

LINCOLN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
LINCOLN, RHODE ISLAND
MINUTES

DATE: February 8, 2010
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

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 Zito. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

Right to be Heard – None.

I. Approval of Minutes

- a. January 11, 2010 Executive Session
Motion to approve by Donabedian. Seconded by Zito. All in favor. Motion approved 7-0.
- b. January 11, 2010 Monthly Meeting
Motion to approve by Varr. Seconded by Zito. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.
- c. January 21, 2010 Special Meeting
Motion to approve by Varr. Seconded by Zito. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.
- d. January 28, 2010 Special Meeting
Motion to approve by Donabedian. Seconded by Zito. All in favor. Motion carried 6-0, with Battistoni abstaining.

II. Correspondence – None.

III. Superintendent's Report

- a. Citation
Superintendent Fortunato introduced Damian Gangier, a silver and gold key awards winner. He is also a sculptor. He was presented with a citation by Zito.
- b. NECAP Presentation
Melinda Smith reported she is pleased with the overall scores. She reviewed the reading, writing and math proficiency scores. She reported there was a 15% increase in High School writing scores. She looked to compare Lincoln's scores with other comprehensive schools and found Lincoln is in the top five in math and writing. Smith noted the Superintendent's goal was to be in the top three in all three areas and felt they were on their way. Smith also cautioned that the reconfiguration of schools may have an impact on scores next year and the year after. Mary Anne Roll commented on a window of opportunity to assist a student not doing well. Rick Battistoni expressed concern for the numbers in the area of Excellence in Math. Smith explained there are fewer students taking lower level math courses and the trend is students taking more rigorous math courses.

c. Budget Climate Update (Town Administrator)

Town Administrator reported he received the budget proposal from the committee and will be making his proposal to the town. He thanked the Superintendent for her efforts in the past and while he and the Superintendent communicate regularly, they don't always agree, but they both have the best interest of the town. He stated the state is proposing the phase out of the motor vehicle reimbursement of \$737,541 for the third quarter and for this year \$1,461,082. The proposal for next year is to eliminate three million dollars July first. If that happens the town will pass the share to each department. He noted the capital area funds are restricted and won't help the operating budget which will be short \$623,000. A surplus on the town side is health care but that money has to be placed in trust. He doesn't see any relief until 2013. They have been pushing for a new funding formula. Almond stated they can't go back to the local tax payers, this is a crisis beyond the local level.

d. Consideration and Vote to Approve Town Administrator's Requested Credits

Battistoni made a motion to approve the Town Administrator's request for credit for discussion purposes. Roll provided a second. Donabedian commented that last year the budget board was reluctant to approve the committee's resolution. She thought they should get the town solicitor's opinion. Roll expressed concern for transparency and the clarity of the process, that this sets the stage for how funds are dealt with in the future beyond their tenure on the committee and she would prefer to have some time to consider it. Motion to table for the receipt of a legal opinion of the town solicitor by Donabedian. Seconded Roll. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

e. Layoff/Non-Renewal Notices

Motion to approve Category 1 as detailed in the packet by Donabedian. Seconded by Varr. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion to approve Category 2 as detailed in the packet by Donabedian. Seconded by Varr. All in favor. Motion carried 6-0, with Cavanaugh recused on #14.

Motion to approve Category 3 as detailed in the packet by Donabedian. Seconded by Varr. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion to approve Category 4 as detailed in the packet by Donabedian. Seconded by Varr. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion to approve Category 5 as detailed in the packet by Donabedian. Seconded by Roll. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

It was noted there were 211 layoffs. The chair noted this is the beginning of a process in the budget; they have to do this in case the worst happens. They don't know what the budget will be or what the certifications are, but hope to call back as quickly as they can. There were 167 last year and 211 this year. Superintendent Fortunato reported the teachers received letters today. They are working with the union leadership but they need to be fiscally responsible. She asked the public to be patient; if they laid off 211 teachers they would not be able to open schools. Fortunato stated March first is the deadline but there is a bill proposing a June first date.

