



Lunenburg Public Schools

Loxi Jo Calmes
Superintendent of Schools

MEETING NOTICE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, April 27, 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- present

Superintendent

Loxi Jo Calmes

Recording Secretary

Liz Petersen

Student Representative

Sophia Holman

Guests

Brian Spadafino- LHS Principal, Karma Tousignant-LHS Guidance
John Londa, Director of Facilities

Call to Order: Dr. Berthiaume called the meeting to order at 7:02 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 the following line item transfers were presented:

- a. School Zone Warning Lights: Mr. Londa recommended the transfer of \$22,400 from the natural gas to the capital improvement line. This is to install Oak Avenue flashing school zone signs. School Building Committee were told by Bond Counsel that these were beyond the scope of the school building project budget. Received two quotes, Mr. Londa recommended moving forward with one for: \$22,222 will modify the line item transfer to reflect the lower quote. Prepared to send form to Capital Committee as a notice to proceed, not as a request requiring the approval of that committee.
- b. IT personnel: Mr. Malandrinos requested transferring \$5,209 from computer supplies system to salaries for technology staff. Will repurpose funds to add additional hours for staff technology support.
- c. Primary school guidance materials: Request to provide responsive classroom training materials for the Primary school. Changes in staff since initial training was completed, need refreshers. Transfer \$3,000 from workbook supplies line to guidance supplies line. Slightly higher budget projection of workbooks. Handwriting without tears did not need to be purchased.

Review and Approve Minutes:

April 6, 2016 regular session minutes and April 7, 2016 Policy Sub-Committee minutes presented for approval. Minutes approved by the committee and sub-committee.

Superintendent's Report:

- Superintendent Calmes stated that the end of a very busy end to the school year was upon us, and in order to help parents with scheduling we have created a schedule of events for School Committee members and the public to assist them with scheduling and attending the end of year celebrations. She encourage community attendance at Memorial Day assemblies, but ask the public to please sign in to the main office as a visitor if attending. Superintendent Calmes expressed appreciation for the meaningful and respectful manner the students and staff acknowledging those that have served in the military and honor them.
- M.A.S.S. issued press release encouraging citizen to vote against legalizing commercial marijuana. Reasons mentioned were a concerned of the negative effect on the healthy development of youth and

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research that indicates an increased amount of usage-jumped 20% in Colorado since two years of legal use. Statistics show lower IQs and shrinking school outcomes in relation to substance use. Urge the public not to support this ballot vote. Offered to members of press to view.

