



# Lunenburg Public Schools

Dr. Kate Burnham, Superintendent of Schools

## MEETING NOTICE

### SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, March 11, 2020

Regular Session, Lunenburg Town Hall, 7:00 p.m.

### MINUTES

#### School Committee

Heather Sroka, Chair  
Wendy Bertrand, Vice Chair  
Brian Lehtinen, Secretary  
Carol Archambault - absent  
Jim LaVeck

#### Superintendent

Dr. Kate Burnham

#### Business Manager/ HR Director

Michael Cassidy

#### Recording Secretary

Susan Somers

#### Student Representative

Kyle Weiss

#### Guests:

Warren Stevenson-LHS Faculty & World Hunger Task Force Students- absent, Dawn Gearin-LHS Faculty, Nadine Lorenzen-Food Service Director

- A. *In accordance with the requirements of Open Meeting Law, please be advised that this meeting is being recorded and broadcast over the Lunenburg Public Access channel.*
- B. *Mission Statement: The Mission of the Lunenburg Public Schools is to provide all students with the skills, confidence, and passion for life-long learning so that they may find their own paths to successful careers, active citizenship, and rewarding lives.*
- C. *Pledge of Allegiance is Recited.*

1. Call to Order - 7:00pm by Ms. Sroka
2. Chair's Report - moved directly to presentations.
3. **Presentation- World Hunger Task Force:** It was determined that there was some confusion as to when this was to take place. Moved on to student council report - Kyle Weiss, Dawn Gearin.

**Presentation - Student Council Conference:** Kyle Weiss reported on the Student Council conference in Hyannis, which included things like the Polar Plunge (school raised \$500, state raised \$60,000 for Special Olympics) and other workshops. Kyle led a workshop and ran for VP against 9 candidates. He had to do a speech in front of 1,300 students and a 200 or so advisors. Kyle's workshop pertained to the skill of writing things down to remember things. This included 2 games of telephone, where the second round where details were written did much better at accuracy. Dawn Gearin, Student Council Advisor also spoke about the trip being a wonderful bonding experience for the group. She noted that she was very proud of Kyle and that he did wonderfully going up against students from North Middlesex and Oakmont which split votes. Ultimately it was a Duxbury student who won the VP seat.

4. **Public Comment-Agenda Items** - The Committee heard from Lisa LeBlanc, Teacher and LEA President. She noted that the district website had incorrect information and still said that there was a meeting last week among other issues. As LEA President she brought to the Committee's attention issues involving item 5206 regarding homework over breaks. As teachers, we have not been asked about this. There are great variations between K-12 regarding what is considered "homework." We are requesting more gathering of data before any changes to policy.

5. **Review and Approve Warrants, Line Item Transfers** - Extended Day \$2,500 April rental. Mr. LaVeck made a motion to accept the line item transfers. Mr. Lehtinen seconded, all in favor.

6. **Review and Approve Minutes**

- Regular Session 2-26-20 - Approve with the change that Executive Session minutes are approved, but not published. Mr. LaVeck made a motion to approve, Ms. Bertrand seconded, all in favor.
- Executive Session 2-5-20 - Approve as above.

7. **Superintendent's Report** - Coronavirus - Dr. Burnham has attended 2 phone conferences with the Commissioner of Ed and the Mass Department of Public Health jointly and this afternoon with the Dept. of Public Health. We continue to operate in accordance with guidance from these entities. There is a special election coming up Tuesday, March 31st. As before, Extended Day

*1025 Massachusetts Avenue, Lunenburg, Massachusetts 01462*

*978 582-4100 ~ fax 978 582-4103*

will operate from the side entrance. Kinship Care had a second meeting. Upcoming meetings are March 30 and April 27 from 10-11am at the Senior Center. There is a budget meeting tomorrow evening at 6:30pm at the town hall. School Choice - we have had 4 applications for Grade 9. This leaves 6 seats open for Grade 9 and 9 open for Grade 10. Enrollment is at 16 for the 4 year old Pre-K lottery. Five parents have completed paperwork. 100 students for Kindergarten. Early Learning Center is at 13. Summer Camp low of 18 and high of 25 for the week. Extended hours for camp has good numbers. Enrollment for Extended Day for the school year is at 38-43 for the morning and 61-71 for the afternoon. We haven't yet reached the cap. When we do there will be a waiting list. The Coaches Handbook revisions will not be ready by the Spring Season. Additional time is needed to discuss swing players. LEA has concerns that the document could be viewed as evaluative. They will be getting back to us with feedback. Current plan is to roll out for the next school year. Mr. Lehtinen asked if the expectations can roll out to the job description? Dr. Burnham noted that the intent was not that the document be evaluative. Currently there is no evaluation tool for coaches. Mr. LaVeck noted that he would think that that would be wanted for any sort of staff.

8. **Student Representative's Report** - Kyle Weiss previously reported on the Student Council trip to Hyannis. NHS hosted a dodgeball game last Friday at 7:00pm with proceeds of \$700 going to a local charity. Task force is producing a Coin wars video premiered to HS after April break. Prom sales next week. Spring Sports tryouts next week.

