

Official  
January 5, 2012

**LINCOLN SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
CHARTER SCHOOL SUBCOMMITTEE  
LINCOLN, RHODE ISLAND**

DATE: December 1, 2011  
PLACE: Lincoln Middle School - Library  
152 Jenckes Hill Road  
Lincoln, RI 02865

**AGENDA**

TIME: 5:30 PM

Open Session

School Committee Members present: Kristine Donabedian, Mary Anne Roll, Tracey Cavanaugh, Mary Varr

I. Discussion on Goals and Objectives of the Charter School Subcommittee

The meeting was opened at 5:35 PM. Committee member Kristine Donabedian introduced the members and opened the topic for discussion.

Mary Anne Roll began by giving some history of charter schools in RI. She stated the initial regulations around charters may have changed. She also brought up the point that charter schools should reflect the district from where children come from. A potential problem could be segregating students and she is curious on where legislation is on this now in regards to Special Education and ELL.

The members of the subcommittee commented that no one is against school choice but it is good to have a conversation in public about the impact this may have on the Lincoln Public School system.

Mary Ann Roll felt that Charter schools tend to divide communities. Tracey Cavanaugh agreed with the concern about the impact on public schools and charter schools.

Mary Varr stated her experience with a charter school in Franklin, Mass over the last 12 years did not show any division in the community, and instead it gave another option for children whose parents did not think they would be successful in the bigger school system.

Kristine Donabedian questioned the financial responsibility of a school department for charter schools and how this would affect our budget in the coming years.

The committee will seek advice from our Business Manager on this financial impact.

Mary Varr raised the question of how this financial obligation is being handled nationally, and although different states have different legislation, it would be good to get a feel for how it is handled.

Public comment:

Town Administrator, T. Joseph Almond, shared that he was pleased the school committee wanted to have an open conversation about this, although he questioned why it wasn't done in the last two years. He stated that most of the committee's questions have been answered over the last two years. He also stated that the Lincoln School Department has benefited from the new school funding formula.

Mary Ann McComiskey stated that she applauded the efforts of the school committee to seek out information on funding and for planning what would complement what we already have.

Next steps-

Mary Ann Roll will look into the background on regular charter legislations.

Mary Varr will look into what other states have done in regards to charter schools.

Next meeting- to be determined.

II. Adjourn

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Mary Varr

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Date