

**LUNENBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
Wednesday, March 17, 2010  
Brooks House – 7:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

School Committee

David Reif, Chair  
Michael Mackin  
Jason Poitras  
Milree Keeling  
Donna White

Superintendent

Loxi Jo Calmes

Recording Secretary

Sheila Szocik

Student Representative

Elizabeth Broden

Guests

Sandy Laserte, Sue Glenny  
Sharon Kimball, Tammy Yourk  
Nathan DiPerri

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- \* Call to Order – At 7:08 p.m. Dr. Reif called the meeting to order.
  - \* Chairman's Report
  - \* Review and Approve Minutes
    - February 3, 2010 regular session minutes – Accepted and approved by Dr. Reif.
    - February 24, 2010 regular session minutes – Accepted and approved by Dr. Reif.
  - \* Review and Approve Warrants - Various line item transfers were approved.
  - \* Superintendent's Report – Ms. Sandy Laserte was recognized to review the Youth Risk Survey and Mrs. Glenny will present the Health Survey and BMI. Ms. Laserte explained that the Youth Risk Survey is to measure what is happening with students in our schools and compare the results within the region, the state and nationally. Our students are less likely to not wear helmets or engage in violent behavior both regionally and state-wide. They are also less likely to be in a car with someone who has been drinking or have access to weapons. Our students are more likely to use tobacco both at high school and middle school. They are as likely as other students to try drugs in the Middle School with special attention to inhalants. LHS students according to the survey are less likely to drink before a certain age. Lunenburg students are less likely to engage in sexual activity both in middle and high schools. They are more likely to engage in physical activity. The Committee and the public were provided the executive summary and slides of responses to questions on the survey.

The revisions to the local health/wellness survey were discussed. Once reviewed by an outside expert, this will be given to students from grades 6-12. The survey includes questions about use of the internet, texting and cyber-bullying. Superintendent Calmes also recommended review of the harassment policy which needs updating to include on-line harassment. Ms. Keeling made a motion to accept the survey; Mr. Mackin seconded. Approved unanimously.

Mrs. Glenny shared a letter to go home to parents re: BMI Survey. This will be measured in school by each school nurse with reporting back to parents. A newsletter will go out informing parents that this is to take place. Individualized reports will go home to parents, maintaining confidentiality and information will be logged in the student data system. Ms. Keeling made a motion to approve and it was seconded by Mr. Poitras. New digital scales (hand held) have been purchased to accomplish measuring student BMI. These scales allow for privacy as only the screener can see information. These scales were purchased through a grant. Approved unanimously.

Superintendent Calmes thanked the DPW and McCarty Bus for their responsiveness in adjusting routes as a result of road closures due to flooding. At the current time, two roads are closed and the DPW is working on them to reopen as soon as possible. Bussing could return to normal for Robbs Hill tomorrow afternoon.

\* Student Report – Elizabeth Broden reported on “End the R Word” program, which has gone on to be presented to the middle and elementary schools. A video made by students regarding the “R” word will be shown at the next televised school committee meeting. James Gray went to ski championship and came in 4<sup>th</sup> out of 7 states. Career Day went very well.

\* Public Comment – Ms. Keeling spoke about the tough financial situation in town and how several people have stepped forward to fill vacant spots.

\* New Business

Action

- a. Trip to Athens and Rome – Mrs. Kimball and Mrs. Yourk gave a presentation for a high school trip to Athens and Rome. See attached. Ms. Keeling made a motion to accept the initial presentation. It was seconded by Mr. Mackin. Unanimously approved.
- b. State Latin Convention – Mrs. Yourk gave a presentation on the State Latin (2 nights) Convention. Mr. Mackin made a motion to approve and it was seconded by Ms. Keeling. Unanimously approved.
- c. Hampshire Hills Overnight Lock-in – Mr. DiPerri presented information on a lock-in at Hampshire Hills for the sophomore class, which is scheduled for May 1- May 2. Mr. Mackin made a motion to approve, seconded by Ms. Keeling. Unanimously approved.
- d. FY11 Calendar – Superintendent Calmes recommended approval of the calendar. Calendar highlights were reviewed. Motion to approve made by Ms. Keeling, seconded by Mr. Mackin. Unanimously approved.

