

OFFICIAL

February 9, 2009

**LINCOLN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
LINCOLN, RHODE ISLAND
MINUTES**

DATE: January 26, 2009

**PLACE: Lincoln High School Library
135 Old River Road
Lincoln, RI 02865**

7:07 p.m. – Open Meeting

School Committee Members Present: Elizabeth Robson, Chair; Kristine Donabedian, Vice Chair; Mary Varr, Clerk; Richard Battistoni, Tracey Cavanaugh, Mary Anne Roll, Julie Zito

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

I. Organization of Subcommittees

Chairwoman Robson reported on the following committees:

A. Finance – Mary Varr, Rick Battistoni, Kristine Donabedian

B. Wellness – Mary Anne Roll, Tracey Cavanaugh

C. Policy – Rick Battistoni, Kristine Donabedian

Ad hoc committees will be added as needed. There are also liaisons with town committees. The liaisons to the Capital Development Committee will be Julie Zito and Elizabeth Robson; Special Education Advisory will be Tracey Cavanaugh; Curriculum Advisory Committee will be Mary Anne Roll.

II. Budget Workshop

Superintendent Fortunato asked Mark Gadbois to elaborate on the computer purchases. Gadbois explained he based his purchase on the technical committee recommendation and budgeted for 139 computers. On July 1st he planned for 24 for the elementary schools and purchased 26; he planned 12 for the Middle School and only purchased six and at the High School the plan called for 94 and he purchased 95. He noted he still has a few more that will need to be replaced as they die. Another 22 are planned for the district. He purchased one server and still has left over funds. Discussion ensued regarding the transferring of funds and showing all the computers were purchased. Roll noted this was all in the resolution.

Lori Miller reported on the audit report, reviewing the unrestricted funds. The total fund balance is \$914,714, after the \$514,000 capital is taken out. Local revenue is \$89,000 for civic use of the buildings.

Miller explained the use of capital funds. Under revenues and expense, they were reimbursed \$325,000 in state reimbursements and \$326,000 in other reimbursements and spent \$839,000 in operations leaving a positive variance of \$12,176. Miller explained the negative variance of \$342,000 in salaries due to sick leave and substitutes. She reviewed the restricted fund, grants and the school capital reserve and Medicaid.

Superintendent Fortunato proceeded with the 2009-2010 Budget, reviewing the Tax Cap Analysis with the \$49,265,525 Total Tax Revenue Budgeted for '09-09 and '09-10 Total Tax Revenue at Cap of \$51,605,637. The difference in the school department tax effort of \$1,906,970 ('08-'09 \$40,146,732 and '09-10 cap of \$42,053,702).

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The 09-10 Tax Revenue for schools would be \$1,906,970 and the tax revenue for the town would be \$433,143. Miller noted they can't go back to the tax payers for the difference; it means cutting expenses. Superintendent Fortunato reviewed state aid of \$6,180,437 for 08-09. Possible reductions at 3% would be \$185,413, 5% would be \$309,022 and 10% \$618,044. The Governor doesn't present his budget until February 10th. Superintendent Fortuato reported under the contractual obligation she has been able to obtain a union

concession for administrator for the day, where they had to pay a teacher for the day and a \$125 stipend. It is now is an administrative prerogative. They were also able to obtain a 7th free coverage for teachers.

There is also the copay increase of 13.5% for the first year of the contract, 14.5% in the second year and 15% in the third year. The Superintendent's salary and all administrators' contracts were amended in the summer and all pay 15%. In addition, the buy back reduction of \$3,200 is reduced to \$2300. And legal reimbursement will result in a \$20,000 savings. The ER copay was increased from \$50 to \$100 per visit. Family illness for certified staff was done for administrative staff FTR.

The reduction of family illness days will be watched this year, but the savings could be \$110,000 a year. The tutor rate was reduced from \$45/hr to \$35/hr. The non-certified buy back was \$4,000 and is now close to \$2,900. The increase in co-share by the third year of the contract will have everyone on the same deduction of 11.5%, which is a concession by support staff. The total budget change is 2.98% Superintendent Fortunato reviewed the staff reductions, noting it was based on enrollment, with grade 2 at Central, grade 2 at Northern, grade 1 at NELC, grade 1 at Fairlawn Early Learning Center, health and PE at the high school, art at Northern, special education at Lonsdale and technology at the Middle School. Four secretarial positions would be re-configured from whole year to academic year.

This would result in the amount of \$581,871. They are considering only the six teacher retirements that have been submitted. Fortunato stated they are anticipating funds from Obama's stimulus package which is earmarked for Title 1, special education and capital.

The Superintendent noted they have to be prepared for the Charter Schools. They are limiting supplies such as postage. Fixed charges are in copays, The pension is reduced from 14.86 to 14.17 for 2009-2010. What happens after that is unknown. Fortunato reviewed salaries by each school. She commented there have been several concessions by the unions and union officials have indicated they want to work closely with the Superintendent and the school department to look at other options as they move forward. Robson explained this will go to the Finance Subcommittee. A special meeting is scheduled Monday, February 2nd.

Angelo Mencucci presented all the items by school in the Capital budget for a total amount of \$552,426. The prioritized list includes the following: High School – stage, roof replacement, exhaust system in gym south, change VCT tile, music room renovation which is tied to NEASC; Middle School – sewer injector system, maintenance building; Northern – change carpet in the art room to VCT; small principal's office; NELC – exterior security gate, carpeting in rooms 1,5,8; Central – secretarial office area (expense would be in house), classrooms 9, 11; Lonsdale –improve corridor to look like main corridor; Saylesville – carpet is compromised in the music room,

library and office, roof repair; Fairlawn – was capital intense last year; Administration – security upgrades such as fob entry and cameras inside and out; Grounds - incorporated a vehicle for grounds maintenance as there are only two plow trucks. Items outside capital include resurfacing the track, install lighting, asphalt at the high school, as well as carpet, painting and HVAC system-wide for 1.2 million dollars. Discussion ensued regarding the possible stimulus package. Fortunato explained the instructions were for items that are “shovel ready”.

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The Chairwoman explained they would meet again Monday and would approve a proposed budget, and include in their letter to the Town that they will make adjustments as necessary.

III. Adjourn Meeting

Motion to adjourn at 8:39 p.m. by Varr. Seconded by Donabedian. All in favor. Motion carried.

MARY VARR, CLERK

DATE