



# Lunenburg Public Schools

Loxi Jo Calmes  
Superintendent of Schools

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, August 13, 2015

TCP Room 13

Meeting 7:00 p.m.

### Meeting Minutes

#### School Committee

Gregory Berthiaume Present  
Michael Mackin Present  
Colleen Shapiro Present  
Heather Sroka Present  
Wendy Bertrand Present

#### Superintendent

Loxi Jo Calmes

#### Recording Secretary

#### Student Representative

#### Guests

Julianna Hanscom, Director of Special Services  
Karen Rash, Special Education Teacher, Primary School

Call to Order- the meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm by Dr. Berthiaume.

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

Review and Approve Minutes-Minutes put forth for the July 1, 2015 Regular Session were approved by the committee.

#### Superintendent's Report-

Personnel: Stephanie Lizotte, LHS ELA teacher has resigned, and she will be moving to Maine. Interviews are being conducted to find replacement in time for the start of the new school year. LPS Nurse has been hired. Lisa Lavery will assume this new position. She has considerable pediatric and school nurse experience. David Babine hired from Monson HS guidance to be our new grade 8/9 counselor. Megan Ackerman hired for the LHS Transitions Program. She has vast MCAS Alternate training and will provide the additional support needed for the program in that area.

School choice and enrollment being finalized. Students continue to withdraw and enroll.

Asbestos abatement at THMS is completed.

Student Representative's Report-no report discussed due to absence.

School Building Committee Report – Met August 13. Outside trash cans are being added onsite. MS/HS transition teams met August 12 and toured new building. Exterior masonry coming along. Roof nearly complete. Windows have 6 weeks left until completion. Goal is to have building airtight by 11/1. Project funding agreement adjusted due to lower bids. Building on schedule and budget currently. Reviewing process of how to handle maintenance building that will be removed in Phase 2 of the project. Possibly looking at a grassy field change to turf. Outdoor classroom still planned and looking at possibility of digital sign outside.

New Business-

a. Title I Report: Julianna Hanscom and Karen Rash presented the Title I report from last year. Surveys to staff, parents and community- received 52 responses. Ms. Hanscom indicated that they did have more responses last year. Only four parents responded this year. Thought relayed by several teachers was that the most effective grades to implement were Grades 2-3. Reading thought to be the most important, smaller class size is key. Survey showed many felt that teacher support teams help. Karen Rash coordinated between LPS and THMS. Special Education teachers do one on one and small group work. In literacy with positive growth 63 students given assistance. 55 math students helped with all having some positive growth. Group size averages 3-4 students per small group. This year, significant increase in poverty level led to increased Title I funding. Increase in students from 7.5 percent to 18.5 percent. With increased funding recommendation is to hire two new Reading Specialists. Flex hours will be offered to accomplish before school work as it yields the best outcome. Regarding sustainability of positions - increases in housing developments in town will likely continue. The addition of housing contributes to increased numbers of students which may sustain the higher funding levels. Vote tonight by committee is needed as hiring needs to begin. Looking to maximize capacity of students helped. Dr. Berthiaume put forth motion, seconded by Mrs. Sroka, to approve hiring of two Reading Specialists.

**Vote: Unanimous**

b. Special Education Program Review Report:

Ms. Julianna Hanscom indicated that special education services in each building are reviewed every three years. This year the Transitions Program at LHS was reviewed by an outside individual from the DESE. Received plenty of positive feedback. Several sets of eyes reviewing evaluations. 20 students serviced this year from all grade levels. Evaluator stated that office procedures were solid. Ms. Hanscom looking to tighten up IEP paperwork in area of acquiring signatures within 30 days.

c. Project Funding Agreement Amendment

Committee is currently reviewing. Has taken several months with many revisions Dr. Berthiaume will be asked to provide his signature.

Old Business-

a. FY16 Budget update

Special Education circuit breaker funding plus kindergarten grant funds provide additional funding within the budget for another BCBA - 30 hour position. Mr. Mackin moved to support for Superintendent Calmes' recommendation to add the position. Seconded by Ms. Shaprio **Vote: Unanimous.**

b. FY16 School Calendar

Washington DC eighth grade trip dates now updated on calendar. Ms. Sroka moved to approve the calendar update. Ms. Shaprio seconded. Vote: unanimous.

Public Comment - none

Reports-

- a. Finance Committee- have not met since last meeting
- b. School Councils-have not met since last meeting
- c. PTO - has not met
- d. Policy Sub-Committee- has not met
- e. Capital Planning Committee- meeting 9/8/15 at 4:30pm
- f. Wellness Advisory Committee- has not met
- g. PAC/SAL- has not met
- h. Reuse Committee-Reviewed request for RFQ. Three firms submitted for feasibility study. One not qualified. Other two will be invited for interviews. Meeting and interviewing firms Monday.
- i. Transition/Reconfiguration- Superintendent Calmes indicated that the groups were scheduled to meet August 12 & 13. They will focus their planning that day on FAQs and PD on August 27 & 28.
- j. Diversity Advisory Committee- has not met
- k. Start-Time Sub-Committee- has not met

Topics for Future Discussion-

- a. District Improvement/Strategic Plan-Discuss at 8/19 meeting
- b. One-to-One Computing/Technology Plan-will be discussed at a future time. Likely in fall.
- c. Update School Department Master Plan/Capital Plan

Adjournment- Ms. Shapiro motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:58pm, seconded by Ms. Sroka.

**Vote: Unanimous**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Wendy Bertrand