

LINCOLN SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
LINCOLN, RHODE ISLAND  
MINUTES

DATE: November 9, 2009  
PLACE: Lincoln Middle School  
152 Jenckes Hill Road  
Lincoln, RI 02865  
TIME: 7:00 PM – Open Session

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 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

Opening Ceremony

The Chair reported there were no motions taken in Executive Session.  
Motion by Varr to seal the Executive Session minutes. Seconded by Roll. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

Right to be Heard

Those who signed up for Right to be Heard will speak during the presentation.

I. Approval of Minutes

- a. October 19, 2009 Executive Session  
Motion to approve by Donabedian. Seconded by Roll. Zito requested a correction by adding her name to the attendees. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.
- b. October 19, 2009 Monthly Meeting  
Motion to approve by Donabedian. Seconded by Zito. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

II. Correspondence

- a. Email received from North Smithfield School Committee Chairman Bob Lafleur  
The Chair reported receiving a letter from Bob Lafleur regarding meeting with North Smithfield and Burrillville to discuss regionalization.

III. Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent requested moving items E and F to last after G and H. Motion to approve by Donabedian. Seconded by Zito. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

- a. Lincoln High School Student Update  
Principal McNamara introduced Asjed Hussain, Ozzie, who spoke about promoting volunteerism in school. Last summer they cleaned up along the Blackstone River and this year they had 30 or 40 students in a group raising funds for the Community Center in Manville to give out paper and school supplies. They also worked in a soup kitchen.
- b. H1N1 Update School Clinics  
Superintendent Fortunato reported on the first clinic at Northern/NELC last week. She recognized the nurses, teachers, Principal Latessa and support staff. She gave a special thanks to the eight nurse-teachers for meeting every Wednesday to plan strategies. Fortunato also thanked the administration, Chief Sullivan and members of the police force, Ernie Lacombe and the EMTs and Deputy Chief Ron Gagne for their time and effort in volunteering to make the clinic successful. The number of H1N1 vaccinations given were as follows:

Northern Elementary	221 out of a possible 263
NELC	156 out of a possible 204
Total of	377 out of a possible 467

The next clinics will be at:

Saylesville	Thursday, November 12	4 – 8 p.m.
Fairlawn	Friday, November 13	4 – 8 p.m.
Central	Tuesday, November 17	4 – 8 p.m.
Lonsdale	Monday, November 30	4 – 8 p.m.
High School	Thursday, December 10	during the school day
Middle School	Monday, December 14	during the school day

Superintendent Fortunato reminded parents that students will not be vaccinated if they do not have the consent form.

c. Financial Report/Charter Schools Update

Lori Miller reported she is still projecting no variance at the end of the year. The Quarterly Report shows a zero variance. There is a \$155,000 variance to offset purchased services. She received another bill for \$13,000 from Cranston Vocational. Substitute wages is a concern with the H1N1 illness, but there are no scheduled conferences. Every one of the tuition lines are a negative and they may have to find a way to cover those deficits. Utilities are always a concern. Under Charter School tuition, they have paid almost \$62,000 to date and an \$185,000 encumbrance. The Superintendent announced she is freezing all non-essential school spending.

d. Change December School Committee Meeting date to December 3, 2009

Motion to approve changing the December 14, 2009 school committee meeting to December 3, 2009 by Donabedian. Seconded by Zito. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

e. Approval of Out of State Field Trip Requests

Motion to approve the trip to the Federal Reserve in Boston, November 24, 2009, with the contingency the students advance in their competitions by Zito. Seconded by Donabedian. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion to approve the trip to the United Nations on December 18, 2009 by Donabedian. Seconded by Zito. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

f. Approval of Ice Hockey Rental Agreement

Motion to approve the 2009-2010 Ice Rink agreement with the RI Sports Center as detailed in the packet by Varr. Seconded by Zito. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

g. Presentation and discussion regarding proposed plan for closing of Fairlawn Early Learning Center beginning with the 2010 school year

The Superintendent noted tonight was for discussion only; there would be a vote at the next meeting. She reviewed the Executive Summary containing the Current Enrollment Report, Projected Enrollment Report, Capacity Report, Rationale for Closing Fairlawn Early Learning Center, Financial Implications and Next Steps. The projected enrollment for 2010-2011 are as follows:

Lonsdale	157
Central	266
Fairlawn ELC	258
Saylesville	263
Northern	264
NELC	234

Capacity showed the following number of rooms available and the number of classrooms:

Lonsdale	17 rooms	14 classrooms	w/23 students K-2 (as dictated by the collective Bargaining agreement. Class size increases in Grades 3-12.
Northern	34	27	w/23
Central	20	14	w/23 plus sp.ed, art, music, therapy, reading
Saylesville	21	15	plus art, music, a Confucius Room
NELC			spec ed, reading, music, art, therapy,
Lonsdale	17	14	plus sp. ed., art, music

Superintendent Fortunato reviewed her rationale for closing Fairlawn which included the fire code, the early childhood infrastructure and capital investments has been less than others over the years.

