

Town of Lincoln

Budget Board Meeting

School Sub-Committee

October 27, 2005

Sub-Committee Members Present:

Cheryl Ethier, Carl Brunetti, Joe Dziobek, Jack Newman and Linda Noble

Sub-Committee Member Absent:

Mary Varr

Others Present:

Ken Booth, Claudette Lussier, Town Administrator Sue Sheppard, Town Councilor Jay O'Grady, Superintendent John Tindall-Gibson, School Committee Chairman Jeffrey Weiss, School Committee Members Julie Zito and Elizabeth Robson and Business Manager Lori Miller.

Press

Writers from The Providence Journal and The Times.

The meeting began at 6:45. Cheryl Ethier presided but turned the meeting to Superintendent Tindall-Gibson for an update to the 2004-2005 audited budget and the current status of the 2005-2006 budget. He prefaced his presentation by stating that the School Department is interested in scheduling meetings of this nature on a

monthly basis.

Despite a few notable areas of under-budgeting (see Superintendent's handout), the audited 2004-2005 school budget ended with a \$2,515 surplus which has been transferred to the Town surplus fund account.

Discussed at length were the Medicaid re-imbusement collections. It was stressed that the positive results reflected in this line are the direct result of both the aggressive attempts at collections as well as the detailed record-keeping practices of both the Director of Student Services and the Business Manager.

The Superintendent warned that the auditors would be citing them with a reportable condition relating to their fixed assets accounts, most of which have already been taken care of.

In the current fiscal year, the Superintendent explained the re-allocation of \$460,000 that had been originally budgeted for pension reform. Governor Carcieri and the general assembly reduced Lincoln's contribution amount by \$460,000. School Committee Member, Julie Zito said the School Department does not have "...the ability to sit on that money" and therefore needed to use some of it to "cover the shortfall" that already exists in the current budget. Both Jack Newman and Linda Noble questioned the decision to expend these funds for anything other than their original intent - payment to

the pension fund. While certain items that had not been funded previously, have now been advanced to this current budget as a result of this “savings” to the school budget, over \$100,000 has been “reserved” and will be set aside in order to avoid a deficit.

The 2005-2006 YTD budget is showing a current net of \$23K. The Superintendent also briefly highlighted his plan to re-structure the Business Office.

Superintendent Tindall-Gibson also pledged a cooperative relationship in the development of the upcoming budget.

The next joint meeting was tentatively scheduled for November 21, 2005 at a time and location to be determined.

**Respectfully submitted,
Claudette J. Lussier**