f. H1N1 Update School Clinics

Superintendent Fortunato reported the second round for students under ten was held last Friday. She commended the administrators, school nurse teachers, teachers, support staff, Town Administrator, the police, emergency services, Mr. Mencucci's men and central office administration.

g. Financial Report/Charter Schools Update

Lori Miller reported this has been a very difficult year for the budget. There are no changes in Charter Schools with 33 students still out of district. Purchased services and special education are still a deficit. There was a spike in medical services. She is also concerned with natural gas expenditures; other utilities look good. Discussion ensued regarding the UCOA list of spending.

h. Approval of Field Trip Requests

1. Cathleen Carlson's request to the Boston Science Museum, March 26, 2010

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

2. LHS Chorus to New York, April 29 – May 2, 2010

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

3. Team 8 Middle School, to CT Science Center, Hartford, CT, May 7, 2010

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

- 4. Middle School Chorus to the Great East Festival, Six Flags in Agawam, May 28, 2010
Motion to approve by Zito. Seconded by Donabedian. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.
- 5. Melissa Ricci's request for the Advanced Jazz Band to the Jazz Band Festival at Six Flags, June 4, 2010.
Motion to approve by Zito. Seconded by Donabedian. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

- i. Approval of TINET Contract
Motion to approve by Zito. Seconded by Donabedian. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

IV. Civic Use of Buildings

- a. Fusionworks Dance Performance – LHS – 6/26/10
Motion to approve by Zito. Seconded by Donabedian. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.
- b. Alpha Delta Kappa Blood Drive – Lonsdale – 4/13/10
Motion to approve by Roll. Seconded by Battistoni. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

V. Personnel Recommendations

Retirement

- a. Bruce Macksoud
21 Ducarl Drive
Lincoln, RI 02865
From: Principal – Lincoln Middle School
Effective: January 1, 2011
Superintendent Fortunato presented the recommendation with great regret.
Motion to approve by Battistoni. Seconded by Varr. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.
The Chair commented she was happy for Macksoud but he will be sorely missed.

Leave of Absence Requests

- a. Rita McCann
650 East Greenwich Avenue
Building 5-206
West Warwick, RI 02893
From: Grade 6 – Middle School
Effective: 1/21/10 – 2/24/10
Medical Leave (Extension)
Motion to approve by Roll. Seconded by Zito. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.
- b. Jennifer Boudreault
35 Olney Avenue
North Providence, RI 02911
From: Self-Contained – NELC
Effective: 1/4/10 – 2/26/10
Medical Leave
Motion to approve by Zito. Seconded by Varr. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.
- Pamela Azar
1069 Great Road
Lincoln, RI 02865
From: Social Studies – Middle School
Effective: 1/21/10 – 3/1/10
Medical Leave (Extension)
Motion to approve by Zito. Seconded by Donabedian. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.
- c. Katherine Choquette
2 Gentry Lane
Uxbridge, MA 01569
From: Family & Consumer Science – High School
Effective: 1/20/10 – end of school year
Medical leave
Motion to approve by Zito. Seconded by Varr. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.
- d. Karen Crowell
19 Ash Street
Riverside, RI 02915
From: Kindergarten – Fairlawn/NELC
Effective: 4/1/10 – end of school year
Maternity/Medical Leave
Motion to approve by Zito. Seconded by Varr. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

Long-Term Sub Appointments

- a. Karen Recene
75 Austin Street
Wakefield, RI 02879
To: LTS Grade 6 – Middle School
Effective: 1/21/10 – 2/24/10 (Extension)
Salary: B-3 \$4,896.48
Motion to approve by Zito. Seconded by Varr. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

XII. Community Comments – None.

XIII. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. by Battistoni. Seconded by Zito. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

MARY VARR, CLERK

DATE