



Lunenburg Public Schools

Loxi Jo Calmes
Superintendent of Schools

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, February 25, 2015
T. C. Passios- 7:00 p.m.

Minutes

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

Superintendent
Loxi Jo Calmes

Recording Secretary
Liz Petersen

Student Representative
Sophia Holman

Guests
Dawn Gearin

Call to Order: Dr. Gregory Berthiaume called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Chairs Report: Dr. Berthiaume stated they needed to reschedule the upcoming workshop due to weather related conflicts. He suggested the week of March 9th. Committee decided upon Thursday March 12th at 6:30pm. The agenda items will remain unchanged and the workshop will focus on technology and school naming.

Review and Approve Minutes: There were minutes for approval.

- Regular session January 7, 2015
- Regular session January 21, 2015

Mr. Mackin made a motion to approve both sets of minutes, Ms. Sroka seconded. **Vote: Unanimous**

Review and Approve Warrants: Warrants were on the table for signature, no line item transfers were discussed.

Superintendent's Report:

- Superintendent Calmes reported that right before February break were competitive class plays-students demonstrated impressive performances and an entertaining evening was had by all. Acknowledged Cable Access for filming the event. Thanked students, advisors, and community members for supporting the event. This year was the 49th annual performance, next year will be the 50th and the last one in the current LHS auditorium.
- Started kindergarten registration, please see website for more details.
- Administrators from the buildings today attending the MCAS administration workshop. The state is considering changing the dates of MCAS administration due to weather/cancellations. We have utilized all 5 snow days in the calendar to date. The last day for students is currently Monday, June 22. Superintendent Calmes thanked Mr. Londa and maintenance/custodial staff for a terrific job with plowing and making sure we were on time with school openings as much as possible given the record setting snowfall. She thanked parents for bundling up students to be prepared for the weather, as well as the bus company for making sure the buses are warm and operational on frigid days.
- Superintendent Calmes indicated that the administrative team had productive February break working on transition planning. Superintendent's recommendation is to put transition planning on agenda moving forward every month. Has surveyed staff regarding the transition to find out their concerns and needs.

- The Superintendent asked Mr. Londa to report on the roof leak at LHS. Two of the same areas from last year were affected with one exception. Café slightly better than last year. Classrooms 216 and 218 completely offline right now due to extensive leaks. Size of area affected estimated to be 50 feet in length by 25 feet in width. Have spent \$2000 a year to repair these areas with limited success. Will be bringing roofer back to assess leaks. There has been continuous leakage from week before February break until now. Superintendent commented that she appreciated staff and students good will and humor in dealing with this and commenting “it’s raining in Mr. Stevenson’s room.”

Student Representative’s Report: Ms. Holman was absent, and no report was discussed.

School Building Committee Report – Mr. Mackin –building “A” has been wrapped in plastic. Have done additional drainage. Trying to have concrete slab on deck but cannot pour concrete when moisture is permeating from snow. This requires completely dry conditions. Amount of snow and number of days has been problematic-lost 9 days this month. Crew moving as fast as they can when they are there, but they have to remove snow first before they can do additional work. This has put them slightly behind in schedule but the team believes they can come up with a recovery plan such as Saturday work or longer days if needed. The delay could have been worse if they hadn’t been ahead of schedule previously. Area “B”-Auditorium, music rooms, front offices and Area “C” gym and locker room area almost complete. Next is to start Area “D”-café and the middle school. No change orders so they are on budget. Have continue to receive regular payments from the MSBA. The next SBC meeting is 6:30 p.m. on March 11th at TCP.

Old Business:

- a. FY16 Final Approval-Student Council Trip: Ms. Gearin reported that she is all set with payments for the trip, and seven students will be attending. Sharing bus with Leominster, students excited. Students lose one less day of school due to March 13th PD Day. Superintendent Calmes recommended final approval, thanked Ms. Gearin for all of her hard work. Mr. Mackin made a motion to approve, seconded by Ms. Sroka, **Vote: Unanimous**.
- b. Final Calendar Vote: No more feedback from public since last meeting. Only two copies of feedback were received to date. Superintendent Calmes recommended final approval and adoption. Mr. Mackin made a motion to approve the final calendar, Ms. Shapiro seconded. **Vote: Unanimous**
- c. Third Reading of Policies: Received no feedback from public to date. Dr. Berthiaume read which policies were included. Motion to waive third reading and adopt policies as written by Ms. Sroka, seconded by Mr. Mackin. **Vote: Unanimous**.

New Business:

- a. FY15 School Choice update : Superintendent Calmes explained that each year cherry sheet monthly payments are based on filing of October 1 report, based on this, state releases updated changes. These were reviewed by the Superintendent, and choice sending data was a surprise. We are then able to receive a report of student names, addresses of choice sending students. We saw 43 new students to the list this year only 11 of which were previously enrolled in our schools. In some cases these students were assisted by our guidance personnel in locating programs to assist them in getting back on track for graduation. Alternative programs were identified for them to do so. This situation has created a shortfall for the Town. Finance Committee and others have wondered about the cause of this increase in Choice sending. Superintendent Calmes provided information indicating that the two large apartment developments in town have contributed to the increase. The Superintendent has provided to the town manager a detailed analysis of how many students there are, where they are going, and type of opportunities they will have by attending a different school such as Goodrich Academy (9 students currently). 91 students total on the choice sending list. We will reach out to other communities/schools via the school attending report to verify students and to make sure they belong on the list. We are in the verification process now for residency including checking census data and information from the assessor’s office to verify addresses for each student as well. What we have seen an increase in the number of rental properties. Superintendent has analyzed history over time. 91 students total, only 28 have ever been enrolled in our district. Three of the students have left to go to Monty Tech, now at Goodrich