- Superintendent Calmes thanked Representative Benson who filed amendments to the budget after House budget in order to reinstate \$119,000 of 40S funding. The proposed budget targeted these funds for curriculum adoption, standing desks and other purchases having extended life and needing replacement. Last year we received great support from our legislative representatives on this same matter, hopeful this will be reinstated again this year. House budget decreased amount of charter reimbursement that the town would receive. House budget recommended Chapter 70 funding for Lunenburg at same level of Governor's recommendation. The amount is an increase of \$291,000 in Chapter 70. Recommendation showing in school allocation through Town Manager for town meeting.
- Superintendent Calmes also reported on the recent Labor/Management Conference-engaging workshop that members of the Committee, LEA, and administration attended recently. In our district there is much interest and energy in the development of leadership teams and we are looking to formalize practices. Workshop presenters also spoke about continued efforts to move education to more personalized and differentiated instruction. Collaboration tone of working together to keep the strength of classroom interaction and tap into students interests through projects and lessons. Ms. Sroka commented that she recently attended a session at the workshop in regard to district improvement plans. There was a woman from Burlington, MA who was implementing an amazing plan for district improvement. Superintendent Calmes mentioned that we are due for an update in our district improvement plan as well and reminded the Committee of the RFP developed earlier this year to employ a consultant to facilitate this work. Once the new Committee is organized this is one of the first items to be considered.
- The Superintendent congratulated several LHS artists- Sophie Shapiro's landscape was exhibited at Fruitland's Museum and 5 other students work displayed at the Congressional Art Competition which she attended along with Mr. Diperri and parents. She thanked Mr. Diperri for identifying these competitions and putting in additional hours to support student participation at these events.
- Next week is Teacher Appreciation Week May 2nd-6th. May 2nd is Bus Driver Appreciation; Nurses Appreciation day is May 11th. Encouraged the public to support and acknowledge all of the wonderful faculty and staff.
- Town Meeting is upcoming on May 7th at LHS with elections taking place at TCP on May 21st.
- Invited Mr. Londa to provide an update regarding projects:
 - School Zone warning light, portable classroom destruction: \$28,000 estimate from Powell-proposed to accept this figure and proceed with formal bid process. THMS Ceiling- had previously estimated this to be \$30,000, now requires splitting up into smaller projects. Ceiling will send out as a bid. Other work will come back as proposal-lots of air infiltration affecting front hallway and administration area.
 - Primary school entrance painting: have put in blocking last week for birds, changed lighting to LED, ready to move forward with painting. Have bids out with 3 vendors, expect return on May 12th. Roughly \$10,000 figure for completion.
 - THMS conversion of industrial arts shop to maintenance garage- Mr. Londa had thought this was going to be under \$10,000 originally. Monty Tech has completed much of the prep work already, now need expertise of an architect due to weight loads. Developed by architect and will go out as bids. Expected cost to be approximately \$30,000. Will bring forth to School Committee as developments occur. Superintendent Calmes asked Mr. Londa to clarify purpose of additional garage. Other maintenance garage being built was approved by the School Building Committee to be a grounds garage for storage of snow throwers, lawn mowers, and storage of outside equipment. This garage is used for the maintenance team to work on vehicles during a snowstorm, working on pumps or other equipment in a closed space. Mr. Londa asked to prioritize projects in order of importance. Mr. Londa stated that the priority was as listed above; only item that may drop out would be soffit work at THMS. Garage slips a higher priority than others. Secondly would be school zone warning lights. Portables demolition important but do not have something to present at this time. Primary school entrance painting lower priority. Time is eroding ability to deal with some of these. Superintendent Calmes asked if these items should be brought to the committee one at a time. Decision to prioritize at next meeting.

Student Representative Report: Ms. Holman absent, Superintendent Calmes read student report. This Friday is Special Olympics at FSU. Next week will have Best Buddies rally at LHS. Touching and inspirational to see students supporting each other. Awareness week students wearing a different color each day that corresponds to

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certain charities. Teachers busy packing classrooms with students help. Seniors have 11 more days of school. Ms. Bertrand commented that the Hunger Task Force has been speaking to students at the Primary School, and will be collaborating with them for the Empty Bowls Dinner.

School Building Committee Report: Superintendent Calmes reported in Mr. Mackin's absence. Construction meeting today. Project on schedule and under budget. Looking forward to furniture delivery on May 17th, punch lists focused on exterior, most outside curbing is installed, putting in concrete sidewalks and plaza areas in grids so frost heaves don't occur. Moving at a remarkable pace, lights in auditorium being installed. Pictures will be posted on Facebook, flooring areas "B" and "C" almost complete. Installation of stair treads, replacement of some as some were determined to be not up to standards. Bleachers complete in gym.

