



# Lunenburg Public Schools

Loxi Jo Calmes  
Superintendent of Schools

**MEETING NOTICE**  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
Wednesday, February 17, 2016  
T. C. Passios Building- 7:00 p.m.

**MINUTES**

School Committee

Gregory Berthiaume, Chair- present  
Michael Mackin, Vice Chair- absent  
Wendy Bertrand, Secretary- present  
Colleen Shapiro- present  
Heather Sroka- absent

Guests

Caryn Wardwell- LHS Faculty

Superintendent

Loxi Jo Calmes

Recording Secretary

Liz Petersen

Student Representative

Sophia Holman

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Call to Order: Dr. Berthiaume called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Chair's Report: Dr. Berthiaume stated he did not have a chair's report.

Review and Approve Warrants: warrants were on the table for signature and one line item transfer was presented. Request from Ms. Wardwell to transfer \$300 originally set aside for fees and registration for state festivals, now two students not attending. Request is to repurpose this money to buy music for ensembles. Superintendent recommended approval. Line item transfer signed by the Committee.

Review and Approve Minutes:

Regular Session Minutes 2-3-16 was presented and approved by the Committee.

Superintendent's Report:

Superintendent Calmes introduced Robert Truax, LHS math teacher, who has been a master teacher for two years. He discussed his project last year which was a flipped classroom and this year he is providing administrative support. He thanked the School Committee for their commitment to the schools and to parents and community members for their support. He explained that by him doing lunch supervision on Thursday each week for all four lunches allows the administration team to accomplish tasks during this time frame such as teacher evaluations, and conferences with students and parents. Mr. Truax explained a flipped classroom lesson in which the typical lecture and homework elements of a course are reversed. Short video lectures or links are provided and viewed by students at home before the class session, while in-class time is devoted to exercises, projects, or discussions. Mr. Truax explained that he sends links through Google mail to his AP classes. His goal is to extend this same opportunity to his Algebra 2 class as well in the future. Through the University of Houston website he provides links to his students of tests to practice their skills. Through the Khan Academy, specific links are also sent to students for them to view math operations. This year Google Apps was also introduced.

Mr. Truax mentioned that he had recently taken a computer science course at WPI that changed his whole perspective regarding technology and its use with students. All problems and concepts inquiry based in order to encourage problem solving. He indicated that he is incorporating much more technology currently. Question from Ms. Gilman as to whether the schools teach programming? Mr. Truax responded that they offer some coding and robotics in the technology courses. Question from Ms. Gilman asked if the flipped classroom has improved scores on assessments. Mr. Truax responded that it is too early to tell as this is a fairly new program. Students have told him however that they can stop the online presentations and listen several times if needed for

1025 Massachusetts Avenue, Lunenburg, Massachusetts 01462  
978 582-4100 ~ fax 978 582-4103

clarity and understanding. Question as to whether this is a common practice in schools. Response was yes, in some schools. Blended learning seminar on March 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Truax is attending. Mr. Truax clarified a blended classroom as a traditional one vs. a flipped classroom for Mrs. Luck.

Superintendent Calmes also reported:

Grade 3-5 principal search committee was appointed. She shared the names of members and described how the search process works.

February break was two days long, now we are in session for the rest of the week. Today student attendance was 91%, approximately 95% normally, but still a strong rate.

Diversity Advisory committee seeking new members.

District Determined Measures work group met today. This is part of educator evaluation system. Work group reviewed DDMs outside of the school day and worked together as a group today to review and approve.

*Student Representative Report:* Ms. Holman relayed that boys senior basketball against Ayer-Shirley is upcoming. For Valentine's Day Student Government hung up hearts representing every student in school, and certain names were chosen randomly for prizes Mr. LHS event on Thursday at 7pm. Sophomore class won competitive class plays. Thresholds class every Wednesday has police coming in to teach self-defense. Mock Trial Club is going to state competition.

*School Building Committee Report:* Superintendent Calmes reported in Mr. Mackin's absence. Area "B" all staging being taken down, prepared to start bringing in the seating. Millwork finished in library, display and bookcase at entrance complete. Shades starting to be installed. Darker shades installed in science areas due to experiments. HS Area "A" ready to receive lockers, millwork will be complete shortly. Will be ready for final cleaning soon. MS wing two weeks behind, but catching up. Kitchen equipment being delivered. Scoreboards up in gym, starting to put vapor barrier and wood flooring to be climatized. 2-3 weeks gym floor will be in, tiling in locker rooms. Wall tiling has been completed, flooring in project rooms. On time and budget, expecting occupancy permit in May. Will be able to do a bit with students in June with the new building before the students leave for the summer.

