

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

PLACE: Lincoln Middle School
152 Jenckes Hill Road
Lincoln, RI 02865
DATE: April 20, 2009
7:30 p.m. Monthly Meeting (Open)

School Committee Members Present: Betty 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 Cliff, Mark Gadbois, Margaret Knowlton, Monique Latessa, Bruce Macksoud, Jeannine Magliocco, Kevin McNamara, Angelo Mencucci, Lori Miller, William Skitt, Melinda Smith, Maryann Struble, Joyce Ruppell; Attorney Benjamin Scungio

Move into Open Session

Opening Ceremony

Pledge of Allegiance – Boy Scouts Troop 1 Manville

Chair to report out any votes taken in Executive Session; receive motion by committee member to seal Executive Session Minutes pursuant to applicable provisions of RIGL 42-46-(4) & (5).

The Chair reported there were no votes taken in Executive Session.

Motion to seal the Executive Session minutes by Varr. Seconded by Cavanaugh. All in favor. Motion carried.

Right To Be Heard

I. Approval of Minutes

- a. March 9, 2009 Monthly Meeting
Motion to approve by Donabedian. Seconded by Varr. All in favor. Motion carried.
- b. March 25, 2009 Special Meeting
Motion to approve by Roll. Seconded by Zito. All in favor. Motion carried.
- c. April 3, 2009 Special Meeting
Motion to approve by Varr. Seconded by Donabedian. All in favor. Motion carried.
- d. April 9, 2009 Executive Session
Motion to approve by Donabedian. Seconded to approve and seal by Varr. All in favor.
Motion carried.
- e. April 9, 2009 Special Meeting
Motion to approve by Zito. Seconded by Varr. All in favor. Motion carried.

II. Correspondence – None.

III. Superintendent's Report

a. Citations

Superintendent Fortunato recognized Margret Rock from the Northern Elementary School for her selection as the 2008 state awardee for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching. She reported attending a meeting with Ms. Smith and Mrs. Cliff at the Aldrich Mansion which honored Mrs. Rock. The Superintendent stated she and the school committee look forward to her science digest. Roll presented Mrs. Rock with a citation.

Superintendent Fortunato recognized Gracietta Small, Social Studies teacher at Lincoln High School, for being named a James Madison Fellow. Mrs. Small and her students were actively involved in the Lincoln stamp ceremony February 9th at LHS. Fortunato stated Small is an aspiring educator. Roll presented Mrs. Small with a citation.

The Science Olympiad winners from the middle and high schools were recognized by Superintendent Fortunato. This is an international organization to encourage science education. Competition and events cover areas of physical and space science, biology, life science and general science. She also recognized advisers, Michelle King and Suzana Borba. Battistoni announced the high school winners who were given citations. He also presented Suzana Borba with a citation. Lincoln Middle School Olympiad winners were recognized by Tracey Cavanaugh. Cavanaugh offered a special thank you to Michelle King.

Superintendent Fortunato reported the RI FBLA state competition was held at Providence College and students who placed in the top five were honored in a banquet. Lincoln High School had over 60 awards. Alyssa Brennan has been elected State President after serving as Treasurer. She recognized Mary Ann Mitchell and Michelle Murray, advisers. Donabedian read the names and Varr presented each winner with a citation.

b. Lincoln High School Student Update

McNamara introduced Alyssa Brennan, a junior at the high school, who organized Marisa's Run, the largest event at Lincoln High School. Alyssa reported Lincoln FBLA has over 100 members and competed at Providence College. Students who placed first, second or third will be able to compete in California. She also organized Marisa's Run which made a profit of \$16,598 in May '08 for the Marisa Lorea Scholarship Fund. This year the run will be Saturday, May 30th.

Motion by Roll to change the order on the agenda, moving f. Celebration of our Schools – District Update to be next. Seconded by Zito. All in favor. Motion carried.

c. Celebration of our Schools - District Update

Superintendent Fortunato made a power point presentation on the school district's performance and meeting expectations. She showed enrollment figures and NEASC accreditation results. Also reviewed were initiatives for the elementary level, middle school and high school. The Superintendent used the phrase "high standards and high scores" to highlight results in the National Merit Scholarship Program, number of students attending college and the quality of colleges, NECAP scores, new standards reference exam scores and CEEB test scores. Included were partnerships with Bryant University, the CCRI and Johnson & Wales Articulation Agreements, participation with New England Tech and Roger Williams University. Fortunato finished with the awards achieved in athletics, music, arts, journalism, community service, plus the Lincoln faculty awards, and administrator awards.

