

UNOFFICIAL

LINCOLN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

LINCOLN, RI 02865

DATE: January 23, 2006

TIME: 7:00pm – Budget Meeting - Open

PLACE: Lincoln High School Library

135 Old River Road, Lincoln, RI

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

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: John Tindall-Gibson, Superintendent, Lori Miller, Georgia Fortunato, Angelo Mencucci, Bruce Macksoud, and Bob Martin.

Weiss said there will be a number of items to discuss and they are not necessarily decisions or recommendations but ideas of things where we might make cuts.

Tindall-Gibson said we have red lined about a third of the capital requests. He also said as a footnote the Town just approved a \$20K contract with AI3 to do an analysis of the Administration Building. It

is a full program review.

Mencucci discussed the capital cuts.

NELC-installation of new doors in lavs, storage space outside of multipurpose room, and outdoor canopy along walkway have been deleted changing the expenditure from \$136,200 to \$72,700. Weiss asked if the lav stalls are so broken that we can't live with them for another year. Mencucci said we replaced half the lav stalls last year. The multipurpose room walls were last painted in 1972. Mencucci said it should be painted, the lights should be removed, and the wall padding should be replaced, if possible.

Motion by Zito to remove "install new door center corridor", \$7,200. Seconded by Roll. All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Robson to remove "install storage space outside the multipurpose room", \$3,800. Seconded by Zito. Roll voted aye. Nay vote by Weiss, Zangari, and Lafleur. This was kept in budget.

Motion by Zangari to remove "outdoor canopy". Seconded by Robson. All in favor. Motion carried.

Discussion of multipurpose room took place. Weiss asked if there was a motion to remove this from the budget. There was no motion so therefore it will stay in the budget.

Lonsdale-the upper window tint in the front classrooms for \$2K has been deleted. Those will be replaced under the new bond. Motion by Robson to approve. Seconded by Roll. All in favor. Motion carried.

Central-the items that have been requested to be removed are ceiling fans in five classrooms, \$5,800; exhaust system in the conference room, \$38,500; and hallway lighting, \$22,000. This expenditure will go from \$83,010 to \$51,360. Motion by Roll to remove items. Seconded by Robson. All in favor. Motion carried.

High School-Mencucci said at the last meeting Weiss had asked a price on the painting of auditorium floor. The abatement was eliminated. He added the cost of painting the auditorium floor. That is an intense project, \$25K. That incorporates the removal of the existing paint on the floor with primers and heppa vacuums, and repainting of that floor with an epoxy paint and going up the wall 4 ½ feet. That does not include removal of the seats. Two items that have been deleted are the abatement section 200 corridor(which was out last time) and upgrade of classroom intercoms for privacy, \$41K. This is a NEASC requirement but not necessary until 2008. There is a self study in 2007. The floor tile will be incorporated in the bond. Motion by Zito to delete “upgrade classroom intercoms”, to abate center corridor, and install new tile. Seconded by Robson. All in favor. Motion carried. Motion by Zito to paint floor in auditorium this year. Seconded by Robson. All in favor. Motion carried.

Fairlawn-delete “install outdoor canopy along walkway”, \$52,500; delete “install air conditioner rooftop unit” \$25K. This expenditure will go from \$102,200 to \$24,700. Fairlawn also is under a very intense upgrade this year. Motion by Roll. Seconded by Zito. All in favor. Motion carried.

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Fortunato reviewed the itinerant staff analysis. She discussed enrichment, Reading, and PE. In the area of enrichment, currently there is an enrichment teacher for every grade level, grades 4 through 6. There is a 1.0 at Northern, Central 1.0, Lonsdale a .4, and Saylesville a .6 which equals 3.0 FTEs. One possibility would be to move one of the enrichment teachers from the elementary school to the middle school and that individual would serve as the Connections teacher. The two remaining teachers would service the four elementary schools.

There are currently six reading teachers servicing four elementary schools. Northern has two, Central one, Lonsdale one, and Saylesville two. With the current staff, the 1.0 reading teacher that Mrs. Lemay had requested, she recommends be deleted and a reconfiguration of the reading staff can take place at the elementary

level for the next year.

Fortunato said this is just reading. The Reading Recovery teachers are not included in this. As Central Office, the person that would be charge of Curriculum, there has to be an emphasis on retraining. A lot of reading teachers are not focusing their efforts on sixth graders. Weiss asked the Superintendent if he accepts the cut. It's not a cut, it's a non-addition. Tindall-Gibson said last year Mrs. Lemay asked for this and it was eliminated from the budget. They will do the same thing this year.

Fortunato discussed library. Currently, the librarians have the following schedule: At Fairlawn, there is a 1.0, Northern/NELC 1.6, Central 1.0, Lonsdale 1.0, and Saylesville 1.0. A total of 5.6 FTEs. The recommendation would be to move a .5 to the new middle school from the elementary schools. The .5 would come from Lonsdale due to the fact of the numbers being reduced. Lafleur asked if a .5 would be enough at the new middle school. Fortunato said it is in addition to what Macksoud is asking. McComiskey said she if there are over 1,000 students, you are required to have two librarians at the high school.

Physical Education. Currently, Northern/NELC has a 1.6, FELC 1.0, Central 1.0, Lonsdale .6, and Saylesville for a total of 5.0 FTEs. After looking at Adaptive PE, which is dictated by an IEP, it would not be possible to have any cuts in the PE department. She tried to

summarize possible cuts in the Itinerants which is Reading, Art, Music, and Enrichment and then possible reallocation of staff which would be .5 librarian to the middle school.

