

OFFICIAL

LINCOLN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

LINCOLN, RI 02865

DATE: March 28, 2006

TIME: 7:00pm – Special Meeting - Open

PLACE: Lincoln Administration Building

1624 Lonsdale Avenue, Lincoln, RI

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Jeffrey Weiss, Chair; Mary Ann Roll, Vice Chair; John Zangari, Clerk, John Lafleur, Betty Robson, Gerard St. Germain and Julie Zito.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: John Tindall-Gibson, Superintendent, Lori Miller, and Georgia Fortunato .

Motion by Robson to open meeting. Seconded by Zangari. All in favor. Motion carried.

Discussion Regarding Recognition of Retiring Teachers

Tindall-Gibson discussed doing something to recognize our retiring teachers. It was decided that the principals could say something brief and nice about each teacher. Weiss will present a citation and a reception with cake and punch will be served prior to the meeting.

Presentation on Current Electricity Purchasing Program

James Grasso advises the Lincoln School Department on energy management. Miller said Grasso goes out to bid for us for electricity. We had School Committee approval before to go out because of the volatility of the pricing wasn't something that we could do on a Thursday and come to the Committee two weeks later and the price would be the same. With the changes in the electric pricing, we need to think about going out on a longer term basis. Grasso gave the Committee a presentation on hedging prices. Weiss said many sister districts are buying their energy through the Collaborative. Weiss asked why Grasso's approach is better. Grasso said the first consideration is are you comfortable locking up a price for that period of time. He believes the Collaborative hitches on for three to five years. The Collaborative does not bid out the requirements. RISSA does a bid, Miller said, but not like what we do. Weiss is concerned because we have a very tight budget. He understands that we might do better by playing the market, but on the other hand, we need a number that will keep us at our budget number. We do not have a lot of tolerance for volatility risk. Lafleur asked Grasso his financial interest in this. He is under retainer. Zangari said the sure thing is probably something we should do. Robson is worried that if we lock into a price that is so outrageously high, are we mismanaging the tax payers dollars. Zangari asked, once we lock in, when does it take effect, when is it fixed. Roll said, for those school districts who have been purchasing through the Collaborative, have they done

better than we have done? Miller said North Kingstown locked in five years ago at a ridiculously low rate. Their problem for 07-08 will be an out of wack budget. They will now have to pay reality prices. Lafleur doesn't believe fixing long-term is being fiscally responsible. The Collaborative is locking in at three to five year terms. Miller proposes we go out for one year, watch the market from July to December, and if it goes down or up, we make a decision to go out again and re-up for another year or two. Motion by Zito to lock in our energy rates from July to July. Seconded by St. Germain. All in favor. Motion carried.

Budget Update

Tindall-Gibson explained the top line is the Town Administrator's recommended budget, \$44,780,148 and \$83,000 in Capital for a total of \$44,863,000. We asked for 45,669,000 in the Operating Budget \$45,669,000 and we asked for \$560,000 in Capital for a total of \$46,229,000. Peter Consultant, our Medicaid consultant, feels confident in letting us budget \$500,000 for Medicaid receipts for next year. We had \$300,000. That is \$200,000 more revenue we will be able to collect. We are firming up an arrangement with NRIC to rent two rooms at the high school to them for students that they work with. There was a request for 1.5 sabbaticals for next year, which is 3.5 less than what we had budgeted for. We can reduce our budget \$119,000 on the sabbaticals line. The elimination of both the assistant principals positions, Middle School and High School, is \$214,000, and a total of \$242,000 in additional special education reductions.

Enrollments for the ESY program are running less this summer. We might get back \$145,000 in tuitions. This is a total of \$575,000. We are suggesting to the Budget Board a reduction of \$151,000 from our original request. That will leave us with an operating budget of \$45,094,000 and a Capital budget request of \$109,000. We are within \$99,000 of the Town Administrator's recommendation which puts us under the 5.5% cap.

Discussion of Early K Admission

We have an opinion from our school attorney which states a School Committee cannot set a different date than is legislated. He is under the impression that if a School Committee wants to set up a process for identifying kids who can be admitted early, the burden is up to the Committee to do. We have to either go back to the policy that we had or we

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have to go with a new policy that is in compliance with the State law. Zangari suggested we go back with the old policy. Tindall-Gibson discussed the lengthy testing process for early admission, about 45 man hours. St. Germain believes a 4 year old should be educated like a 4 year old and a six year old should be educated like a six year old. To hold children back just because some children in their age group aren't capable yet is not fair. Robson discussed the age of drinking

and driving due to age requirements. LeFleur believes families should be afforded the opportunity. Loretta Jones said from a child and families perspective said, because of our criteria for entering if your birthday is after September 1st, it is very high. Only 2% of the population is going to meet this criteria. She believes the child will feel like a failure if they fail the admission expectations. We are setting a negative tone instead of a positive tone. Zito believes we are being fiscally irresponsible. The fact that we have to pay all the professionals to do this testing when we know only 2% will make the criteria is wrong. Fortunato said this current policy was a short window until the State law changed. She said the special education will come forward and she will have to ask for additional staff and additional compensation because the amount of testing has increased. There were 14 additional kids from NELC to test besides special education testing. Weiss discussed a way of rapidly identifying students who wouldn't make the grade without doing the complete testing process. Fortunato said that cannot be done. Struble said the social piece is big in the testing process. You don't want a child to have to push, they are very nervous during testing. Roll believes there are advantages to drawing the line. Are kids going to be excluded who are more ready than some are admitted, yes. She worries about putting children, if we become the exception in the State, in early. Would we force parents to find another agency to do their own testing. There will always be people who won't be happy. Weiss said the consensus could be that the thing dies and we adhere to State law or we could ask the Kindergarten teachers to come up