#### *New Business*

*Policy Waiver Request - Class of 2016:* Superintendent Calmes introduced Erinanne Burroughs, advisor and students Kelly Lapointe and Elena Arciprete representing the Class of 2016. Policy was put in place a few years ago in regards to wearing all blue at graduation, due to concerns regarding gender neutrality. Students relayed that with the new school and school pride, would like to return to wearing blue and white colors at graduation. They feel this is a sense of tradition especially since the decision has been made to hold graduation this year back on the field again. Feeling of class is that if they gave students the right to choose blue or white it would give students a choice of their own identity. The class would like to open options so no one feels uncomfortable. Superintendent Calmes said that previously this had been a tradition that was gender based. Two years ago, civil rights and anti-discrimination policies were updated and staff did training around a gender neutral environment. Encouraged to find ways from the state to foster an environment of gender neutrality.. Responsibility of community to create a neutral zone where decisions are not gender specific. Not sure if there is any research as to other communities that have done this and the outcome. Ms. Burroughs explained the girls were very vocal in expressing their desire for some white, some blue graduation gowns. The boys, on the other hand, didn't seem to feel strongly in this regard. Dr. Berthiaume expressed that the DESE has strongly worded their communications with schools to ensure that they protect those who were in a vulnerable place in their life, and not make decisions solely based on gender. This particular policy had a tremendous amount of public input and feedback when they reviewed and updated this policy. The policy, however, does not have wording specifically concerning gowns for graduation. Dr. Berthiaume stated that the class would not need to change the policy currently in order to proceed with their request, rather they would have to be creative in their approach. Superintendent Calmes agreed with Dr. Berthiaume's suggestion. Ms. Holman commented that she couldn't think of one other school locally that has just one color for their graduation gowns. Ms. Shapiro commented that she fears that the process of having students individually choose singles out students. Dr. Berthiaume

suggested a possible lottery such as putting all of the colors into a hat, and randomly choosing them for boys and girls. Question as to timeline of University Cap and Gowns for ordering purposes. Ms. Burroughs relayed that she knows the owners and will check to see if these have been ordered yet. Does not think this will be a problem, but she will call and relay the information back to the School Committee. The representatives of senior class were charged with bringing a proposal to the school administration and Superintendent that would comply with policy.

Special Education Transportation FY17-FY19: Superintendent Calmes introduced Scott and Lisa from Van Pool Transportation, who have had the transportation contract with our district for the last three years, and provided us with a substantial savings. Superintendent Calmes thanked both on behalf of parents and Ms. Hanscom for doing a fabulous job with responses, assistance and being great partners. Proposal put forth is for the same rate for the next three years, with daily monitor rate increasing by five dollars, which is understandable considering minimum wage increases. Superintendent's recommendation is to enter into the 3 year contract. An analysis completed of local transportation companies and pricing revealed that Van Pool's rates were either thirty dollars less expensive per day or the same as their competitors. Scott expressed that it has been a privilege to work in partnership with our district, and appreciates the opportunity to continue. He explained that the business is solely special education transportation. It is a Massachusetts based local company with headquarters in Wilbraham, and each office runs independently. Motion to approve the transportation contract for the next three years by Ms. Shapiro, seconded by Ms. Bertrand. Vote Unanimous.

Regular Transportation FY17-FY19: Superintendent Calmes introduced Lisa and Bo Dee from Dee bus transportation who have been partners for three years. They came to our aide mid- year when previous transportation line filed bankruptcy. After advertising for bus bids, this was the only bus company that offered a bid for regular transportation. We will be converting from three bus routes to two when the reconfiguration takes place. This contract provides for cameras on all of the buses. Daily rates are competitive or lower than other companies. Seeing an increase in wait time for athletics, which is the most substantial increase in percentage. Will have to review budget next year and how to accommodate the increase from this, as it is a \$40,000 increase over what we are currently spending. Superintendent Calmes explained that we have not yet reached a point in order to stop charging a bus fee, we may even have to add a grade level to the revenue structure. Mr. McCauliff will be looking at the athletic and extracurricular impact of this. Ms. Shapiro asked about the hourly rate for field trips and athletic events-this is part of the contract. Only ones not included are out of state trips like Washington DC or Nature's Classroom. Question as to how many buses we are thinking of reducing per route. When we went from two routes to three previously we reduced by one bus. Need to still do analysis. Quote was based on 9 buses. Need to have analysis based on 77 passenger vs. 83 passenger, could have more 83 passenger buses if needed. Dr. Berthiaume commented that this is the second time we have put out an advertisement for bids and have only received a quote from one bidder. Motion to approve contract as stated by Ms. Bertrand, seconded by Ms. Shapiro. Vote: Unanimous. Lisa relayed that they have a great relationship with the district and looks forward to another great 3 years. Think we will be very pleased with new cameras. Will now have 4 cameras on each bus showing 4 views. She gave an example of one bus in a recent accident, and the cameras showed everything, even the police used the footage. Old system had only one view. Very impressed with 4 way view with great audio. Superintendent Calmes explained that we have a distinct policy that is restrictive as to who sees this footage due to confidentiality.

