 85-90 evaluations a year. Recommended transfer of \$5000 in funds from substitute line to contracted services line. Other line item transfers were adjustments due to changes in personnel or assignment. Superintendent recommended signature of SC.
 - * Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Calmes updated the Committee on personnel changes and also provided information related to the state budget for FY15 & FY16. Governor's proposed budget will be made public in March.
 - * Student Representative's Report: Ms. Holman reported that the LHS play had been very successful. Chorus and instrumental program had their winter concerts in December. There will be the THMS music concert tomorrow. Boys track meet is tomorrow in Fitchburg. Best Buddies had tour of public safety building and met with fire & police.
 - * School Building Committee Report – Mr. Mackin had SBC meeting on 1/14. Final stages of submission of contracts. Roof decking nearly complete, Auditorium trusses in place. 95% complete with steel. Next week's wrapping building to bring in temporary heat & lighting to allow pouring of concrete for section A. Continue counterclockwise. Expect completion of steel end of March, then topping off ceremony. Will be student centered either physically or online with signature to be placed as a "sticker". This will include students at Primary school. Ceremony will occur during the day for student participation. Still on schedule & budget. Appreciate Shawmut's cooperation. February 3rd career day at LHS and the architect for the project will be there to share with students. Safety top priority, has only been one minor injury. Brought up transition process, will now have monthly meetings with admin and faculty to discuss. Have received over 5 million dollars in reimbursements for this project so far. State is making payments in increments. Feb. 11th will be the next SBC meeting on site at the trailer if any members would like to join us. Will be going into building section A as a wrapped structure. Is

amazing to see a year later what progress we've made. Superintendent Calmes relayed an additional item from her report for the Buddy bench dedication on Saturday at 1pm, please feel free to join us.

* Old Business:

- a. FY16 Proposed Budget: Superintendent indicated the budget as proposed by the School Committee was submitted to the Town Manager and is posted on website. The Superintendent expressed the appreciation on behalf of the students, faculty and staff for putting forth the budget recommended by principals and department leaders. The increase with the all positions added was 9% over Fy15. Dr. Berthiaume commented that we have not come close to required budget in several years, and at some point will come to a slope that will be hard to come back from. Seems to be every other year large class sizes. We are in a position at this point in time that we have to weigh the outcomes for students, and have struggled to keep at level service budget the past few years.
- b. FY16 Calendar Feedback: received two pieces of feedback with opinion split 50/50. One was indicating why they felt February break was necessary for students, and an additional comment suggesting a March break instead of February. Ms. Shapiro commented that the public understood that winter break depended on how the calendar /holiday fell. Action will be taken on the FY16 calendar at next meeting. Encourage more public input before the next meeting.
- c. Second Reading of Policy-Student Discipline: Motion to waive second reading by Ms. Sroka, Ms. Shapiro seconded. **Vote: Unanimous**

* New Business:

- a. School Nurse Substitute Rate: Superintendent explained that we have experienced difficulty obtaining school nurses and collected information on substitute pay for nurses in neighboring communities. Ranges for sub nurses vary from \$100 per day to \$196 dollars per day (Monty Tech). We do not feel comfortable not having a school nurse present due to student needs, and that has prompted us to have to reach out to a third party provider. Unfortunately, this has been 3 times the substitute rate, and the nurses obtained have worked in different settings other than schools. Recommend consider an increase of \$10, so that we are at a rate of \$130. Feel this puts the District in an attractive position for substitute nurses while staying in a good budgetary position. Mr. Mackin motioned to accept new nurse substitute rate. Ms. Shapiro seconded.
Vote: Unanimous

- * Public Comment –Mr. Mackin mentioned February 27th the Boys and Girls club will be holding their annual event at LHS “Are you smarter than a 6th grader.?” This is an important fundraiser for the club and they are asking for sponsors. This event will be recorded for future broadcast if you cannot attend. Mr. Alonzo will act as MC. In the past have had teams of teachers, Honor society, and the Red Hat society participate. Budgetary concerns of club due to having to obtain additional staff to serve the population of students attending the club. Service about 60 students a day. Please support worthwhile event.