with a more streamlined criteria that could be used to assess children. St. Germain disagrees with Weiss in regards to the K teachers. He doesn't believe the burden should be upon the K teachers. He believes a couple of K teachers, a reading teacher, and a school psychologist from the ELC should form a small committee. Weiss wanted to see if the Committee had a consensus to see if they wanted to go ahead with such a study. Robson said she is leaning toward five by September 1st but is not against doing a study but is more interested in long-term results; Zangari would like to go back to the policy the way it was and would like to streamline the testing so that the kids that don't have to go through a lot of testing to be out; Roll prefers to be consistent with State law and neighboring districts but if it is for the benefit of the Committee and it's not a burden on the teachers, then that it would be fine; St. Germain would like to maintain the policy that we presently have, form a subcommittee of all different areas involved, and streamline that down with a target of next year's enrollment; Zito would like to stay with the State law; and LaFleur would like to stay with State law. Weiss said the consensus is to follow State law.

Retirement

a. Norma Higginbottom From: Secretary II – HS

81 Parker Street

Lincoln, RI 02865 Effective: June 20, 2006 or last day of school

Motion by St. Germain to approve. Seconded by Zito. All in favor.

Motion carried.

Leave of Absence Requests

a. Susan Flynn From: Grade 5 teacher – Saylesville

791 Main Street medical (paid)

Warren, RI 02885 Effective: January 5, 2006 to end of s/y

b. Mary Anne Hanley From: Industrial Tech teacher - HS

33 Symonds Avenue medical (paid)

Warwick, RI 02889 Effective: January 17, 2006 to end of s/y

c. Joann LaBranche From: Guidance Counselor – HS

179 Staples Road RIDE Fellowship (paid, reimbursed)

Cumberland, RI 02864 Effective: 2006 – 2007 school

d. Renee Lepre From: Math teacher – HS

8 Lantern Lane Maternity (paid) Childrearing (unpaid)

Coventry, RI 02816 Effective: October 3, 2006 to November 15, 2006

November 16, 2006 to January 26, 2007

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**e. Hilda Potrzeba From: Grade 1 teacher – Fairlawn
15 Davis Street (unpaid leave)
Cumberland, RI 02864 Effective: 2006 – 2007 school year**

**f. Kristen Vito-Silva From: Grade 1 – Fairlawn
164 Plain Road Medical (paid)
North Kingstown, RI 02852 Effective: January 16, 2006 to end of s/y**

**Motion by St. Germain to approve. Seconded by Zito. All in favor.
Motion carried.**

Coaching Appointments

**a. Michelle Botelho To: Assistant Outdoor Track Coach – HS
19 Westwood Road Effective: 2005 – 2006 school year
Lincoln, RI 02865 Salary: \$2,480**

**b. Aimee Garthee To: Assistant Girl's Lacrosse Coach – HS
18 Ball Avenue Effective: 2005 – 2006 school year
West Warwick, RI 02893 Salary: \$2,396.02**

**c. Teddie Polak To: Assistant Hockey Coach – HS
182 Old River Road Effective: 2005 – 2006 school year
Lincoln, RI 02865 Salary: \$2,913**

d. Denis Riel To: Head Hockey Coach – HS

335 Camp Dixie Road Effective: 2005 – 2006 school year

Pascoag, RI 02859 Salary: \$4,426

Motion by St. Germain to approve. Seconded by Zito. All in favor.

Motion carried.

LTS Teacher Appiontments

a. George Aragao To: LTS .2 Spanish – HS

**41 Raymond Drive Effective: March 20, 2006 to end of
s/y Cumberland, RI 02864 Salary: \$4,516.08 (MA Step 10)**

b. Paul Cummings To: LTS .6 English – HS

**77 Hope Street, #10 Effective: April 10, 2006 to end of s/y
Providence, RI 02906 Salary: \$9,010.69 (BA Step 1)**

c. Stephanie Ganim To: LTS Grade 5 teacher – Saylesville

**182 Angell Road Effective: January 5, 2006 to end of s/y
Lincoln, RI 02865 Salary: \$22,826.27 (MA Step 1)**

d. Kerri Salhany To: LTS Grade 1 teacher – Fairlawn

**76 Carriage Drive Effective: March 23, 2006 to end of s/y
Lincoln, RI 02865 Salary: \$12,060.49 (BA Step 2)**

Motion by St. Germain to accept. Seconded by Zito. All in favor.

Motion carried.

Motion by St. Germain to recess the meeting to enter in Executive Session relating to Personnel. Seconded by Zangari. All in favor.

Motion carried.

JOHN ZANGARI, CLERK DATE