#### Old Business

Final Approval Boston Trip- The committee invited Caryn Wardwell, LHS faculty to speak regarding the upcoming Boston trip. Ms. Wardwell explained that this is the finalized itinerary, with the exception of trying to work with Representative Benson in order to visit the State House and see the chamber of Katherine Bunker. This is a free opportunity. Will email information when finalized. Planning to leave a little earlier than planned from LHS as it is a half day. Have to be at Symphony Hall at specific time. Final cost of trip is \$495, Music Aiders covered cost of show and transport in and out of the city and provided scholarship money, helping 5 plus students/ families. Some students have a credit from past fundraisers. Parents are going to transport equipment from LHS to Boston. Parents will bring instruments home and unload on Sunday when return. 35-40 students participating with approximately with 5 chaperones. Will perform at Faneuil Hall. Performing lots of acapella, and is rain or shine. Some students will meet in Boston to perform, but are not going with the rest of band. Superintendent recommended for final approval, Ms. Shapiro made a motion to approve, Ms. Bertrand seconded. Vote: Unanimous. Ms. Wardwell explained that the chorus had won at MICCA festival. The performance at symphony hall gives them an opportunity to work with a professional orchestra. Next week will be in

Marlborough for a vocal rehearsal. Music selections are one piece In English, two in Latin, 150 measures long and 17 pages. Challenging but rewarding. Friday and Sunday two performances at symphony hall. Paired with Marlborough schools, but six other schools also attending. Perform with professional orchestra, will have reception beforehand. Ms. Bertrand asked, Do they get the opportunity to receive feedback from professionals? Ms. Wardwell responded that on performance day professionals are in one area, students in another-not a lot of structured time for feedback. The conductor though who is a professional from Handel & Haydn Society will give students feedback.

FY17 School Choice Openings: Dr. Berthiaume stated that Ms. Sroka has asked to table this vote until she is present. Superintendent Calmes explained that the District previously posted openings in May, but moved this decision forward to February because this is the time parents are wanting to make decisions. We certainly can however hold off until the next meeting as requested. Dr. Berthiaume suggested the committee could authorize to advertise that there will be school choice openings in the fall for 9<sup>th</sup> grade, but not the amount. Current 8<sup>th</sup> grade class has 116 students, anticipate 15-20 students going to Monty Tech or other private schools which brings the total down below 100. Superintendent will be recommending 12 slots opening. Decision to advertise that there will be slots within 9<sup>th</sup> grade, but will vote at next meeting.

Public Comment: Ms. Luck commented that she enjoyed the information regarding the music program. Looking for clarification about Mr. Truax's master teacher projects. Superintendent Calmes and Dr. Berthiaume responded to the questions.

#### Reports

- a. Finance Committee: Dr. Berthiaume reported they have not met.
- b. School Councils: Ms. Sroka absent, no report for the Primary. Ms. Shapiro reported that THMS has not met, will meet on Tuesday. Mr. Mackin absent, no report given for LHS.
- c. PTO: no report given due to Ms. Sroka's absence.
- d. Policy Sub-Committee: Dr. Berthiaume reported meeting next Thursday and will review policy section 4000.
- e. Capital Planning Committee: Ms. Sroka absent, no report given.
- f. Wellness Advisory Committee: Ms. Shapiro reported they had not met.
- g. PAC/SAL: Ms. Shapiro reported that she was unsure of the next meeting date.
- h. Reuse Committee – Dr. Berthiaume was unsure if they had met.
- i. Transition/Reconfiguration: Superintendent Calmes reported that they had received bids surrounding F.F & E for evaluating alternative furniture, will be finalizing purchases.
- j. Diversity Advisory Committee: Superintendent Calmes reported this was rescheduled for March.
- k. Start-Time Sub-Committee: Dr. Berthiaume stated the Committee is on hiatus.
- l. Reconfiguration Advisory: Ms. Shapiro reported next meeting March 1<sup>st</sup> at 5pm at LHS.

Topics for Future Discussion: none discussed. Will have a public forum on March 2<sup>nd</sup> as part of School Committee meeting to answer questions regarding reconfiguration, please email or come with questions. This will be televised and recorded for later broadcast. Ms. Bertrand commented there had been an error as to the date for the next meeting on the meeting notice. Correction as to it being on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, not March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Adjournment: Ms. Shapiro made a motion to adjourn regular session, seconded by Ms. Bertrand.

Vote: Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Liz Petersen