New Business

Presentation-Class Ranking: Mr. Spadafino stated Ms. Tousignant had met with other college admissions counselors to investigate how this is being handled in various schools. Found that the trend for many schools across commonwealth is to eliminate class rank. Mr. Spadafino has had conversations with the leadership team, school council, dept. heads and faculty. Over 75% of staff voted to eliminate class rank, unanimous vote at school council meeting also. Currently, LHS reports unweighted GPA on transcripts, rank is based on weighted GPA. Class rank is first calculated at the end of a student's junior year, re-calculated the first semester of senior year, then reported out to colleges. At the end of first semester, the valedictorian and salutatorian is decided. In 2013, US News and World reported on how class ranking was being weighted. Only 13-15% of colleges surveyed were considering this as a factor. This hit home when admissions counselors were telling them that in a high school with a large number of high performing students this was not helpful to them. Students have always been at an advantage from LHS because of the high number of AP and honors courses they offer. Ms. Tousignant said it was important to stress that if we are not reporting class rank, that the Guidance Dept. will still continue to support students in taking the most challenging course load for them. Many college admissions offices are viewing prospective students with a more holistic view. Encourage students to follow their passions. Explained that when students start with the course selection process, guidance counselors typically should meet with students individually. This has not consistently happened with each student due to time constraints; however teachers are now on board with allowing guidance to come into classrooms. They will also still make a whole presentation to the student body, and have teacher recommendations. High achieving students are being excluded from some opportunities due to class ranking. In absence of rank colleges are forced to look more closely at the actual student. UMASS Amherst Honors College used to require a class rank in the top 10%, this year revamped policy to eliminate class rank while still looking for a student that is taking a challenging course load, Mr. Spadafino presented an example of a student last year that had taken over 14 honors classes, GPA was 88.58, yet was still shown in the bottom half of their class due to class rank. Last year only 7-10 points separated 50 students. Ms. Tousignant had shared tonight's presentation with other admissions counselors, and they recommended that in our letters for colleges for valedictorian or salutatorians, that the class rank information is contained in the letter. Mr. Spadafino mentioned that hopefully this decision will ease some pressure for students but still allow for a challenging course load. Currently some roles will overlap for speakers at Graduation. Currently we honor Gold L and NHS gold cord recipients, and LHS faculty will discuss tradition of graduation speakers in early fall. Most schools have stayed with #1 and #2 in the class speaking at graduation. Mr. Spadafino's recommendation is to eliminate reporting of class rank with the class of 2017. Abigail Adams scholarship based on MCAS scores only. Ms. Shapiro asked about college admissions requirements still viewing SAT scores as well. College Board responds to these concerns by redesigning the test if needed. Ms. Tousignant will fill in note pages on presentation and we will post on website and put in Superintendent's report. This item is not slated for action at this meeting.

Citizen Mr. Lou Franko commented that he attended this meeting with a different set of concerns but seeing the data in the presentation, many have been allayed. He questioned what is left if ignoring rank and SATs for consideration. Mr. Spadafino answered this saying at LHS they speak to students about community service, leadership experience, getting involved in activities to stand out, and taking a challenging course load. Ms. Tousignant relayed that in the fall she went to a national conference for college admissions people including private high schools, and none of them ranked. Ms. Shapiro commented that colleges are still seeing student's transcript and grades. Mr. Spadafino mentioned that currently, student that takes 6 classes and a study hall may be at a better advantage than a student that takes 6 classes and a passion course like art, chorus, band, etc. Mr. Franco asked if there was any data indicative to whether members of an applicant pool that didn't have a class