Academy. Gateway program is through Mahar Regional and only one student there now. This now provides an opportunity in order to reach out to new families as to attending our schools. Choice dollars maxed out at \$5,000 regardless of the District's per pupil expenditure. Ours per pupil expenditure is \$12,000. We are very cautious about opening too many choice openings due to already high class size. Noted in school attending report that fewer families are choosing private schools. Many more options for students and parents today including virtual and charter schools. 9th grade is when most students choose other options.

Public comment from Ms. Menard that there should be the same requirements of residency as any other student. Verification is dependent on the district that they reside in. Good issue for legislature to be aware of.

This year the Superintendent's recommendation for choice openings are up to 10 students in 8th and up to 10 students in 9th grade and any student in grades 10, 11, & 12 - Choice open to any student currently enrolled whose family moves from Lunenburg. Mr. Mackin made motion to accept Superintendent's recommendation, Ms. Shapiro seconded. **Vote: Unanimous**

- b. Donations- Target Take Charge of Education-parents are able to designate where they want funding to go, still receive checks for TCP. Split 1/3 for primary, 2/3 for THMS. Primary in amount of \$85.75. THMS \$131.30. Ms. Blaisdell reported to Superintendent that Teracycle recycling of juice pouches netted \$307.04. Community Council provided a donation of \$1,000 towards the African Arts program. Mr. Mackin made a motion to accept with gratitude. Ms. Sroka 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 5th grader?” in the LHS auditorium. Free family fun event. Continuing to look for sponsors. Please go to website to contribute. This is an important fundraiser for the club. This event will be recorded for future broadcast if you cannot attend. Mr. Alonzo will act as MC. 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.

Town Caucus will be on March 16th, school committee position- one this year. Any questions can contact any SC member. Mr. Ebersole commented for public to review openings-can only be elected to one position at a time.

Preliminary budget was rescheduled by town manager. Posted on town website on the right hand side of page. Superintendent Calmes made copies for the SC.

Public comment by Ms. Luck about 2015-2016 calendar, agreed with shortened February break, commented about possibility of one march break instead of two vacations. When you add time in June, not quality instruction for children. Hope that the following year will try to review this again. Mr. Luck thanked Superintendent Calmes for detailed response to his emailed questions. He also indicated support for letting students continue to attend under choice if they move within their HS years in the future we could set constraints if needed. Comfortable due to past history being able to do this.

Reports

- a. Finance Committee – Dr. Berthiaume reported that they did not meet last week. School budget presentation March 5th at 7:45 at Town Hall next Thursday-should be televised
- b. School Councils – LHS met today, Mr. Mackin indicated all MCAS tests pushed back a week, each family will receive information. Implementation of advisory next year-smaller groupings for teachers and students to get to know each other. Right now homerooms based on clubs-need more heterogeneous groupings. Advisory dependent on the budget, don't know whether funding will be provided for this. Discussion on scheduling process and reconfiguration-will be further discussion, tonight mandatory senior parent night to keep students on track and safe. NEASC core values discussed. THMS meets March 10th. Ms. Sroka reported Primary met today. Spoke about MCAS

- schedule. Did a survey open until March 16th-21% participation in survey now about new schools. Will send another one out as there was no link last time. Discussing rubrics.
- c. PTO- Ms. Sroka reported that they spoke about Parents Night Out. Movie night March 1st. Next night meeting Monday, 3/9. Day meeting March 16th.
 - d. Policy Sub-Committee- Dr. Berthiaume reported they are completed for now.
 - e. Capital Planning Committee – Ms. Sroka reported they are completed.
 - f. PAC/SAL – Ms. Shapiro reported they had a meeting the Friday before vacation. Looking for membership, looking into forming a regional PAC. Meetings possibly off Rt2 in Westminster. Next meeting Friday March 20th. Dr Berthiaume questioned: Does regional PAC meet our obligations? Ms. Shapiro said they had a desire to keep the local PAC even if they did form a regional one.
 - g. Re-Use: Mr. Mackin reported they didn't meet in February. Meeting supposed to be on March 2nd, had to reschedule to March 18th, due to other rescheduled meetings in town. Dr. Berthiaume asked Mr. Mackin to suggest to Re-use committee to have a joint meeting with SC for next meeting. Mr. Mackin will ask.
 - h. Calendar Advisory Committee- Ms. Shapiro discussed they have one tomorrow, and final presentation to SC at first March meeting.
 - i. Add Diversity Committee back on next agenda.

Items for Future Discussion: Dr. Berthiaume indicated they need to create a diversity advisory committee, district improvement plan in future, workshop scheduled is one on one computing and thinking about process for naming the new school. Those will be open to the public and encourage people to attend.

Adjournment – Mr. Mackin made a motion to adjourn regular session of the meeting at 8:12 p.m. Ms. Sroka seconded. **Vote: Unanimous**

Respectfully Submitted,

Liz Petersen
Recording Secretary