



Lunenburg Public Schools

Loxi Jo Calmes
Superintendent of Schools

WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES

LUNENBURG SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Wednesday, October 26, 2016
Lunenburg Middle-High School
Middle School Collaborative Room #D132
7:00 p.m.

AGENDA

School Committee

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

Superintendent

Loxi Jo Calmes - Present

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Mackin at 7:06 p.m.

Mr. Mackin and Ms. Bertrand shared some points regarding their conversations with Charter Expansion Advocate Martha. Walz. Ms. Weiss indicated that she did not speak directly with Ms. Walz, but did view Ms. Walz's presentation online. It was noted that that information focused on urban schools. Ms. Walz contends that it would leave communities like Lunenburg unaffected because we are not near the individual caps. Lunenburg's cap is 9%. We are currently at 2.9%. Nine percent would equal 95 students. We have students that leave for lots of reasons, but don't have formal data that documents all the reasons, something members of the School Committee think might be helpful. Mr. Mackin indicated that his concern continues to be the blank check of 12 per year or 1% of school aged population, which is the language of the ballot question. Ms. Bertrand noted that many schools committees have struggled with this, trying to figure out what do we say and how do we say it. Reimbursement is of concern since it is subject to appropriation. Mr. Mackin noted that there currently is a process for adding charter schools. Ms. Weiss also expressed concern regarding the open ended provision allowing 12 Charter Schools per year to be added annually.

The following key points for the statement were discussed:

1. Charter Schools are public funded by state taxpayers. The amount paid to Charter Schools is deducted from the state aid to the town. Local taxpayers must fill in the difference or cut services to local schools. Local taxpayers cannot reduce the amount allocated to the Charter Schools. Financial Impact - inability to predict Question 2 does not address inadequate funding of state aide to public schools. Unpredictable reimbursement to Cities and Towns.
2. Question does not address access to current Charter Schools. Lunenburg students have good options. Ballot 2 will not impact those two schools. Currently law allows the four charter schools for our region to expand already.
3. Open ended ballot question ...12 per year

Introductory statement was determined to be as follows:

The Lunenburg School Committee cannot support question 2 ...

Mr. Mackin using the key points identified will write and distribute a statement to SC member by Monday evening Oct. 31, 2016.

Under Public Comment Ms. Foyle indicated she appreciated the time and research put into discussing this subject.

Ms. Bertrand indicated she appreciate the opportunity to craft a statement for Lunenburg.

Motion to adjourn by Ms. Bertrand, seconded by Ms. Weiss. Vote Unanimous

Workshop meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Loxi Jo Calmes
Recorder

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