



Lunenburg Public Schools

Loxi Jo Calmes
Superintendent of Schools

MEETING MINUTES
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, June 1, 2016
Retiree Reception- 6:30 p.m.
Town Hall- 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

School Committee

Michael Mackin, Chair, present
Heather Sroka, Vice-Chair, present
Dawn-Marie Ayles, Secretary- present
Wendy Bertrand- present
Meredith Weiss- present

Superintendent

Loxi Jo Calmes- present

Recording Secretary

Liz Petersen- present

Student Representative

Guests

Retirees: Steven Archambault, Rhonda Malatos, Judy Haley, Linda Papadopoulos, and Natalie Davulis
Brian Spadafino, Principal Lunenburg High School;
Timothy Santry Principal-Turkey Hill Middle School; John Londa, Director of Facilities

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mr. Mackin.

Superintendent's Report- Retiree Recognition: Superintendent Calmes acknowledged and thanked all of the retirees for their years of service- Steven Archambault (29 years), Rhonda Malatos (28 years), Judy Haley (28 years), Linda Papadopoulos (16 years), and Natalie Davulis (15 years). She stated that these employees have 116 years of service to our students, schools, and community. As they pass the torch to a new generation, she hopes the benefit our children derived from their dedication, compassion, and hard work is repaid in kind with long, happy and healthy retirements sprinkled with memories of successful/fulfilled careers. On behalf of our school community, she extended to each of them our heartfelt thanks and sincere appreciation for their service to the Lunenburg Public Schools.

Extended congratulations to Emily Nash for qualifying for the state champion golf tournament next Tuesday at the Eastwood Country Club. Spring sports have all qualified for districts. Softball tomorrow at home against Blackstone Valley at 3pm. Boys baseball against Ayer-Shirley tomorrow as well. Lacrosse games being played on either side of the state. Congratulations to Hannah Leahy who qualified for the state meet for pole vault and winning the relay last Saturday, Hannah vaulting tomorrow at Westfield State. Superintendent Calmes mentioned that even though the seniors had already graduated, they were still dedicated to their sports teams. Good luck to all!

Received nice communication from Superintendent Ravenelle who shared a letter from Ms. Donna Celusa. Her son Liam, who is a senior this year had worked with Mr. McCauliff to develop a co-op team for tennis. This translated to 2 girls and two boys playing on the

Fitchburg team. Ms. Celusa expressed in her letter how positive an experience it has been. Superintendent Calmes said she appreciated Fitchburg for allowing us the opportunity to partner with them for this program.

Attendance update- we have a wonderful record of attendance lately. Overall in May it was 98.6% , with the lowest being 94.66% in February. Overall, the Primary attendance record was 95.49%, THMS 96%, and 95.77% for LHS. This is a testament to parents and students for coming to school ready to learn. Thanked nurses for being a large part of this as well addressing health concerns and making accommodations when necessary.

Received from Senators office a grant opportunity in regards to the financial education innovation fund. Application is due by June 20th. Could be an opportunity for financial literacy for high school students. Will send the School Committee the link for more information.

Have been informed as to Circuit Breaker funding-confirmation of funding at 75%. Had previous projection of \$501,000 dollars, now projecting almost \$512,000, which takes us about \$10,000 closer to funding the gap.

Continue with reconfiguration efforts, Mr. Diperrri over at TCP doing touch up painting with students on the Whalom Park mural. Had section that was corkboard will now paint image of old LHS on it to look like the drive in screen. Science teachers working with students moving materials to new labs. Rhonda brought pick up truck to load a lot of PE supplies to bring over. Wrapping up MCAS, getting ready for finals. Thanked all faculty and staff, as well as students for helping with packing and moving. Moves will start on June 13th-new office at the high school will be open for business.

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

Chair's Report: Mr. Mackin gave recognition to Sophia Holman, who did a wonderful job being the student representative.

Student Representative's Report: no report given until new representative is appointed.

School Building Committee Report: Mr. Mackin reported that the furniture deliveries are expected to be complete by the end of the week. Developed punch list, expected to be completed by end of month. At THES, removed portable building, dug trench for new maintenance building. On Tuesday walls and metal building will be erected, then will put slab inside building. Commissioning and testing systems extensive process-air system this week being tested. Asbestos abatement walk through next week-will start in gym and keep moving through while demolishing each part of the old LHS building-6 weeks for completion. Construction fence to be relocated on June 13th. Will cause some small changes in traffic patterns for summer. Beginning of additional air cooling system approved by the School Building Committee will begin at the end of June and completed by the second week of August. Excited to see students walking within the building! Next meeting on Wednesday, June 8th.

