

LINCOLN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
LINCOLN, RHODE ISLAND
MINUTES

DATE: January 11, 2010
PLACE: Lincoln Middle School
152 Jenckes Hill Road
Lincoln, RI 02865
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, Mark Gadbois, Margaret Knowlton, Bruce Macksoud, Jeannine Magliocco, Kevin McNamara, Angelo Mencucci, Lori Miller, William Skitt, Melinda Smith, Maryann Struble, Joyce Ruppell; Attorney Benjamin Scungio

Opening Ceremony

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

Right to be Heard – None.

- I. Approval of Minutes
 - a. December 3, 2009 Monthly Meeting
Motion to approve by Roll. Seconded by Cavanaugh. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.
- II. Correspondence
The Chair reported receiving a letter from the Town Administrator that if he moves forward with reductions to the budget the school department's would be reduced by their proportionate share. It has been forwarded to counsel.
- III. Superintendent's Report
 - a. Lincoln High School Student Update
Principal McNamara introduced Deidre Sullivan, Freshman Class President. She is also involved with chorus. Deidre stated her transition to the high school was easy because the teachers prepared her, there was the freshman orientation and she also has two older siblings. She talked about being involved with the variety show, history club and Science Olympiad.
 - b. Approval of Race to the Top Memorandum of Understanding
Superintendent Fortunato reported on the four areas being focused on by Commissioner Gist. One area is world class standards and assessments in which global curriculum will align with the common core. The second focus is data systems to support instruction, including achievement, educator effectiveness, data to improve instruction, professional development and research data. The third area is great teachers and leaders with participation in leadership academies, annual evaluations; partner with RIDE and select teacher leaders and equitably distribute teachers and leaders. The fourth focus is turning around low achieving schools. Intervene and move forward low performing schools and give support. That is what the Commissioner is doing, as well as the Task Force. The Race to the Top would probably have a hundred million dollars that would be available to RI schools selected. The cost is budget neutral for Lincoln and is aligned with the Commissioner's strategic plan.

Fortunato asked the committee to approve and give the Chair permission to sign the initial memorandum of understanding which will then be forwarded to the Commissioner's office. Motion to approve by Donabedian. Seconded by Zito. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

c. H1N1 Update School Clinics

The Superintendent reported on the second series of H1N1 clinics. Children 10 years or younger at the time of the first vaccination will require a second one. She read the following schedule:

<u>Clinic</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
Lonsdale	1/12	4 PM
Northern & Northern ELC	1/14	4 PM
Saylesville	1/29	4 PM
Fairlawn ELC	2/3	4 PM
Central	2/5	4 PM

The dates will be listed on the Web site.

d. Financial Report/Charter Schools Update

Lori Miller reported there is only \$128,000 left in the substitute line; partly due to the H1N1. The Charter Schools is running \$144,000 over budget and \$13,000 in vocation tuition, so \$150,000 in over expenditures. The Chair asked about reimbursement for Charter Schools and Miller reported they receive a one-time payment of \$523. She stated Highland Charter has not been paid for the second quarter. Fortunato noted the water main break on Friday was unexpected and these are things they have to be mindful of as they go on.

e. Presentation of 2010-2011 Budget

Superintendent Fortunato read the transmittal letter: At this point in time the 2010-2011 Proposed Budget totals \$48,174,071. This is a 2.07 percent increase over the 2009-2010 operating budget of \$47,197,873. The funds requested in the proposed budget generally support current service levels, but provide no real program enhancements. The 2010-2011 budget was developed using zero based budget methodology which requires that every budget request be analyzed independently, while incorporating the goals of the school improvement plan and the district's strategic plan. As everyone knows the State of RI is in a fiscal crisis and reductions in state aid to education and cities and towns could occur in the fiscal year 2010. These reductions, if they materialize, make it virtually impossible for the operating budget to remain level funded for 2011. The 2010-11 operating budget reflects the savings from the closing of Fairlawn Early Learning Center and the reductions in administrative staff, professional staff and support staff and do not negatively impact programming in a meaningful way. Salaries, tuitions, unemployment contributions, purchased services and transportation are the areas that show significant increases in the 2010-2011 budget. Specifically, unemployment changed positively by \$70,000. Charter school tuitions grew to \$260,000 and out of district tuitions and vocational tuitions increased by \$152,000. Please note the budget right now is in a former format and it will be in the uniform chart of accounts as mandated by he State of RI in the next budget session.

The Superintendent asked the committee to review the budget and under the Superintendent's Report would ask for the School Committee to approve one budget workshop which will be Thursday, January 21st at 6:30 at Lincoln High School. This recaptures the highlights of the budget and they have never gone into a budget cycle at 2.07 percent.

f. Approval of Budget Workshop Date - January 21

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

g. Approval of School Configurations – Neighborhood Schools/Half-Day Kindergarten

Superintendent Fortunato requested approval of the school configuration model for the 2010-2011 school year to begin with a neighborhood school model with four elementary schools and half day kindergarten, The elementary schools will be Northern, Central, Saylesville and Lonsdale. Roll commented on hearing comments not to rush to judgment. She noted every child would benefit from a full day K, but the elephant in the room became fiscal. It is with sadness to vote the way she had to, but the good news is they have a plan. Battistoni commented on being faced with a difficult decision. He suggested there are other stakeholders who might come up with the necessary funds and they are the Town Administrator, the Lincoln Teachers Association. They need the cooperation of those and the people of the town. He stated he is very sad to cast his vote. Robson noted best interest of the children.

