



Lunenburg Public Schools

Loxi Jo Calmes
Superintendent of Schools

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, May 2, 2012
Town Hall – 7:00 p.m.

Minutes

School Committee

David Reif
Gregory Berthiaume
Michael Mackin – arrived at 7:04 p.m.
Donna White – absent
Colleen Shapiro

Superintendent

Loxi Jo Calmes

Recording Secretary

Mary Landi

Student Representative

Emma Degrace

Guests

Christine Bonci

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- * Call to Order – Dr. Reif called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.
 - * Chairman's Report – None.
 - * Review and Approve Minutes
 - April 25, 2012 Regular Session Minutes – Tabled to next meeting.
 - * Review and Approve Warrants – Warrants were on the table for review and approval.
 - * Superintendent's Report
 - Next week is Teacher Appreciation Week. May 9 is School Nurse Recognition Day.
 - Special Olympics event was held last Friday with Best Buddies. There is a Unified Track Meet today at 3:00, and a district meet on May 19.
 - Ms. Christine Bonci has announced her retirement. Superintendent Calmes thanked her for her leadership. Ms. Bonci has been with the Lunenburg School District for seven years. She started at TCP and then moved to the Primary School. Ms. Bonci is not able to be with us on June 6, which is when the School Committee will recognize this year's retirees. A certificate and flowers were presented to Ms. Bonci by Superintendent Calmes. Ms. Bonci said a few words, reflecting on her time in Lunenburg and thanked many people for their support throughout the years.
- Superintendent Calmes reviewed where we are around budget numbers and enrollment. She noted Lunenburg's declining enrollment, which has occurred on a yearly basis over the past several years. However, enrollment is up since the beginning of the school year. Personnel reductions are commensurate with the decreases in student enrollment. The superintendent talked about the budget drivers on both the personnel and non-personnel sides of the budget, as well as the revenue streams and the reductions necessary to close the gap. Possible fee increases will include 25 cents/lunch and a bus fee of \$180/child with a \$500 family max. Town Meeting is on May 5 at 9:00 a.m. and Town Elections are on May 19. Childcare for Town Meeting will be made available by the Girl Scouts at LHS.
- * Student Report – Ms. Degrace reported:
 - The tennis team is undefeated.
 - The POPS concert is next Friday.
 - AP testing starts next Monday.

* New Business

Action

- a. FY13 School Choice – Superintendent Calmes recommended opening ten slots in grade 9. She also recommended allowing juniors and seniors whose family moves out of Lunenburg during the school year to stay and finish their education at LHS. Previously, this was allowed for seniors only. The superintendent explained the process for applying for school choice. Mr. Mackin moved and Ms. Shapiro seconded a motion to accept the superintendent’s recommendation. Dr. Berthiaume asked why slots were not opened at the middle school. The superintendent responded that class sizes are already large enough at the middle school. Vote: unanimous.

* Old Business

Action

- a. Third Reading - Revised and New Policies: Electronic Communications, Animals in School, and Research – Superintendent Calmes recommended approval of the three policies. Ms. Shapiro moved and Mr. Mackin seconded a motion to waive the third reading and accept the policies as written. Vote: unanimous.
- b. Early Learning Program – Ms. Bonci reviewed the early learning program proposal. There would be an 8:1 student/teacher ratio, and parents could choose either the morning or afternoon session, or both. This is a completely self-funded program. Superintendent Calmes recommended approval of the program. Mr. Mackin moved and Ms. Shapiro seconded a motion to approve the superintendent’s recommendation. Vote: unanimous. Ms. Bonci also indicated that the handbook has been updated with the start and end times of the school day and notification that extended day is canceled if school is closed. Also, a snow delay means extended day is delayed as well.

Discussion

- a. Superintendent’s FY13 Goals – Superintendent Calmes reviewed her modified goals for FY13, including a student growth goal, professional practice goal, and district improvement goals. Mr. Mackin moved and Ms. Shapiro seconded a motion to accept the superintendent’s goals for FY13. There was discussion around the new evaluation model, which will be implemented by this fall. Vote: unanimous.

- * Public Comment – Mr. Mackin reminded everyone that the Boys and Girls Club will hold their auction tomorrow at the Bull Run in Shirley at 7:00 p.m. He also encouraged everyone to go to Town Meeting and stay for the vote on the Feasibility Study. Mr. Mackin also spoke in support of the superintendent’s Alert Now message, which she sent out to inform the public about the issues.

* Reports

- a. School Building 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
- k. Other

* Continuing Projects/Estimated Date of Completion

* Items for Future Discussion

- Workshop Sessions
- Facilities Use Procedure
- Civic Engagement