\* Old Business

Discussion

- a. Update Superintendent’s Goals - Superintendent Calmes updated the Committee on progress toward her goals for this year. Goals have either been accomplished or are on-target to complete by the end of the year. Dr. Reif indicated that the School Committee is also on-target to complete its goals for the current year.

Action

- a. Regionalization – Ms. Keeling made a motion to pursue a warrant article that we do not pursue regionalization until Town Election. Motion was not seconded. A motion was made by Mr. Mackin that the Lunenburg School Committee recommends that the Lunenburg School Regionalization committee not continue discussion with N. Middlesex for the purposes of joining the region at this time. Motion was seconded by Mr. Poitras. There was some discussion regarding restructuring our system and buildings to a reconfigured three building district. We will pursue one strategy at a time. Right now it’s pursuing a feasibility study with regionalization

as a secondary option for the future. The study would be reimbursed at 53.53%. Members explained there would be a problem in following a dual track. Unanimously approved.

- \* Public Comment Mr. Dave Maki wanted clarification on why regionalization is not feasible and why another feasibility study is needed. Dr. Reif explained that the next required feasibility study is different than the one we did in 2007. The new study is much more in depth and results in schematic design which is required by the MSBA. The public needs to know what will happen if we don't vote for the feasibility study. Could the rest of the regionalization money be used toward a feasibility study? Ms. Keeling suggested that selectmen not put that suggestion on a warrant. Money will end up in the general fund and not necessarily go toward the feasibility study. Ms. Jane Hall asked for clarification about the amount of the remaining funds. Ms. Keeling indicated that approximately \$28,000 remains and the new feasibility study cost several hundred thousand dollars. Colleen Shapiro, Northfield Road, suggested that the regional planning funds should be kept where it is and the community revisit this issue in the fall.

Sharon Paquette, Lunenburg resident, indicated that the public needs a lot more information before this comes to a vote in May. Greg Berthiaume indicated that people can spend their own money to further this goal and encouraged letters to editor.

Lanna Lockwood, 191 Main Street, had a question regarding the movement of principals and the search for a new Middle School Principal. She has concerns about the effect this will have on middle school students. Superintendent Calmes said the focus of the budget reductions is in keeping teachers in classrooms. We want to handle as many reductions as possible through attrition; if someone leaves due to retirement or other reasons they will not be replaced with the exception some teaching positions. An administrator is retiring and there will be one administrative position left vacant. Superintendent Calmes reminded those present that Mr. Santry is part of the administrative team at the middle school, and he has applied for the open position.

Ms. Keeling said another piece that needs to happen is the formation of a School Building Committee.

Dr. Reif suggested that if we hear back from the MSBA we should have a special meeting on March 31. At that time, with more information, the discussion on strategies and cost of a feasibility study would be appropriate.

- \* Reports
  - a. Advisory Committee
  - b. Finance Committee
  - c. School Councils
  - d. PTO
  - e. Policy Sub-Committee
  - f. Capital Planning Committee
  - g. Health Advisory Committee
  - h. PAC/SAL
  - i. Regional Planning Committee
  - j. Rep. Benson's Advisory
  - l. Other

- \* Continuing Projects/Estimated Date of Completion
  - complete foreign exchange student policy discussion
  - opt-out discussion

- bus transportation
- discussion around head injury protocol

\* Items for Future Discussion

- Workshop Sessions
- Facilities Use Procedure
- Civic Engagement

Given that two members of the committee would be ending their terms soon, Mr. Mackin asked that the items for future discussion be brought to as much closure as possible.

\* Executive Session - A motion to go into Executive Session at 9:15 p.m. was made by Mr. Mackin and seconded by Ms. Keeling. Unanimously approved.

\* Adjournment – Regular session adjourned at approximately 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheila Szocik  
Recording Secretary

5/22/21/ss