- d. Energy Update – Lou Fusco
Fusco reported even he was surprised at the \$512,000 savings for a two and a half year period. He stated it was due to everyone cooperating. He noted he had discovered a billing error. Next he will be attacking the water usage with Angelo Mencucci.
 - e. Program Specialists Presentation on Integrated Arts
Superintendent Fortunato introduced Amy Devault, Specialist Coordinator, and recognized the other specialists. Amy Devault made a presentation on the specialists' areas of art, music, library and health. She spoke about the integration of curriculum infusion approach to multiple intelligences, highlighting the benefit to students for problem solving and communication. Linda Kelly Conlin, music teacher, spoke about two kinds of integration, curriculum based and whole school. She explained how their musical play utilized all the areas of specialists. Clare Brauch reviewed the "walk your way to a healthy heart" program. Debra Reddy talked about Iditarod Read Week and watching the movie about the Iditarod. They brought in two mush dogs, or Huskies, and had the gym decorated to look like Alaska. Their goal is to have integration in all schools.
 - f. Hearthsides Presentation – Kathy Hartley
Superintendent Fortunato reported how they started a partnership with Hearthsides and introduced Kathy Hartley. Hartley explained Friends of Hearthsides is a non-profit, volunteer organization to preserve and promote Hearthsides in the town of Lincoln. It dates back to the 1600's. She stated it is more than a field trip; it stimulates inquiry and enriches what is being taught. She noted it includes other historical sites in Lincoln.
 - g. Update on Budget 2009-2010
Lori Miller explained that the document she was expecting won't be ready until tomorrow.
 - h. Approval of School Spring Contract
The Superintendent requested approval of the School Spring Contract. Motion to approve by Zito. Seconded by Roll. All in favor. Motion carried. The Superintendent thanked Eric Banville for his assistance.
 - i. Approval of High School Early Dismissal Dates
Superintendent Fortunato reported the dates will be January 8, 2010 and May 29, 2010, for the exhibition presentations. Motion to approve by Battistoni. Seconded by Zito. All in favor. Motion carried.
 - j. Financial Report
Lori Miller reported there is no change on the Charter Schools; they have not heard on the Beacon Charter School. Superintendent Fortunato reported it was continued to May or June. The substitute teacher line is at \$209,000, which is 55% spent. The Superintendent gave credit to the teacher's union on the concession for family illness dates and noted the frozen conference line has helped. Miller stated they are still waiting to hear from the state on retirement.
 - k. Approval of Disposition of Obsolete Computer Equipment
Motion to approve by Donabedian. Seconded by Varr. All in favor. Motion carried.
 - l. Approval of Out-of-State Field Trip Request
Superintendent Fortunato reported this is for FBLA to attend the National Leadership Conference in Anaheim, CA, June 23-29, 2009. Motion to approve by Zito. Seconded by Donabedian. All in favor. Motion carried.
- IV. Civic Use of Buildings – None.

a two year option to renew. Miller noted the main competitor is Beacon Mutual. Motion to approve by Donabedian. Seconded by Zito. All in favor. Motion carried.

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- b. Natural Gas Service Agreement April 2009 – October 2009
Lori Miller reported the consultant has suggested gas prices will begin increasing and is recommending a fixed price from April 2009 until October 2009. In that period of time they will be watching rates and she will come back to the committee for another recommendation. Motion to approve by Donabedian. Seconded by Zito and Battistoni. All in favor. Motion carried.

- VII. Salary Warrants
March 5, 2009 \$136,517.34
Motion to approve by Donabedian. Seconded by Varr. All in favor. Motion carried.
March 12, 2009 \$1,156,893.94
Motion to approve by Donabedian. Seconded by Zito. All in favor. Motion carried.
March 26, 2009 \$1,160,505.29
Motion to approve by Donabedian. Seconded by Battistoni. All in favor. Motion carried.
- VIII. Expense Warrants
April 20, 2009 \$1,060,769.67
Motion to approve by Donabedian. Seconded by Zito. All in favor. Motion carried.
April 20, 2009 Invoice (a) \$110,426.65
Motion to approve by Donabedian. Seconded by Battistoni. All in favor. Motion carried.
April 20, 2009 Capital Reserve for feasibility study \$6,300.
Motion to approve by Donabedian. Seconded by Varr. Voted 6-1, with Zito voting against.
Motion carried.
- IX. Old Business – None.
- X. New Business – None.
- XI. School Committee Reports – None.
- XII. Community Comments
The Vice President of the Teachers Association thanked the Superintendent for capturing all that they do for the children of Lincoln in her District Update and thanked her colleagues for their presentation. She also congratulated the students and teachers for their awards and wished Mr. Kilsey the best of luck
- XIII. Move to Executive Session for Businesses Pertaining to Personnel to R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a) 1 and 2
Not needed.
- XIV. Adjourn
Motion to approve adjourning at 9:40 p.m. by Zito. Seconded by Donabedian. All in favor.
Motion carried.

MARY VARR, CLERK

DATE