The projected cost savings includes the elimination of a principal, secretary, two custodians, a school nurse-teacher, a music teacher, an enrichment teacher and a reading teacher. The total cost savings in salary would be \$497,177. Utilities \$62,168; supplies \$3,185 for a total of \$562,530.

Fortunato announced the following dates for community forums: November 16<sup>th</sup> at the High School at 6:00 p.m. and December 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Middle School at 5:00 p.m. The School Committee may be taking a vote at the meeting following the forum at 7:00 p.m. Following that the Superintendent will need to contact the RIDE to complete the appropriate paperwork associated with a school closing. And finally the approved school configuration would be needed for the 2010-2011 budget.

- h. Presentation and discussion regarding Full Day Kindergarten and School Configurations  
Superintendent Fortunato thanked Mary Ann Struble, Melinda Smith, Angelo Mencucci and Lori Miller for the hundreds of hours this took. She also named all those who had worked on the Task Force. Emily Garthee read a letter from a parent who placed a student in the Mayoral Academy. Mrs. Garthee stated she would like to see the gift of time given to students. A full day kindergarten will level the playing field for all the students. Mrs. DiChiara spoke on behalf of the full day program saying families should have a choice. It is an opportunity to assess children's needs and benefits working parents. Melinda Smith stated she was an administrator at Fairlawn in 1998 and fully supports the program. She noted the impact on literacy, math and academic standards. Kindergarten teachers Andree Brochu, Nicole Daniels, Lori DeSimone and Nancy Andrews spoke about their rushed environment and the need to talk and learn through play; the history of ELC.

Mary Ann Struble explained she toured all buildings to look at space and reviewed the Early Learning Center Model – Option 1. Lonsdale would become an ELC with a P-Kindergarten, Grade 2; Northern ELC would add grade 2; Northern Elementary 3-5; Central and Saylesville also 3-5, plus a Confucius Room. Angelo Mencucci reviewed Lonsdale would need some renovation in lighting, sink replacement, bookcase replacement and abating three classrooms for \$135,350. NELC would need two additional bathrooms with the addition of two classrooms for \$25,000. Mary Anne Roll noted some of the work might be completed anyway. Struble reviewed Option 2 which was to provide neighborhood schools with full day K. Lonsdale and Northern would be P-K to 5, Central and Saylesville would be K to 5. Mencucci reported Option 2 would be at a cost of \$171,350. Lori Miller reported currently there are 4.5 K sessions. Under Option 1 four classroom teachers would be needed for approximately \$75,130, including benefits for a total of \$300,000. For Option 2 five classroom teachers would be needed for \$375,000. The savings in the principal line would be approximately \$10,000. The elimination of the mid-K bus would be \$125,000. The Chair asked with the neighborhood school model there could be two small classes that can't be collapsed. Miller explained they would have to pay teachers for overage or move students to another school. Fortunato noted they do have to look at where students live. Battistoni wanted to make clear that this does not preclude any re-districting.

#### IV. Civic Use of Buildings

- a. The Fancie Dancers  
Lincoln Middle School; December 6, 2009  
Motion to approve by Donabedian. Seconded by Roll. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.
- b. SEMASS/RI Membership Program Network YMCA  
Lincoln Middle School, January 23, 2010  
Motion to approve by Donabedian. Seconded by Cavanaugh. All in favor. Motion carried 6-0, with Varr recused.
- c. Miss Teen Rhode Island World Pageant  
High School Auditorium April 10, 2010  
Motion to approve by Donabedian. Seconded by Roll. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

#### V. Personnel Recommendations

##### Resignations

- a. Shane Quinn  
73 London Drive  
Hamden, CT 06517  
Motion to approve by Donabedian. Seconded by Zito. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.
- |            |                             |
|------------|-----------------------------|
| From:      | Drama Advisor – High School |
| Effective: | October 29, 2009            |