9. **Old Business**

*Discussion*

a. **FY21 Updated Budget Presentation** - Three budget scenarios: 3.24% adjusted budget presented 1/22; 2.9% adjusted budget; 2.5% adjusted budget (Town Manager guideline.)

b. **Budget Question & Answer** - Mr. LaVeck asked what the potential impact is on the new curriculum of not having the requested maps? Dr. Burnham noted that curriculum may have to be worked digitally vs. having tangible maps. Monty Tech presented to the finance committee on March 5th. The assessment came in over what the town manager had budgeted. Revenues are down. Monty Tech had 7 more students than usual. Monty Tech is taking more students. The projection from the Town Manager is lower. Ms. Bertrand noted that the Student Opportunity Act is actually hurting us. She hopes to see more people at our meeting next week. The town meeting floor is not the time to flip out about this. Ms. Bertrand thanked Dr. Burnham for all the detail. Timeline: Finance Committee tomorrow night. 3/18 - our next meeting. 5/2 - Town Meeting. Mr. LaVeck made a motion to support the 3.24% budget scenario. Mr. Lehtinen seconded the motion. All in favor. Dr. Burnham to proceed by presenting the 3.24% budget scenario as supported by the Committee. Alternatives and their ramifications to be presented as well.

*Action*

c. **Second Reading Policies #4101.02, 5103.01, 5201.01, 5206, 5403**- Ms. Bertrand made a motion to waive the second reading of these policies. Mr. LaVeck seconded, all in favor. Exception noted for 5206 where Mr. LaVeck motioned that this be tabled for the policy subcommittee. Mr. Lehtinen seconded, all in favor.

d. **Governor Recommendation - International and Spring Trips**. - As of March 10th Governor Baker has discussed limiting or eliminating all out of state non essential travel and large events. As of one week ago it was urged to cancel international travel, and recommended out of state cancel. Upcoming trips for Lunenburg are: April - Music trip, May - DC, June - Galapagos. Ms. Sroka asked how these recommendations affect a refund? The committee heard from Karen regarding the music trip. If the cancellation comes from the school, options are limited. If the decision comes from the government, the company will work with us, but there are no guarantees. If the student purchased the insurance, the refund is 75%. We've spoken to 10 families and most are fine with going, as long as precautions are taken. Is there a possibility of rescheduling? That is hard to say at this point. It is around \$885 out of pocket. The Music Aiders donation would be lost. There are 6 parents attending, each of whom paid more. One grandparent, who is probably not going. DC Trip - it is agreed that like the music trip, if we cancel, money is lost. May be differences if cancellations come from elsewhere. Capital tours have been closed, for example. Final payment for the trip has been pushed to March 26th to hopefully give us time to examine more developments. Merchant Travel is working with the vendors. Ms. Sroka agreed that we should at least wait until next week. We may need a special meeting on March 25th. **Galapagos Trip** June 20th. We have up to 45 days before the trip (May 5th) to make a decision. Options are to postpone, or request to change locations. Like the other trips, government intervention means options. All 12 parents are ok with going, although 1 would prefer postponing to June of 21. This is an expensive trip, and also at issue are those seniors who are not returning to school. Ms. Sroka noted that the two spring trips should be on the next agenda.

10. **New Business**

*Discussion*

e. **Food service updates** - pushed to next meeting.

*Action*

f. **First Read Policies #5218, 5218.01** - Mr. LaVeck made a motion to waive first reading. Ms. Bertrand seconded, all in favor.

11. **Reports**

- a. **Athletic Advisory Committee** - Met on March 2nd
- b. **Finance Committee** - Meets tomorrow
- c. **Policy Sub-Committee** - scheduling is needed.
- d. **PTO** - Met Monday. Discussed scholarship, kindergarten social, fundraiser, THES is doing a jogathon for Kylee's Kare Kits, Parents Night Out on April 3rd. Track & Field is taking over Miles for Myles.
- e. **School Councils** - Primary meets next week, nothing to report on others.
- f. **Capital Planning Committee** - delete this.
- g. **Wellness Advisory Committee** - none.
- h. **PAC/SAL** - none.
- i. **Lifelong Learning Advisory** - none.
- j. **T.C. Passios Building Design Committee** - meets tonight, Met with the architect and talked about the schedule..

12. **Public Comment-Open** - Mr. LaVeck noted that March 16th, 7pm is the Citizen's Caucus. There are 2 open seats on the school committee and 2 open seats on the board of selectmen.

13. **Topics for Future Discussion** - Spring Trips, proof of residency requirements, World Hunger Task Force

14. **Executive Session:** *To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with union personnel*

**Roll Call**

Heather Sroka - yes

Wendy Bertrand - yes

Jim LaVeck - yes

Carol Archambault - no

Brian Lehtinen - yes

15. **Adjournment - 8:24pm**

Respectfully Submitted, Susan Somers