rank were at a disadvantage to ones with a rank. Ms. Tousignant answered that in conversations with admissions folks it is not a negative disadvantage. Ms. Luck added that her children attended Bromfield schools, and lists of students went to great colleges and they didn't have class ranking. How does a public school student compete with measuring up to some private school students? Ms. Tousignant commented that what helps us is when students go to a highly selected college and do well. Superintendent Calmes recommendation is to put this vote on agenda for next week. Will publicize as well to community. 2016-17 Activity, Bus & Facility Use Fees: Superintendent Calmes relayed that student activity fees have not increased in the last 6 years, yet the last three years the cost to operate the activities has increased a minimum of 6%. Transportation renewal increase was 33%. In athletic transportation will increase \$21,000, recommending a \$25 increase on fees. Will now go to \$250 per family per sport; do have increments for families with more than one child. With reconfiguration, need to come to terms with expanding bussing fees or a different solution. Currently only 8th through 12th grade has bus fees, option to include 7th grade. Ms. Bertrand asked about parking for students. Superintendent Calmes answered that until January, students may be parking on the street until construction ends (Oak Ave, Memorial Drive). Asked about flow of traffic- how will this be in mornings? Superintendent Calmes stated they won't have the same flow as the Primary. Law allows us to charge students older than grade 6 a bus fee, haven't instituted yet but should start to look at the possibility of adding grade 7 to the list. May have recommendation and bring two financial models showing scenarios with fees or without fees. Ms. Shapiro asked if this would pertain to students grades three and up that live within 2 miles of the school? Concerned with that age group having to walk on certain streets with no sidewalks. Superintendent Calmes relayed that she would like to collaborate with the town in the future to possibly provide sidewalks for these areas. The new school campus has addressed this with sidewalks and good walking flow. Do we cap the fee at \$500 for families? Administration recommendation is to eliminate bus fees. How can we afford that? Superintendent Calmes is looking at possibility of charging different fees other than bus to address the \$31,000 deficit. Considering 6 master teacher projects for after school/adult education opportunities to address the deficit. Superintendent Calmes relayed that she will be working to try and have financial models by next meeting.

Naming of MS/HS Gym: Ms. Shapiro stated that one of the charges of the Reconfiguration Advisory was to name parts of the new building. The gym in the current high school is named the Memorial Gymnasium. Recommendation from the Reconfiguration Advisory committee is to keep the name the same as the Memorial Gymnasium. Recommendation of plaque wording is as follows: "This Gymnasium is dedicated to all Veterans' from Lunenburg High School who have given their lives in service to our country". Vote for next meeting to name gym, also will put this information within the Superintendent's Report.

Action:

First Reading Policies: Section 4000 Personnel and Student Activity accounts: changing some wording, adding legal references. Student activity account policy is a complete re-write. No feedback from public received. Motion to waive Section 4000 Personnel by Ms. Shapiro, seconded by Ms. Bertrand. Vote: Unanimous. Motion to waive Student Activity Account policy by Ms. Bertrand, seconded by Ms. Shapiro. Vote: Unanimous.

Old Business

Review Power Purchasing Agreement- Mr. Londa stated that he had taken the spreadsheet Robert Patterson had provided and ran Solect Energy's proposal in that same model. Anticipating 850KWH, guarantee \$340,000, would pay price per kilowatt for difference. Their price was 8.3 cents/KWH for a 20 year period. \$33,000 a year to pay cost generated. Total savings \$54,000 a year. \$1,000 a month lease payment which will most likely be given to the general fund. 1.3 million savings over 20 years. Have asked them to put this together to be presented to Board of Selectmen at May 10th meeting. Committee asked about a visual of where solar panels would be placed. Do not currently have anything from Solect associates regarding visuals. Mr. Londa showed initial view of 3,000 square feet of panels which Mr. Londa thought was not sufficient. He asked them to move forward in their proposal with adding more. Four conduits will go to roofline, increased space in mechanical room for a larger inverter, which may not be necessary after all. Initially proposed 360KWH. Superintendent Calmes stated that the decision of placement of the panels on the school would be a School Committee decision after clarifying with the Town Manager. Seeking clarity from Board of Selectmen on sequence of Power Purchasing Agreement. Would like School Committee to consider having a joint meeting on May 10th. Dr. Berthiaume commented that there seems to be no avenue to come up with starting capital to own ourselves. Mr. Londa suggested the only way to do this would be through the School Building Committee, but does not

recommend at this point. Dr. Berthiaume suggested he would need exact layout of what is proposed. Mr. Londa explained that on pitched roofs they would have to install a panel that would penetrate the roof, on flat roofs would not need to do so. Dr. Berthiaume stated the committee will decide if they will have a quorum for May 10th before they move forward. Final determination will be made when they see actual plan. Confirmation of support will be put on agenda for next meeting to move forward contingent upon successful negotiations. Dr. Berthiaume asked who would sign the contract. Mr. Londa said most likely the Selectman as there is also a DPW piece to this. Will draft wording for next meeting to authorize to proceed but not commit final approval until we have a negotiated contract.

