



Lunenburg Public Schools

Loxi Jo Calmes
Superintendent of Schools

SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUDGET MEETING
Wednesday, May 4, 2016
Town Hall- 7:00 p.m.

Minutes

School Committee

Gregory Berthiaume-present
Michael Mackin-present
Colleen Shapiro-present
Wendy Bertrand-present
Heather Sroka-present

Superintendent

Loxi Jo Calmes

Recording Secretary

Liz Petersen

Student Representative

Sophia Holman

Guests

Mr. John Londa, Director of Facilities
Ms. Mary Foyle-LHS Faculty

Call to Order: Dr. Gregory Berthiaume called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Review and Approve Warrants: warrants were on the table for signature. No line item transfers were discussed.

Chairs Report: Dr. Berthiaume stated the meeting would be televised and recorded for later broadcast. Described the Superintendent's evaluation as having achieved proficient status. Dr. Berthiaume mentioned that the committee and district was very fortunate to have a long serving, dedicated superintendent who cared so much for the faculty, students and parents. Some parts of the evaluation he explained as public, and some parts are private. He encouraged and recommended each School Committee member to sit down privately with the Superintendent to discuss the evaluation. Superintendent Calmes said she was honored and privileged to work with so many dedicated faculty and staff and a supportive and committed School Committee, and she felt her evaluation was about striving for continuous improvement. Dr. Berthiaume reminded the committee for the need to develop goals this summer.

Review and Approve Minutes: no minutes were presented for approval.

School Building Committee: Mr. Mackin reported a little hiccup that has been overcome, Verizon strike has put off connection of phone lines, expect to be operational by Friday, which is needed to pass elevator inspection. All classroom wings complete, all flooring complete with exception of areas with mats, gym virtually complete, In auditorium curtains hung, installing stage lighting. Control panel in room, space is breathtaking. Benefit of the new equipment in auditorium is that it is much easier to operate-all digital. Greater opportunity now for community use. Café is virtually complete, flat screen announcement monitors are up within building. All locker rooms and bathrooms virtually complete. Exterior significantly complete with hardscape-curbings. Plantings began yesterday continue until end of next week. Floor waxing starts on Monday, hallways after furniture is in. Next SBC meeting is May 11th at TCP at 6:30pm. Have walkthrough of building scheduled at 3:30pm, open to public if interested. Will be opportunity for community to tour building over the summer. Beginning planning of dedication ceremony to do over homecoming weekend. On time, and under budget.

Superintendent's Report:

- Superintendent Calmes acknowledged Ms. Shapiro, Dr. Berthiaume and Ms. Holman for their final meeting and thanked them for their service, dedication and devotion. Showed plaques presented to Ms.

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Shapiro for serving on the School Committee from 2010-2016, and stated that she has served on many other committees as well-school councils, wellness advisory, reconfiguration advisory. Superintendent Calmes explained that part of involvement in these committees is many hours behind the scenes. Acknowledged their families as well, as they have made significant sacrifices and gave up family times in order to be involved. They have been an inspiration and encouraged and supported all. Presented Dr. Berthiaume's plaque. Served on committee from 2001-2004, took a hiatus to be chair of Charter Review Commission, came back on School Committee from 2010-2016. Served on Regionalization Committee and Diversity committee also. Great leader and support. Personally thanked him for his guidance with agendas and expert advice. Superintendent Calmes thanked Ms. Holman for being student representative this year, and stated she did a marvelous job. If she wasn't able to be at the meetings, she sent a communication in her absence to be read at the meeting, and kept in great touch with what was happening with students and LHS.

- CSI Learning Class-introduced Ms. Foyle to speak about a proposal for a new Community Service Learning English class. Ms. Foyle explained that for their senior project, students present one person that has impacted their lives. Ms. Foyle thinks that we can provide more of an enriching experience. The current project offers reflection, but not the opportunity for action. Seniors also complete a big research paper as well. Proposal for English IV class would be to study the same curriculum but instead of project and research paper, students would find a community service problem, research the problem, work on a solution, and then reflect on this solution. This will provide an opportunity for action and through reflection will have the opportunity to write. Students will choose their own project that hopefully interests them and be passionate about it. Would like to present to the Board of Selectmen to explain proposal and would eventually like other committees or departments in town to speak to students. Committee thought this was a wonderful idea. Superintendent Calmes reiterated what Ms. Foyle said about Community Service Learning that this was not donation based, rather how to apply what they are learning to solve a problem and take action. Appreciate teachers doing PD surrounding this, and excited how this will evolve into collaborating together. Will start to pilot next year.
- Reminder of Empty Bowls Dinner tomorrow at THMS from 5-8pm. Hunger Task Force and third grade have been working together, and both will be in attendance tomorrow. Raising money to support local food bank.
- Teacher appreciation, baked goods this morning in teacher's room, more tomorrow. Vice principal/principal Day efforts to provide clean water for families in Michigan
- Town meeting 9am at LHS, will have public decommissioning ceremony. Sock Hop that night at the LHS gym-tickets still available. This is for any person 14 and older. Please join us.

