



Lunenburg Public Schools

Dr. Kate Burnham, Superintendent of Schools

MEETING MINUTES
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, January 16, 2019
LMS Collaborative Room #D132, 7:00 p.m.

School Committee

Heather Sroka, Chair-Present
Wendy Bertrand, Vice Chair-Present
Carol Archambault, Secretary
Meredith Weiss-Present
Jim LaVeck-Present

Student Representative

Alizah Raboin-Present

Guests:

Brandon Kibbe-Open Space Committee, Warren Stevenson-LHS History Teacher

Superintendent

Dr. Kate Burnham-Present

Business Manager/ HR Director

Michael Cassidy-Present

Recording Secretary

Christine Hladky-Present

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1. *Call to Order* - Ms. Sroka called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
 2. *Chair's Report*- Ms. Sroka discussed the upcoming visit from Senator Jean Tran during the Selectman meeting next Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. Held at the Lunenburg High School. Presenting a check for \$130,000. Refund on the asbestos abatement completed at Turkey Hill Elementary. Will be used towards the next asbestos abatement next fiscal year.
 3. *Public Comment-Agenda Items*- No public comment.
 4. *Review and Approve Warrants & Line Item Transfers*- Ms. Sroka presented warrants on the table to approve. No line item transfers.
 5. *Review and Approve Minutes*- Ms. Sroka entertained a motion to approve. Ms. Bertrand moved to approve the January 2nd regular session minutes as outlined. Ms. Weiss seconded. Vote: "Unanimous."
 6. *Superintendent's Report*- Superintendent Burnham discussed the principal search. Parent forums were held. Discussed qualities they would like to see. Posting closes January 21st. Staff and parents will be sought out this week for interest in serving on the committee. Forums for the high school principal held on January 10th. Position will be posted externally if no viable candidates are identified. Survey will be utilized in the decision-making process. Athletic director search will be posted the end of the week. Government shut down impact on schools. USDA child nutrition programs will carry through to February before seeing impact. FY20 budget update. Initial meeting with the Town Manager and accountant. 2.5% increase. Engage leadership team in the process to bring back for approval. Update will be provided in February. Level service budget impact 3.4% increase. Presentation to the staff. Will hold a community forum for a budget presentation January 28th at 6:00 p.m. Discussion with Eagle House to schedule a forum during the day. Expect to coordinate the last week in January.
 7. *Student Representative's Report*- Ms. Raboin discussed Troop 1728 holding pancake breakfast at the Primary school Saturday, February 16th from 8a.m.-11:00 a.m. Turkey Hill Elementary school received \$699 for box tops. High school received toasters. Ski Team had first meet. Boys lost to Bedford 43-35. Girls beat Bedford 43-35. Girls basketball team 6-3, boys' basketball 2-8, girls track 4-0, boys track 4-0, hockey 7-2-1, boys swim 7-3, girls swim 6-4.
 8. *New Business*
Discussion
 - a. Proposed Changes to the High School History/Social Studies Program of Studies- Mr. Stevenson discussed the proposed new social studies framework from K-12. First revision since 2003. Currently requires courses: Grade 9- Modern World History, grade 10 U.S. History I, grade 11 U.S. History II. Electives-Grade 11 and 12-Economics (half-year) Psychology (half-year), grade 12 AP U.S. Government and Politics (full year). Newly proposed curriculum-Grade 9 (World History),

Grade 10 (U.S. History). Lay the foundation of studying world and United States history. Current curriculum consists of survey courses. Too broad. Build the foundation on U.S. History and World History before allowing the students to choose a focused area. Students will be required to take AP U.S. History or at least one-half year electives. Electives will be limited in time period. Students will be able to become an expert in area of history. Current research is limited. New curriculum will be engaging and allow students to formally present in a more realistic approach. Proposed new model: 1. Follows one of the recommended pathways from the new state frameworks. 2. Mimics the college experience with broad survey courses offered freshman year followed by intense focused courses as students move up. 3. Will promote research and inquiry. 4. Will likely increase student interest and engagement. 5. Offer more electives. Propose requiring 3 social studies credits of which 2.5 must be U.S. History. Designate the courses: 9th grade Modern World history, 10 grade U.S. History. Action steps: New curriculum finalized by June of 2019. Transition course beginning the 2019/2020 school year. August 2019-September 2019- determine which frameworks are not covered in the one-year U.S. history course. October 2019-June 2020 create new electives to be offered during the 20/21 school year. New curriculum implemented by August 2020. Ms. Sroka entertained a motion to approve. Mr. LaVeck moved to accept the future social studies curriculum. Ms. Archambault seconded. Vote: "Unanimous."