There was no motion to take one Enrichment teacher from the elementary school and relocate to middle school.

Motion by Zito to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to delete the request from Saylesville for additional staff with the understanding that we could get a reallocation of the existing staff. Seconded by Roll. Zangari voted nay, Robson voted nay. Motion carried.

Weiss said the two motions would be to remove a .5 FTE from an elementary school and a .5 FTE from the high school and allocate that instead to the new middle school.

Motion by Roll to reallocate a .5 librarian at Lonsdale. Seconded by Zito. All in favor. Motion carried.

As far as removing a .5 librarian from the high school, the regulations will have to be reviewed, as well as, program impacts. Motion by Robson to move the .5 librarian to the middle school. Seconded by Zito. All in favor. Motion carried.

Music. Because we are no longer teaching 6th grade music and art,

we are allocating the fractions over to the middle school. Weiss asked if there was a motion to move 1.2 FTEs out of the elementary schools over to the middle school. Robson said it would seem that we would be taking a gigantic step back by cutting back on integrated arts. Weiss asked which schools do not have the integrated art program, therefore, we wouldn't be taking anything away. Fortunato said Lonsdale is the school that has the most. The other schools have two sections here, three sections there. If you endorsed the integrated arts, we would look at all six schools. She believes it would benefit all students if we kept the integrated arts in all schools. Weiss asked for a motion to delete 1.2 FTEs. No motion was made.

Tindall-Gibson said there is a small kindergarten moving into first grade at NELC. He believes they could cut one first grade teacher at NELC. Weiss asked if there was another school that could lose a gr. 1. Tindall-Gibson said there was one at Fairlawn but after talking with the principal she every year enrolls a class in addition to K numbers moving forward. This year she registered 18 additional students coming to first grade that weren't in kindergarten. There is a consistent pattern. Roll asked if that didn't happen, would we make that cut at a different time? We cannot. The teachers have to be laid off by March 1st. But we do not call them back until we ratify the budget. Robson motioned to remove one first grade from NELC moving from 7 to 6. Seconded by Roll. All in favor. Motion carried.

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Tindall-Gibson discussed the middle school and high school. The middle school is difficult to understand. To cut a teaching staff person at the middle school would be to change the schedule and to cut a course.

Weiss said we are adding a social worker. Can we get away without a guidance counselor. Macksoud said no. He thinks the numbers would be phenomenal. McComiskey said right now the guidance counselors are the first line of defense. They receive the student referrals. Fortunato said social workers are the first people that she requires to do counseling. If the student IEP calls for counseling, the social worker is in charge of doing that. They are sometimes at IEP meetings.

Weiss gave a quick overview in terms of staffing at the high school. The original request was 5.0 FTEs, including a school nurse, Reform Coordinator, and an Athletic Director increase. That was reduced to 2.8. The request for the support staff was 3.0, which has now been reduced to 0. The 2.8 staff request does not include the Assistant Principal position. At the request of the School Committee, he has justified a .2 increase in Science in order to accommodate the Physics First program. The high school will be occupying 210,760 sq. ft. This is a 93% increase over our current square footage which is 109,506 sq. ft. There is an increased need for administrative presence.

The cafeterias are utilized at the same time. Administrators must be present at each. The State mandates occupy a tremendous amount of time, i.e., portfolios, literacy programs, SPED demands, evaluation process, student suspensions. The Collaborative will also have rental space at the high school. The cost of the space would be \$41K. That amount could be put towards the cost of another Assistant Principal. The new Assistant Principal would be hired primarily for the 9th grade. He is looking to create a 9th grade learning community. Weiss said we currently have two Resource Officers in the building. Once the middle school is finished, the high school will lose one Resource Officer. There was no motion to remove from the budget.

Macksoud discussed the Assistant Principal position at the new middle school. There will be approximately 825 students next year. The same issues are at the middle school as at the high school. It is his hope to break up the school in three smaller learning communities. He is hoping there would be a guidance counselor for each learning community. There are three team leaders because there are three six grade teams. There are nine teams next year – 6, 7, and 8. He is also asking for two Related Arts Team Leaders. There are seven team Related Arts teachers. One team leader for that number is too much. One of them will take nine people and the other will take eight. There was no motion to delete the Assistant Principal from the budget.

Miller discussed the healthcare bid. The consultant opened the bid

packages on Friday and BlueCross came in with a very aggressive fully insured rate of 4.5% They are still waiting for the self-insured rate. Roll asked when the 4.5% becomes firm. Miller said when we accept it. Weiss asked if a meeting could be held Monday night, January 30, 2006 at 7:00pm at the high school library.

Miller reviewed the Object Code report. It shows what we have for an 05-06 adopted budget, what we are proposing in 06-07, the difference, the percent increase on the line, and the percent increase on the total budget. Salaries went up 9% but in terms of the total budget it's 5.8%.

Bus transportation was discussed. Miller said when we buy a bus, we buy it for the entire day and she increased the mileage in the last contract.

Carl Brunetti noted that 10.9% of the budget is personnel. He cannot support that big of an increase. Weiss said it is whether we staff the middle school the way it should be staffed or not. Weiss said not to forget that we gave up a lot in Capital.

Motion by Roll to adjourn. Seconded by Zangari. All in favor. Motion carried.

JOHN ZANGARI, CLERK DATE