



Lunenburg Public Schools

Dr. Kate Burnham, Superintendent of Schools

MEETING MINUTES
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, October 2, 2019
Regular Session, Town Hall, 7:00p.m.

School Committee

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

Superintendent

Dr. Kate Burnham-Present

Business Manager/

HR Director

Michael Cassidy, Present

Guests

Claire Delaney, Student Representative-Present

Recording Secretary

Jodi Saldi, Present

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.

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.

1. *Call to Order* at 7:00pm by Ms. Bertrand
2. *Chair's Report*: No report
3. *Presentations*: Two Committees here to present:

3a. Behavioral Health Advisory Council: Ms. Finch and Ms. Millett: Purpose of BHAC is to evaluate district needs, plans on how to address school and community needs. Patty McCarthy-Guillette and Kristi Schkuta are new members. Council has met roughly every 3 to 4 weeks this year. We have implemented break free from depression curriculum for 8th grade, also mandatory training for the "S" word, suicide prevention. Some continuing professional development: MIAA, Federation for Children with Special Needs, mindfulness training, film -Paper Tigers, Self-care of staff. . SHAPE Assessment done in each school. We will be doing a universal screening for students. We need to be proactive and not let kids slip through cracks; work in progress. Emote is a real time data tool we will pilot this fall. We had great PD days last week. All school personnel attended training. Resilience (film) was shown at the PD day, but is not available online. Additional plans: applied for grant "Safe and Supportive Schools", DESE convening, kinship care for extended families raising children. Interface referrals continue to grow.

People can follow us on Twitter. Mr. LaVeck did attend the community screening for the Resilience film and found it very sobering and very eye opening. Those adverse experiences are very moving. He is amazed how many factors impact our children. Mr. Lehtinen also said it was great training too. He asked to clarify universal screenings and the presenters stated they want it to be very well thought out before rolling it out. More information will be sent to parents prior to screening. Mr. Lehtinen believes kids educated on this subject is a great idea as well. Dr. Burnham believes the film Resilience and the work of this council is vital in terms of helping kids being ready to be in the classroom and to learn.

3b. Professional Development Committee: Dr. Burnham acknowledged Ms. Scott and Mr. Adams both serve on the Behavioral Health Advisory Council and PD Committee. Professional Development Team (Ms. Okerman, Ms. Proctor, Ms. Scott, Mr. Adams) present. The PD day was a vision from Dr. Burnham: Each member of the committee brings a different skill to the overall team. We had our first PD Summit 9/24. All were very excited about vision and to attend. Summit included presenters from around the country and we had 4 different sessions in the course of the day. People had a list of options to choose from and selected the sessions they wanted to attend. We are still processing data from participants. All presenters felt very welcomed and stated so many times. Technology and other accommodations were done properly. Surveys will go to participants and then be returned back to us to analyze feedback. Some presentations were classroom strategies for supporting children with difficulties. Mr. Adams said it was truly an excellent opportunity for all that attended. Many were very open and honest to discuss their feelings. He hopes this opens the door for more PD summits. All presenters felt very welcomed and Mr. Adams hopes this will draw other presenters. At the end of the day we had sponsors and raffles. November 5th is next PD day. Ms. Archambault commended the group for their work and said this is the kind of PD that makes people want to do more. Mr. LaVeck recognized local sponsors and others raving about the day and gave rave reviews for Dr. Burnham and putting this event together. Mr. Lehtinen felt it was innovative, low cost, and it was opened to other districts; the diversity was great. Great to get collaboration for all.

4. *Public Comment: Agenda Items:* Ms. Bertrand states comments are limited to what is on tonight's agenda for first public comment.

a. Ms. Diamantopoulos, Vice Chairman of ROAR. The goal and mission is to provide assistance and raise awareness regarding substance abuse. Over 70k died of a drug overdose in 2017. 130 people die each day of drug related overdose. 13 is the average age of beginning of drug abuse. October 17th Youth & Pain Management presentation at LMHS. Often, the start of abuse is due to injury. The upcoming presentation will provide education into how and why this happens.

5. *Review and Approve Warrants:*

Line Item Transfers: Mr. Londa requests to transfer \$106 from electricity line to fuel line. Purpose is for generator fuel costs. Second, from Ms. Perry to transfer \$6500 from extended day account to Town rental costs for extended day for August, September and October and an additional \$500 is due for the 5th classroom coming online in October. Mr. LaVeck made motion to accept line item transfers; seconded by Mr. Lehtinen; Vote: unanimous.

6. *Review and Approve Minutes:*

- September 18, 2019 Regular Session:
- September 4, 2019 Executive Session: Dr. Burnham will adjust when Ms. Archambault sends recommended edits. Ms. Archambault made motion to approve; seconded by Mr. Lehtinen; Vote: unanimous
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7. *Superintendent's Report:*

New legislation pending. Student Opportunity Act- Potentially 1.5 billion in Massachusetts public education. The purpose to ensure all children receive an education regardless of area in which they live. It would fund healthcare, supports for English language learners, adjustments to Circuit Breaker and additional MSBA projects granted. These monies would be for FY21 assuming the governor approves. Mr. Lehtinen commented they would fully fund charter reimbursements. Mr. Lehtinen said all should reach out to Representative Tran to make their voices heard. Ms. Archambault said we should all reach out to our representatives to help in passing this into effect.