* Reports

- a. Finance Committee – Dr. Berthiaume reported that capital planning would be tomorrow
- b. School Councils – LHS met today, Mr. Mackin indicated the school would be developing value statements as part of the NEASC process, talked about Advisories, which are smaller, more personalized groupings of students allowing for more diverse opportunities for social/emotional development. Spoke about a donation from Mr. Mike's service station that bought a new robot for the technology education program. Mr. Mike's normally contributes on an annual basis to provide enrichment for our students. Mr. Spadafino commented that this is important as some students need a diverse learning style that is hands on like the technology program. THMS council meets next Tuesday, Primary meets next Wednesday
- c. PTO- Ms. Sroka reported that they had a meeting last Monday and the Superintendent presented the budget. Will do community event on February 8th for Movie Day at the Primary. Working on Parents Night out. Superintendent Calmes impressed at number of parents that came out for the last meeting due to the cold temperatures. Encouraged everyone to come to meetings and contribute to the PTO's goal of members. Next meeting will be February 9th. School linked services and Ms Laserte from the Wellness Committee will be at the next meeting.

- d. Policy Sub-Committee- Dr. Berthiaume reported they had not met.
- e. Capital Planning Committee – Ms. Sroka reported they will present tomorrow. Instead of spreading the project out they may try to figure out how to do this in one year. Discussion of desire to tentatively remodel the old primary school according to town manager. Talked about school offices being there as well as possibly ACE program, tentative discussion at this point. In this instance, Central office spaces relocating to THMS would not become un-useable, as this could be used as a space for other classrooms to utilize. A video of the inside of the old primary school has been filmed for the building reuse committee to review and consider. Have not been contacted by the reuse committee for further discussion yet.
- f. Wellness Advisory Committee –Ms. Shapiro relayed they had met today. Discussion of school start times Dr. Asher presented updated Power Point. Compelling evidence regarding earlier start times for elementary students, and recognizing insufficient sleep patterns of adolescents impacting safety and health. Voted unanimously to support changing of start times for middle and high school students when we reconfigure.
- g. PAC/SAL – Ms. Shapiro reported they had a meeting two weeks ago but she was unable to attend.
- h. Re-Use: Mr. Mackin reported the next meeting is scheduled for March.
- i. Calendar Advisory Committee- Ms. Shapiro discussed two weeks ago at last meeting that the two proposed calendars looked fine. Reviewed internal calendar and supported that as well. Discussion of shifting school start/dismissal times and impact on sports, etc. Meeting next Thursday with principals, nursing staff, athletic director etc. to start discussions with faculty. Superintendent met with LHS leadership team to discuss, everyone agreed that currently there is an impact to the health and well-being of students in regards to start times, but changing this would be a big adjustment. She has met with other superintendents and everyone has different opinions. Conflicting opinions as to how many districts need to change in order to impact all other districts. Would be great if the MIIA would facilitate some of this as to the impact on athletic games etc. The school committee does not belong to the MASC currently, and the superintendent has not been part of the Mass Assoc. of School Superintendents due to budgetary concerns, so neither has had a voice in order to gather more information on this topic. Hope to hear more from students on this topic.
- j. Ms. Sroka reported the Empty Bowls event is scheduled for Thurs May 7th at THMS.

* Items for Future Discussion: Dr. Berthiaume indicated they will consider possibly Monday, Wed, or Thurs next week to speak about the one on one computing initiative as a workshop. Would like to check with Mr. Malandrinos about date so he can attend. Looking at following week-date of the 9th. SC members decided on Tues the 10th here at TCP Room #13 at 7pm. Need to also discuss or schedule an approach for coming up with a name for current THMS. Decision to do both topics in one meeting on 10th. Will put off topic of district improvement plan for now. Information and presentation of calendar committee will be at the March 4th meeting.

* Adjournment – Mr. Mackin made a motion to adjourn regular session of the meeting at 8:38 p.m. Ms. Sroka seconded. **Vote: Unanimous**

Respectfully Submitted,

Liz Petersen
Recording Secretary