Student Representative's Report: Ms. Holman reported that the student council will be giving tours from 6-8pm of LHS. Ms. Vallee will have yearbooks displayed as well. Special Olympics was a success, students and Best Buddies had an amazing time, rally was Tuesday. AP testing started, Last day for seniors on May 16th; Prom is the 20th, Graduation on May 27th, if raining will be held on the same day inside. Hunger Task Force completed coin wars.

New Business:

Action

Class Rank Vote: Superintendent Calmes introduced Mr. Spadafino and Ms. Tousignant. Students starting with incoming seniors would pilot this; outdated practice to calculate class rank, students hurt more than helped. Looked at other schools in commonwealth for comparison and most are eliminating... 75% of faculty in favor of this decision. Mr. Spadafino recommended that we move forward with this. Superintendent Calmes supports this recommendation to eliminate class rank other than for purposes of selecting the valedictorian and salutatorian. Most compelling piece of evidence was high performing students losing opportunities due to class rank. Dr. Berthiaume reminded that we have discussed this for quite some time as discussions on this topic started in April. Mr. Mackin made a motion to accept recommendation to eliminate class ranking in regards to college admissions. Ms. Shapiro seconded. Ms. Bertrand thanked them both for the time put into researching this topic.

Naming of MS/HS gym: discussion last week of recommendation by Reconfiguration Advisory Committee to name the new gym Memorial Gymnasium with a plaque to read: "Dedicated to Veterans from Lunenburg High School who gave their lives in service to our country."

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Recommend approval. Ms. Shapiro made a motion to accept the naming of the gym, seconded by Ms. Sroka. During transition meetings will be working with building project to place this plaque in an area having consistency of design elements.

School Committee Position Article 28-replace artificial turf field and track- Superintendent Calmes introduced Mr. McCauliff who has worked diligently with the Parks Commission for a solution. Warrant on Town Meeting. Mr. McCauliff explained that the current track has reached end of life span, one of the charges was to find a way to pay for it, hopefully warrant will pass and allow users of field to pay for most of the cost as well as cell phone tower revenue -\$25,000, also \$7,500 from Bengals and \$15,000 from LYSA. Has spoken to all groups involved to inform them that they would lose some usage while this is being constructed. Looking to replace field and resurface track to give everyone an appropriate space for use of facilities. Superintendent Calmes asked Mr. McCauliff to review artificial turf and safety of crumb rubber. He explained that 11 years ago this was the standard in fields, produced from old tires. Articles have shown that there is nothing definitive that some toxins may be a cause for concern. Looked at numerous other materials as options such as coconut, cork, etc. Considering EPDM rubber which is a by-product of rubber soles on shoes. This has been deemed a safe alternative to crumb rubber. Second big discussion has been concussions. To make field safer, a pad would be put under the field for cushioning purposes/ impact resistance. Infill remained on field would be removed, cleaned and put back. In discussions with Park Dept., ended up with alternative infill and pad. Mr. Alonzo indicated that he was pleased that all of the groups that came together to support of the track and field originally are now re-engaged. Superintendent Calmes commented that this speaks to the effort of all parties coming together for common community good. Comfortable recommending and urge support at Town Meeting. Move to support Article 28 at Town Meeting by Mr. Mackin, seconded by Ms. Shapiro. Vote: Unanimous
Discussion

2016-2017 Activity, Bus & Facility Use Fees: Big picture regarding fees is the fact that cost of the stipends has increased 6% and there is a more significant increase in transportation. Review activity fees at middle and high school . Mr. McCauliff recommends that athletic fees increased \$25. This is driven by increases in transportation. Superintendent Calmes presented a plan to eliminate bus fees via having after-school and adult education offerings provided by master teachers self-funded or paid from grants. In summary, goal is to eliminate fees by shifting where fees are collected. Dr. Berthiaume said this plan makes perfect sense and is beneficial to everyone. Ms. Shapiro thinks notion to eliminate bus fee is excellent, idea of having an adult ed program through our master teachers is wonderful. Ms. Bertrand asked if the Superintendent was conservative in projecting numbers if we do not have the adult education program thriving yet? Superintendent Calmes affirmed her question. She gave the example of the Robotics Club, which has used these fees for the past few years to purchase equipment to run the program. Now we can start shifting those revenues towards stipends for master teachers. Title I grant has provided the opportunity to shift some teachers to this grant as well. Ms. Sroka asked about what adult education programs would be offered? Physical and wellness opportunities would be offered with an educator available to provide support and instruction to members of the community. Dr. Berthiaume commented that one of their goals as a School Committee was to provide opportunities for the community to be engaged with the new building, and this plan provides for that. Additional fees collected are surrounding facility use, and have started to collect information from around the state for comparison. Our for-profit fees appear to be at about half of what other communities charge. If this is true, then we will need to examine the rates. Still recommend that School Committee should maintain free youth activities for facilities. Not suggesting the same increase for non- profit, but will still suggest an increase. Most districts charge half of for- profit rates to non-profit organizations. Will continue to develop a final proposal, and give new School Committee members time to review proposals. Will need to set these fees in June. Final proposal by meeting on May25th for action at one of June meetings.