**Leave of Absence Requests**

- a. Patricia Santaniello  
5 Cynthia Road  
Lincoln, RI 02865  
From: Grade 6 – Middle School  
Effective: November 4, 2009 – January 22, 2010  
Medical Leave (Extension)  
Motion to approve by Donabedian. Seconded by Zito. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.
- b. Pamela Azar  
1069 Great Road  
Lincoln, RI 02865  
From: Social Studies – Middle School  
Effective: November 9, 2009 – January 20, 2010  
Medical Leave (Extension)  
Motion to approve by Donabedian. Seconded by Roll. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.
- c. Herbert Larkin  
51 Parkside Drive  
West Greenwich, RI 02817  
From: Grade 5 – Central Elementary  
Effective: August 26, 2009 – November 13, 2009  
Medical Leave  
Motion to approve by Roll. Seconded by Zito. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.
- d. Karen Crowell  
19 Ash Street  
Riverside, RI 02915  
From: Kindergarten – NELC/FELC  
Effective: October 14, 2009 – January 8, 2010  
Medical Leave  
Motion to approve by Zito. Seconded by Donabedian. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

**Long-Term Sub Appointments**

- a. Kristen (Plant) George  
6 Sunnycrest Avenue  
North Smithfield, RI 02896  
To: LTS – Grade 6 – Middle School  
Effective: November 4, 2009 – January 22, 2010  
(Extension)  
Salary: B-5 - \$13,446.63  
Motion to approve by Donabedian. Seconded by Roll. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.
- b. Samantha Medeiros  
146 Dorr Avenue  
Riverside, RI 02915  
To: LTS – Social Studies – Middle School  
Effective: November 9, 2009 – January 20, 2010  
(Extension)  
Salary: B-1 - \$8,398.50  
Motion to approve by Donabedian. Seconded by Zito. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.
- c. Jennifer Dekreon  
120 Summer Street  
Manville, RI 02838  
To: LTS – Grade 5 – Central Elementary  
Effective: August 31, 2009 – November 13, 2009  
Salary: B-1 - \$11,198.00  
Motion to approve by Donabedian. Seconded by Zito. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.
- d. Amy Archambault  
58 French Street  
Pawtucket, RI 02860  
To: LTS – Kindergarten – NELC/FELC  
Effective: October 14 2009 – January 8, 2010  
Salary: M-1 - \$11,959.78  
Motion to approve by Donabedian. Seconded by Zito. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

**Support Staff Appointments**

- a. Melissa DiVozzi  
78 Smith Street  
Lincoln, RI 02865  
To: PT 15 Hour 1:1 TA – Northern  
Effective: November 2, 2009 – end of school year  
Salary: \$9.25/hour  
Motion to approve by Donabedian. Seconded by Cavanaugh. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

VI. Awarding of Bids – None.

VII. Salary Warrants

October 8, 2009 \$1,171,743.21

Motion to approve by Donabedian. Seconded by Zito. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

October 22, 2009 \$1,154,007.60

Motion to approve by Donabedian. Seconded by Zito. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

VIII. Expense Warrants

November 9, 2009 2009-2010 FY \$998,576.72

Motion to approve by Donabedian. Seconded by Zito. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

IX. Old Business – None.

X. New Business

a.. Policy Manual Revisions

- Committee Member Insurance – Amended Policy Second Reading

Motion to approve by Donabedian. Seconded by Battistoni. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

XI. School Committee Reports – None.

XII. Community Comments

Patricia Musotic stated she didn't understand Charter Schools and asked where the students from Lonsdale will be going. The Chair explained they would start at Lonsdale and likely move on to Saylesville. Roll explained that the new school in Cumberland has a full day K and the plan is to have a full elementary school in the future. Most parents chose Democracy Prep because they have full day K. Arthur Russo asked if there was a steady decrease in enrollment. The Superintendent explained the opening of the middle school allowed them to look at space. The Chair also noted having to tighten their belts has allowed people to be more open to change. Georgia explained they don't have numbers on those who pay for kindergarten until students register for first grade. Robson noted they use the live birth numbers for projecting. John Flynn suggested holding meetings in more schools and stated he didn't feel Option 2 is an option. He stated the economy has to be taken into account. He didn't think there was community support for early childhood centers. Roxane Cary thought the presentation was biased. The Chair noted there were no sides; they are trying to find the best educational model they can. Gary Gianetti thought the full day K would be good for the community but is rushed. He hoped there was another reason than financial. Chairwoman Robson noted the only decision the school Committee will be acting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> will be the closing of the school, not the re-configuration.

XIII. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 9:02 p.m. by Zito. Seconded by Varr. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

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MARY VARR, CLERK

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DATE