

OFFICIAL

February 9, 2009

LINCOLN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

LINCOLN, RHODE ISLAND

MINUTES

DATE: January 20, 2009

PLACE: Lincoln High School Library

135 Old River Road

Lincoln, RI 02865

6:00 p.m. – Work Session

School Committee Members Present: Betty Robson, Chair; Kristine Donabedian, Vice Chair; Mary Varr, Clerk; Tracy Cavanaugh, Mary Anne Roll, Julie Zito

Absent: Richard Battistoni

Others Present: Georgia Fortunato, Superintendent; Eric Banville, Linda Cliffe, Mark Gadbois, Jeanine Magliocco, Kevin McNamara, Angelo Mencucci, Lori Miller, William Skitt, Melinda Smith, Joyce Ruppell

I. Budget Workshop

Superintendent Fortunato reported the \$46,259 reduction by Governor Carcieri in state aid has no impact because it wasn't budgeted. It was coming from the special revenue of 24 hour gambling and hadn't been budgeted. The second supplemental budget impact was a reduction in pension contributions by \$1,072,022; 75% of the '08-'09 expenditures as of February 1st would be deferred. It would be offset by pension costs. Roll pointed out this is if it goes forward. She noted this all depends on a February 1st enactment. Fortunato noted the school department doesn't have to make that payment for the '09-'10 budget. Another reduction of \$134,550 under Article 31 for professional development would be made. Superintendent Fortunato then reviewed the list of items in the budget that have been frozen. Zito wanted to clarify under field trips being paid for by the PTO or PAC would go forward. Roll noted the school department expense would be for transportation.

Superintendent Fortunato explained there is a housing aid reduction of \$118,000. In getting clarification from RIDE, this is an internal RIDE adjustment and will have no impact on the budget. It was noted reimbursement will be sought from students for lost textbooks.

Superintendent Fortunato thanked Ms. Miller, Ms. Smith, Ms. Struble and Mr. Mencucci for their hours of work on a cost projection for an

all day K, including staff, classrooms and material. The total would be \$1,043,206. It was noted enrollment would likely increase with students from private schools. Mary Anne Roll expressed concern for the Mayoral Academy that will offer a full day K and they will have to pay tuition.

Regarding enrollment, Superintendent Fortunato reported they had over-estimated for 2008-2009 so adjustments will be made for 2009-2010. They will recommend closing one grade 2 at Central, closing one grade 1 at Fairlawn, closing a grade 4 and opening a grade 3 at Sayleville, closing a grade 2 at Northern and closing a grade 1 at Northern ELC, At the senior high there is a smaller class of 238 for 2009-2010, compared to the current class of 271.

The tax cap analysis shows 2008-2009 tax revenue budget of \$49,265,525, with the 2009-2010 budget of \$51,605,637. The 2008-2009 school department tax effort was \$40,146,732 and the 2009-2010 would be \$42,053,702. The Tax revenue for the town for 2009-2010 is \$433,143.

Superintendent Fortunato explained the 2008-2009 budget for medical insurance is \$4,352,879. Their consultant has recommended an 8% increase, or \$249,395, for a total budget of \$4,602,274. She noted the self funding has resulted in a savings.

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The Superintendent stated there is an estimating conference in May. There is another budget workshop next week and a Budget Board meeting on the 29th. They will have to work collaboratively with Town Administrator Almond and the Budget Board.

Superintendent Fortunato believes that the Governor's plan is to help those communities that need help but those who have reduced health care costs through self-funding and are operating efficiently may be okay. Varr questioned transportation and Fortunato suggested the state may set up zones, but out of district transportation is an issue. She noted they have been participating in the state purchasing program. Roll stated she thinks they will be okay through the transportation contract, but eventually every district may have to be part of the plan as it is the only way to get the savings is to have everyone participate. Superintendent Fortunato stated if Lincoln eliminated bus monitors there would be a \$100,000 savings, but the issue is something could then happen on the bus. While it's well intended, safety is first.

Fortunato stated this is not like any other budget cycle. Next Monday will be another preliminary budget workshop. Robson noted this will be a preview and it won't be voted on at Monday's meeting.

**Motion to adjourn at 6:47 p.m.by Varr. Seconded by Donabedian.
Voted 6-0. Motion carried.**

MARY VARR, CLERK

DATE