At the July 31st School Committee meeting, the Boys and Girls Club Director spoke during public comment indicating that perhaps they can bring to the table a solution for extended day. Dr. Burnham met with the B&GC Director again September 25th. The same limitations that the Director outlined in May remain: limited space, limited staffing, limited funding, before school programs are not possible due to staffing. The Director indicated to Dr. Burnham that she would speak with her executive board about the possibility of expanding service to include THES students.

LHS soccer athletes are running a free soccer clinic for LYSA players. If attending please bring a food pantry item. The Lunenburg Public Library on Wednesday, October 16 is making inspirational cards for cancer centers as part of the Pink Revolution Breast Cancer initiative. All are invited. The ROAR presentation- Youth & Pain Management is October 17th at LMHS. Miles for Myles is Sunday, October 20th. Miles for Myles was taken over by PTO 18 years ago and this will be the last Miles for Myles event.

Staff recognition for custodians and coaches: Please join me in saying thank you to our coaches and custodians. Coach's resolution read by Ms. Bertrand; Custodians resolution read by Mr. LaVeck.

8. *Student Representative's Report:* Freshman election have been pushed back a 2nd time to November 4th. FAFSA opened yesterday. Seniors have individual meetings with guidance counselors. Homecoming is October 19th. Spirit week begins Monday with a school rally on Friday.

9. *New Business:*
Discussion

a. **Outdoor Facility Signage:** Mr. Londa, Director of Facilities. Currently no such policy exists for outside use of property or providing guidance for the public such as parking, camera surveillance and what you can/cannot do on school property. We don't have a sign indicating when you are allowed or not on school property. Draft signage prepared. More people are using school grounds during the day such as the track, and tennis and basketball courts. Some questions being raised and or asked are: do people belong on school property and if so why? What's their purpose? What is the correct language on signage that we need to use? Who is parking designated for? Regarding people with dogs? Are they cleaning up after pets? Some may walk off leash, some wanted to use facilities for dog park. We currently have no signage stating what property is for and when the public can use facility. There is occasional extra-curricular activities on property. What activities are not permitted on school property such as alcoholic beverages, should we include tobacco or vaping products? We should be stating what activities are not permitted on property. Mr. LaVeck said #6 is not relevant should not have #6 on sign. Mr. LaVeck said we should state what hours/days the public has use of track/field. Mr. LaVeck indicated the first sign should be in the parking lot as you enter the grounds and another at track/field, courts, etc. Mr. Londa will bring another draft back.

Action:

Declaration of Surplus:

Surplus Vehicle: 2006 Pontiac G6 Sedan from our Drivers Ed Program, which has ended. It has approximately 60k miles. Due to the Town's Green Community Program, we would need to get rid of vehicle within 10 yrs. It does not meet Green standards of today and is overdue for inspection. It cannot go to another department. We can sell it, and if we do not receive offers it has scrap value. Mr. Lehtinen made motion to declare vehicle as surplus and for sale: Ms. Archambault seconded. Vote: unanimous.

b. FLLAC Update and Capital Reserve Fund: The alternative high school program has relocated to the new building in Leominster. There is a small amount of additional space available on the 1st floor. Space can be possibly used for Professional Development. The Executive Director will be exploring the possibility of leasing this additional space. The Collaborative wants to establish a Capital Reserve Fund. A capital plan has been developed. Preparing us for upcoming expenses and being proactive. They will need two thirds of the committee votes to establish. Mr. LaVeck made a motion to approve establishing the FLLAC Capital Reserve Fund; Mr. Lehtinen seconded; Vote: unanimous.

c. Donation: We have a donation of miscellaneous school supplies by Dr. Gianino, a local dentist. Ms. Archambault made motion to accept generous donations and Mr. LaVeck seconded Vote: unanimous.

10. *Old Business*-none noted

11. *Second Public Comment:*

a. Objection regarding universal mental health screening. The speaker would not allow this kind of intrusion for her children. Can parents opt out? Dr. Burnham asked the Chair if she wished for her to address this concern now. Dr. Burnham indicates this will be included in the letter parents will receive. Parents can opt out.

b. Mr. Lehtinen said Lunenburg Grange will be having an event on October 8th in which there will be pumpkin carving and other activities; unsure of time in the evening. Dr. Burnham can post on website if a flyer with information is provided.

c. Mr. LaVeck stated an event with the Boys and Girls Club, Shrieks and Krieks is also coming up; unsure of dates or time.

12. *Reports:*

a. Athletic Advisory Committee: Next meeting is November 4th at 6:30pm.

b. Finance Committee: met on September 26th and Town Manager gave an overview on how she develops budget. Ms. Archambault stated the Town Manager develops the target budget by adding in the increase of contractual costs and health insurance while level funding other costs. Symposium October 29th: Presentation -how we got here, where we are where are we going.

c. Policy Sub-Committee - nothing to report

d. PTO : They are resurrecting request for funds. Ms. Bertrand thinks it's great to see it coming back.

e. School Councils: Next meeting for Elementary School is October 8th. Primary School is October 16th.

f. Capital Planning Committee: The next meeting is October 29th at 5:30pm.

g. Wellness Advisory : Has not met since last meeting.

h. PAC/SAL: upcoming meeting October 11th.

i. Life-Long Learning Advisory: next meeting is TBD

13. *Topics for Future Discussion:* Mr. LaVeck would like to revisit the Funding Resolution and discuss what kinds of action to take. Mr. Lehtinen would like feedback from Senate and State Representatives.

14. *Adjournment:* Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25pm; made by Mr. LaVeck, seconded by Mr. Lehtinen;
Vote: unanimous

Respectfully Submitted,
Jodi Saldi, Recording Secretary