New Business

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Discussion

- a. FY17 LHS Improvement Plan and Handbook: Superintendent Calmes asked to reverse the agenda to have new business presented first in consideration of Mr. McGrath. He went over the major changes to the handbook, which include the following: students will purchase their own locks and will provide the combination to administration in order to gain access if needed. In past have rented locks, this will help the school secretary to alleviate this task. Ms. Weiss asked about AHERA warning- not needed for LHS. LMS needs to maintain. Page 19 school bus fees will be removed once the committee takes action on this subject. Class rank references will be removed due to the School Committee vote to eliminate class ranking. On page 21, will remove references to Grade 8 and be transferred over to LMS. Page 25 will be modified. LHS is still using Naviance, however this is no longer used as a communication tool to parents, now using School Messenger as it is tied to our database. Student parking change- currently seniors get preference but parking will be limited until January. This will only be in effect until all parking is available to most students. All seniors will still have preference.
- b. FY 17 LMS Improvement Plan and Handbook: Mr. Santry acknowledged and thanked his school advisory council for working hard with each other for two years. Met last night in the new building. Excited that for the first time this will be an authentic measure of growth as we will not be asking teachers to compensate for their facility or technology, and for the first time this will match to the innovations of the new building. Can grow with technology and make sure teachers are trained.

Highlighted components of SIP:

Goal 1: look to have interactive smartboards-critical staff will be trained for these. Marker of January to evaluate whether this is beginning to be incorporated into curriculum.

Goal 2: social/emotional- will change with population. Planning to continue developmental design components. In 8th grade do advisory group piece. Will have a year and a half of both.

Goal 3: Communicaton & PD- develop leadership team stipend position to assist with problem solving, curriculum questions, etc. Professional Development in technology within classroom and building (example: auditorium, collaborative work spaces, etc.)

Handbooks: school advisory council, Brendan kibbe worked hard at standardizing. Did not make a significant amount of changes so students would remain comfortable. Made procedural changes of start times, phone numbers, etc. Superintendent Calmes explained they have been recommending approval of handbooks pending the consistent wording of pediculosis procedures in all, as well as removal of AHERA warnings when needed. Will finalize for final action at the June 15th meeting. Recommend approval of SIP. Student growth percentiles will be updated in Oct/Nov. Motion to approve SIP by Ms. Bertrand, seconded by Ms. Sroka. Vote: Unanimous

Old Business:

Discussion

- a. Final Fees FY17: On June 15th, action will be taken. Fees have been posted since last Thursday, haven't received any feedback to date. Proposed elimination of bus fee-was \$180 dollars, collected \$32,000 on an annual basis. Goal of educators and school committee to eliminate completely. Superintendent Calmes devised a strategy, shifting funding from district operational expense to grants as well as adult education. Student parking fee remaining at \$50. High School activity fee will increase to \$55 from \$50 currently in order to offset some bus fees and keep pace with increases in advisorship stipends. Fees per athlete will increase from \$225 to \$250. Multiple student families will be given a break in price. Fees are waived across the district for students receiving free and reduced lunch. Concern about offering waivers and possible stigma and making sure students are still participating. Need to make sure that the fee for playing a sport doesn't exclude certain students from participation. Superintendent Calmes stated she will incorporate this into her goals for next year. Eight week fee for after school activities will go to \$43 at THMS. Year long activity will increase to \$53. Cost of transportation is the driver behind increasing athletic fees. Will continue to look at facility use fees.

Public Comment: Ms. Weiss represented the PTO in thanking Dr. Berthiaume for his patience and integrity during his years serving on the School Committee. She expressed the utmost gratitude and respect to Colleen Shapiro on behalf of the PTO for her tireless efforts and devotion.

Reports

- a. Finance Committee: have not met.
- b. School Councils: THMS met for tour and review of handbooks.
- c. PTO: not met since last meeting.
- d. Policy Sub-Committee: completed for school year.
- e. Capital Planning Committee: completed for year.
- f. Wellness Advisory Committee – completed for school year.
- g. PAC/SAL: completed for school year.
- h. Reuse Committee: Mr. Mackin reported the committee is looking to bid out for a person to assess the values of buildings posted last week.
- i. Transition/Reconfiguration: Superintendent Calmes reported that they are working on summer traffic pattern being rerouted due to construction fence moving its current location. Will inform summer school programs, extended day and central office staff. Will post on website, and make sure parents are aware. Parking will have the most significant impact, will clarify where we can park. By new school year this will be remedied.
- j. Start-Time Sub-Committee- currently on hiatus.
- k. Reconfiguration Advisory- have completed charge, Superintendent will be presenting the recommendation to the school committee to absolve.

Topics for Future Discussion- Mr. Mackin mentioned that they had requested the Board of Selectmen appoint Colleen Shapiro as citizen-at-large on the School Building Committee, which the SBC unanimously supported. Board of Selectmen will be discussing the solar

project at their next meeting. Will keep the School Committee posted. This will be a recorded meeting.

Adjournment: motion to adjourn by Ms. Sroka, seconded by Ms. Bertrand. Adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Liz Petersen, Recording Secretary