b. Personnel Update- Mr. Cassidy discussed interviewing for the special education position at the Primary School.

c. Public education funding-Mr. Cassidy discussed the foundation budget. Health insurance and special education are not included in the foundation budget. Foundation budget is obsolete. Spending more than what the foundation budget is expecting to spend. Dr Burnham discussed the Foundation budget gaps. Other school districts have attempted similar cost-effective measures. Require more spending due to areas of need. Formula is outdated.

d. T. C. Passios Proposed Future Plans- Ms. Sroka discussed the options for T.C. Passios future plans. Will inquire with Town Manager for opinion. School Committee agrees using option one for future plans. Utilize for expansion of school space.

Action

e. First Reading-Policy 5402 & 5406 - Provide policy information to students when they receive the parking permit. Mr. LaVeck inquired about reasonable suspicion. Would a student be searched if they came to school smelling like marijuana? What if someone in the students home has a medical marijuana card? Officer McNamara acknowledged the smell of alcohol or marijuana would be reasonable cause for a search. Explanations regarding exposure to an odor can be provided by the parent or the student for future questions. Administration determines if a search will take place.

Ms. Bertrand presented updated policy number **5406 (Endangering health and safety interrogations, search and seizure)** as follows: "Endangering the health and safety of a student and/or other members of the school community is a violation of State Law. The Superintendent, Principal or other designated administrator may authorize a personal search of a student, a student's property, a classroom, or an automobile, if there is a reasonable suspicion that health and safety are at risk or that a student has violated or is violating school rules or federal/state laws. Should a student decline to be searched or refuse an administrator access to his/her property, the parent/guardian will be notified and, when appropriate, the police will be contacted.

Searches of students, their possessions, lockers or student automobiles will be conducted in a way conducive both to the preservation of individual rights and to an atmosphere supportive of the educational process. If, at any time during the search process, a designated administrator feels a threat is imminent to any student or other personnel, the police will be contacted.

Whenever a student search is conducted the following shall apply:

1. No search shall be conducted unless there is reasonable suspicion that a violation of law or school rules has occurred, or there is a reasonable suspicion that the student's or school community's health and safety may be in jeopardy.
2. Searches shall be conducted by an administration in the presence of at least one other staff member.
3. Whenever a personal search is deemed necessary, the student shall be advised of the reason for the impending search prior to its implementation. School officials may examine articles of clothing such as pockets, coats, book bags, etc.
4. In recognition that right to privacy considerations intensify as a search becomes invasive, no school official shall ever conduct a "strip search" of a student.
5. Should a student refuse to voluntarily comply with a request for a search, the student may be detained until parents, and if necessary, police, can arrive at the school to assist, as appropriate, in the investigation. A student who fails to cooperate, lies, misleads or threatens any person during or after a search or questioning, ay be subject to additional disciplinary action.
6. Should a search uncover any unlawful substances or contraband, such shall be turned over to the appropriate authorities or rightful owner, as appropriate, and suitable disciplinary action shall be taken.

Nothing herein shall be construed to limit the right of the School Committee or administration to make use of external detecting resources should these become necessary or desirable. As part of this police, the Lunenburg School Committee approves the use of random searches throughout the school year.

K-9 Search of Property

Illegal drug possession and use by school-aged children is a dangerous and persistent problem nationwide. The Lunenburg Public Schools remain vigilant at all times to prevent illegal drugs from entering out schools and follow strict enforcement of anti-drug rules to protect the health and safety of all students and facilities. The School District's primary goal is to deter

students from using or bringing drugs (or other unlawful or unauthorized items) into the school, not to subject students to arrest or school discipline.

To that end, the Superintendent, Principal or other designated administrator may authorize unannounced canine (K-9) patrols of school lockers or automobiles in school parking lots when he/she deems it advisable to maintain school safety or if there is a reasonable suspicion that drugs or weapons will be found. During these visits, the canines will pass by students' lockers and automobiles and will alert their handlers if they detect the presence of a prohibited substance. Should this occur, there exists probable cause for a search to be conducted and a designated school official will conduct a thorough search of the item or area targeted by the dog. At all times, canine patrols shall be scheduled to minimize disruption of the academic day and the risk of contact with students.

All lockers and randomly selected offices and classrooms will be subject to search. Lockers and school premises are school property and there is no reasonable expectation of privacy in those areas. In addition, all automobiles parked on school property will be subject to search. Students who choose to bring vehicles to school and are granted the privilege to park on school property do so with the understanding that they relinquish the expectation that the contents of their vehicles will remain private. In the event that drugs, weapons or other unlawful or unauthorized items are found, Parents will be notified, and appropriate authorities may be notified. All decisions concerning school discipline and police referral will be made by the Principal, or designated administrator, using existing school procedures.