Release of Property- Diagram shown of TCP and Brooks House property which illustrates part of the property may be demolished towards the back. Area where construction trail was suggested that gravel would be put there. Feel that now there is more interest in grass as there is an opportunity for a playing field. The boundary line will not constrict ability to have a field. Question as to whether we are keeping the two ends of front piece of island at TCP. The current entryway will remain the entryway. Request from town council needed to have an acre in Lot B. As road follows around, island will be gone. The drawing is purely conceptual to convey intent. An actual drawing will be forthcoming. Not an action item at this meeting. Can modify for use of public viewing. Dotted line showing potential area of access road. Had proposal that showed a curved access road. Mr. Londa clarified by saying the road would remain in front of building and go up Memorial Drive. Concern by committee is that we will end up with significant traffic flow that can't be handled. Recommendation of committee not to connect school to narrow part past playground. Superintendent Calmes mentioned this may be for emergency service access. Can be decided at a later date, will look at revised map next week.

Third reading of revised policy Facilities Use 1202: No feedback received to date. Motion to waive third reading and accept revised policy by Ms. Shapiro, seconded by Ms. Sroka. Vote: Unanimous.

Public Comment: none noted.

Reports

- a. Finance Committee: Dr. Berthiaume reported that the committee didn't have a quorum and therefore did not meet.
- b. School Councils: Ms. Bertrand reported that band and chorus performed recently, Empty Bowls Dinner next Thursday-students collaborated with LHS Hunger Task Force, discussed panda pride acronym and panda as mascot, working on school improvement plan. Ms. Shapiro reported that THMS has been working on handbooks, end of year activities.
- c. PTO: will report next week due to Ms. Sroka's absence.
- d. Policy Sub-Committee: Dr. Berthiaume reported that committee is complete for year.
- e. Capital Planning Committee: Ms. Sroka absent, no report given.
- f. Wellness Advisory Committee: Ms. Shapiro reported they met today-short recap of tasks completed this year-social emotional initiatives, homework free weekends success- add more next year. Next year will talk about food service and nutrition.
- g. PAC/SAL: Ms. Shapiro reported that she was unsure of the next meeting date.
- h. Reuse Committee – no report provided.
- i. Transition/Reconfiguration: Superintendent Calmes reported that the administration worked on signs/labels for new rooms. Half of boxes delivered, have Diamond Relocation Services moving, High School to be moved first, THMS second. Third grade move payed for out of school budget not building project. IT mobile labs being repurposed to all buildings. Mr. Londa working with items to be recycled, charity, all containers will be staged. Self - moves before the 10th.
- k. Start-Time Sub-Committee: Dr. Berthiaume reported they are on hiatus.
- l. Reconfiguration Advisory: Ms. Shapiro reported last meeting on Monday. Student leadership club working on decommissioning. For public decommissioning ceremony, Superintendent Calmes will collaborate with Dr. Berthiaume regarding short ceremony to take place at Town Meeting . Dedication ceremony have discussed, ribbon cutting per experts happens during dedication ceremony. Dedication ceremony will be much the same as groundbreaking. Ms. Shapiro stated that we are almost done with our charge. Question as to if we will open up to the public for a tour? Will open in summer for tours, may be once a week on Wednesday at certain time. More information to be forthcoming

Superintendent Calmes added that at the Board of Selectmen meeting, the Parks Commission will recommend replacement of field to the Selectmen.

Topics for Future Discussion: none discussed.

Adjournment: Ms. Shapiro made a motion to adjourn regular session, seconded by Ms. Bertrand. Adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Liz Petersen