They needed to develop a plan that would work and hopes they can come up with a clear model for full day kindergarten. Zito agreed. Motion to approve by Zito. Seconded by Varr. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

IV. Civic Use of Buildings

- a. Rhode Island State Spelling Bee
March 20, 2010 at Lincoln Middle School
Motion to approve by Roll. Seconded by Battistoni. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

V. Personnel Recommendations

Resignation

- a. Lewis Babbitt
14 Rowe Street
Putnam, CT 06260
From: Finance Accountant
Effective: January 13, 2010
- b. John Camara
211 R Chapel Street
Lincoln, RI 02865
From: Night Custodian – LHS
Effective: January 11, 2010
Motion to approve by Zito. Seconded by Roll. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

Retirement

- a. Patricia Santaniello
5 Cynthia Road
Lincoln, RI 02865
From: Grade Six Middle School
Effective: 2/5/10
Superintendent Fortunato presented the recommendation with regret. Motion to approve with regret by Roll. Seconded by Battistoni. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.
Battistoni commented that she was a wonderful teacher and the district will miss her.

Administrative Appointment

- a. Richard Zagrodny
137 Mendon Road
North Smithfield, RI
To: Interim Assistant Principal – LMS
Effective: 1/12/10 – End of School year (90 days)
Salary: \$325 per day
Motion to approve by Zito. Seconded by Battistoni. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

Leave of Absence Requests

- a. Robert Capron
35 Elisha Mathewson Road
North Scituate, RI 02857
From: Social Studies – High School
Effective: 1/21/10 – End of School Year
Parental Leave
- b. Rebecca K. Deady
45 Belmont Street
Taunton, MA 02780
From: Resource – Central Elementary
Effective: 1/26/10 – End of School Year
Childrearing Leave
- c. Linda Cliff
20 Cold Spring Drive
West Warwick, RI 02893
From: Principal – Northern Elementary
Effective: 1/5/2010 – 1/29/2010
Medical Leave (Extension)
- d. Genna Cookson
161 Lynne Lane
Mapleville, RI 02839
From: School Psychologist
NELC/Northern/Systemwide
Effective: 3/22/10 – End of School Year
Maternity Leave
- e. Thomas Pesaturo
7 Thomas Drive
Lincoln, RI 02865
From: Resource – High School
Effective: 11/30/09 – 5/26/10
Medical Leave

- f. Kristen Lowe
5 Sutcliffe Avenue
Lincoln, RI 02865
From: Math – Middle School
Effective: 10/23/09 – 2/12/10
Maternity/Childrearing
- g. Rita McCann
650 East Greenwich Avenue
Building 5-206
West Warwick, RI 02893
From: Grade 6 – Middle School
Effective: 1/8/10 – 1/20/10
Medical Leave Extension
Motion to approve by Zito. Seconded by Roll. 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: 1/25/10 – End of School Year
Salary: B-5 \$25,892.91
- b. Darren Sousa
151 Catlin Avenue
Rumford, RI 02916
To: LTS Social Studies – High School
Effective: 1/21/10 – End of School Year
Salary: B-1 \$19,811.85
- c. Joanna Plamondon
10 Mecca Street
North Providence, RI 02904
To: LTS Resource – Central Elementary
Effective: 1/26/10 – End of School Year
Salary: B-6 \$26,378.41
- d. Edward St. Michel
16 Shortway Road
Cranston, RI 02910
To: LTS Math – Middle School
Effective: 10/26/09 – 2/12/10
Salary: B-1 \$14,858.88
- e. Karen Recene
75 Austin Street
Wakefield, RI 02879
To: LTS Grade 6 – Middle School
Effective: 1/11/10 – 1/20/10 (extension)
Salary: B-3 \$1,713.77
Motion to approve by Battistoni. Seconded by Donabedian. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

Support Staff Appointments

- a. Denise Berard
68 Lebrun Avenue
Woonsocket, RI 02895
To: PT 19 ¾ TA – Family Literacy Center
Effective: 1/7/10 – End of School Year
Salary: \$10.25/hr
Motion to approve by Zito. Seconded by Varr. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

- VI. Salary Warrants
December 3, 2009 \$1,149,001.26
Motion to approve by Zito. Seconded by Varr. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

December 17, 2009 \$1,189,948.60
Motion to approve by Zito. Seconded by V arr. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

December 30, 2009 \$1,166,670.84
Motion to approve by Zito. Seconded by Varr. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.
- VII. Expense Warrants
January 1, 2010 09-10 FY \$1,534,555.31
Motion to approve by Zito. Seconded by Varr. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.
- VIII. Old Business – None.
- IX. New Business – None.

X. School Committee Reports

Robson reported they are continuing to talk with the Lincoln Teacher Association about the budget and their contract. Roll reported she would be appearing tomorrow at a hearing on state mandates. Battastoni asked the Chair if the budget subcommittee should meet prior to the 21st and the Chair stated the budget is so tight it should come to all seven members.

XI. Community Comments

Mary Ann Canning McComiskey extended thanks and good luck to Mrs. Santaniello. She wanted to clarify that her comments about full day K were not meant to have been a scolding nor were they meant to be a criticism. The LTA recognizes the fiscal constraints,

XII. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 7:50 PM by Zito. Seconded by Varr. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

MARY VARR, CLERK

DATE