Canine patrols/searches conducted by law enforcement officials shall be in addition to any administrative or health and safety searches conducted by school officials.

Interrogations by Police

The schools have legal custody of students during the school day and during hours of approved extracurricular activities. It is the responsibility of the school administration to make an effort to protect each student's rights with respect to interrogation by law enforcement officials. Therefore:

1. When law enforcement officials find it necessary to question students during the school day or periods or extracurricular activities, the school Principal or his/her designee will be present when possible. An effort will be made to contact the student's parent or guardian so that the responsible individuals may be notified of the situation.
2. If custody and/or arrest are involved, the Principal will request that all procedural safeguards, as prescribed by law, be observed by the law enforcement officials."

f. Transportation Bid-Mr. Cassidy discussed the proposed 3-year bid with a negotiable 4th and 5th year. Provides vendors an opportunity to evaluate capital investment of the vehicles. Ms. Sroka entertained a motion to approve. Mr. LaVeck moved to send out the bid as presented. Ms. Archambault seconded. Vote: "Unanimous."

g. Donations-Superintendent Burnham discussed the \$699.70 donated from Box Tops for education. \$500 going to Turkey Hill. Challenge winner for the Myles for Miles. Ms. Sroka entertained a motion to accept. Ms. Bertrand moved to accept the donations with gratitude. Ms. Weiss seconded. Vote: "Unanimous."

Old Business

Discussion

a. Open Space-Mr. Passios specified a piece of town property was transferred to custody of the school. Sewer line from the school property to the end of Turkey Hill Elementary. Was not transferred back to town. Question of a leech field. No map changes have been made. Reach out to Mr. Harmon to discuss options.

b. School Committee Student Representative Selection Process-Ms. Bertrand suggested using the auxiliary nightly news groups within the school. Various students attend meetings. Needs School Committee meeting availability. Gain experience with public presentation. Join community service club as well.

9. *Public Comment*- Open-Mr. Passios indicated that option one at T.C. Passios could have a traffic impact due to location of the road.

10. *Reports*

a. Charter Review- Mr. LaVeck stated a public forum was held. Discussed the process and engaged public comment. Additional public forum scheduled for February.

b. Athletic Advisory-Mr. LaVeck indicated a meeting was held yesterday. Consolidating booster groups. General consensus. Developing a fundraising template. Next meeting held on Tuesday February 5th.

c. Finance Committee-Ms. Archambault indicated the meeting held on January 10th. Discussed the open space plan. Will discuss each warrant item. Next meeting is January 24th.

d. Blizzard Bags Advisory-Ms. Archambault discussed the survey provided in December. Committee will meet again on January 28th. Presentation to the School Committee on February 6th.

e. Wellness Advisory-Ms. Bertrand indicated a meeting was held last Tuesday. Finalizing survey going to students. Covers a wide range of health and wellness questions.

f. Policy Sub-Committee-Ms. Sroka affirmed a meeting was held last week. Will schedule future meeting.

g. PTO-Ms. Weiss discussed the upcoming fundraiser at "Roll on America" on January 26th. Next meeting on February 11th.

- h. School Councils- Ms. Weiss indicated the High School met on January 2nd. Discussed the competitive class plays. No update for middle school. Ms. Archambault discussed the Turkey Hill elementary meeting held yesterday. Ms. Champagne met with representatives through the library program for grade 5. More students are visiting the library. Identify possible grants for additional Chromebooks. Initiated Kylies Care Kits. 18 students participating. Planning a Jog A Thon to fundraise. Next meeting is March 19th. No updates for the Primary School.
- i. Capital Planning Committee-Ms. Sroka discussed providing the capital requests for this year. Mr. Henshaw requested a meeting to discuss the Collins Center rubric for future requests.

11. *Topics for Future Discussion-Open Space, Blizzard Bags*

12. *Executive Session-M.G.L.c.30A,Sec.21 To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union Personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with non-union personnel.* Ms. Sroka indicated a need to move into executive session to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with non-union personnel.

Roll Call

Heather Sroka-Yes

Wendy Bertrand-Yes

Carol Archambault-Yes

Meredith Weiss-Yes

Jim LaVeck-Yes

At 9:42 p.m. Ms. Sroka indicated the committee would not return to regular session.

13. *Adjournment*

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Hladky-Recording Secretary

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