Second Reading of Policies-Section 4000 Personnel and 3201 Student Activity Accounts: No feedback received to date. Motion to waive reading by Mr. Mackin, seconded by Ms. Sroka. Vote: Unanimous

Old Business

Action

Recommendation- Power Purchasing Agreement- Mr. Londa said two proposals were received. Select looks like the better proposal; recommendation is to notify them that they are the selected vendor that they would like to negotiate with. Proposing 8.3 cents per kilowatt hour and \$1,000 lease contingent upon SCREC 2 solar

incentive program. DPW 13.5 cents/KWH with no lease payment. Estimated savings would be \$54,000 a year in electricity savings. In effect for a 20 year period, require Board of Selectmen approval to enter into agreement. Right now SCREC 2 program is in emergency status for next 9 months. Superintendent Calmes has been trying to be responsive to concerns and questions of School Committee as to where this will be placed on design of building. Understand concern and recommend moving forward to Selectmen while making it contingent that School Committee has the final authority on where it is placed. Mr. Mackin made a motion stating that the Lunenburg School Committee recommends the PPA contingent upon final approval of the design of the system relative to the placement on the roof. Ms. Shapiro seconded. Vote: Unanimous. Tonight Superintendent Calmes will notify Town Manager of the School Committee approval with contingency, and in next several weeks Board of Selectmen will be hearing this matter. On May 10th Board of Selectmen meeting, Mr. Londa will have financial analysis from Robert Patterson. Dr. Berthiaume stated this will not be a joint meeting due to an insufficient quorum.

Release of Property (TCP & Brooks House) Lot Designations: Modified draft of parcel shown. Mr. Mackin asked if this has been looked at by the planning board so that this will fit the proposed village plan? Dr. Berthiaume explained that these are just conceptual; goal tonight is to find the approximate boundaries to bring to Town Meeting on Saturday. This is responsive to request by town legal counsel of two properties-Lot B Brooks House, TCP 4.1 acres approx., Lot A-shows roadway reconfigured with potential gate, maintains Kids Kingdom as school dept. property. Relative to release of property of Brooks House and TCP Articles 30 & 31. This is beginning, not end of process. Will take action of boundaries in red presented at Town Meeting, where School Committee will transfer responsibility back to town for these parcels. Motion to accept drawing as presented by Mr. Mackin, seconded by Ms. Sroka. Vote: Unanimous

Public Comment – Dr. Berthiaume took the opportunity to speak a few words regarding his association with the schools for the past 15 years. He feels the district is different now, community much more cohesive and focused. Thanked Ms. Foyle and Mr. Normandin as negotiating partners from the LEA. Thanked Mr. Londa, saying he had a great deal of respect for him and what he does. Thanked Superintendent Calmes for her leadership and collaboration. Ms. Shapiro stated that she became involved within the schools in 2005 during regionalization discussions while daughter was in kindergarten, now she is in 10th grade. Wonderful to see the progression that has been made over the years, and she thanked everyone for their support. Ms. Bertrand relayed a formal thank you to both Dr. Berthiaume and Ms. Shapiro for the sacrifice they have made all these years within their personal lives, and the time, dedication and commitment to the students and community. Mr. Mackin stated it has been a great pleasure working with both, and he will miss the thought, reason and history they have brought to the committee. Completely new committee from what he started with 7 years ago. Working with this particular group has been exemplary.

Reports

- a. Finance Committee – Dr. Berthiaume reported they would be meeting tomorrow and at Town Meeting. Sometimes in session at town meeting, not planning to be this year.
- b. School Councils- no new reports since last week's meeting.
- c. PTO- Ms. Sroka reported they had made approximately \$7,300 for Parents Night Out; bus driver appreciation day gave \$10 gift cards to each bus driver from Dippin' and Dunkin' Donuts. Bus drivers greatly appreciated. Superintendent Calmes mentioned that there is recognition for Teacher Appreciation earlier in the school year. July 13th and 14th will be the playground community build; will be sending out volunteer spot information. Ms. Shapiro asked about possible community service hours for students to help with this endeavor. Holding elections at Monday's PTO meeting.
- d. Policy Sub-Committee- Dr. Berthiaume reported this is completed for this school year.
- e. Capital Planning Committee – Ms. Sroka reported the committee was completed for this school year.
- f. Wellness Advisory- Ms. Shapiro reported this committee is completed for this school year.
- g. PAC/SAL – Ms. Shapiro reported having no schedule of meetings to date.
- h. Re-Use: Mr. Mackin reported they have not met, however there is an item at town meeting.
- i. Transition/Reconfiguration- Superintendent Calmes reported the work now is focused upon signage in the building.
- j. Start Time Sub-Committee- no updates, on hiatus.
- k. Reconfiguration Advisory- Ms. Shapiro reported they have completed their charge; one final meeting will take place.

Items for Future Discussion: discussion of developing goals for both the Superintendent and School Committee.

Adjournment – Mr. Mackin made a motion to adjourn regular session, Ms. Shapiro seconded. Adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Liz Petersen
Recording Secretary