

**OFFICIAL
February 13, 2012**

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

DATE: January 18, 2012
PLACE: Lincoln High School Library
135 Old River Road
Lincoln, RI 02865
TIME: 6:30 PM

School Committee Members Present: Elizabeth Robson, Chair; Julie Zito, Vice Chair; Mary Varr, Clerk; Tracey Cavanaugh, Kristine Donabedian, John Lafleur
Absent: Mary Anne Roll

Others Present: Georgia Fortunato, Superintendent; Eric Banville, Julie Dorsey, Patricia Gablinske, Mark Gadbois, Jeannine Magliocco, Kevin McNamara, Angelo Mencucci, Lori Miller, Michele Sharpe, Melinda Smith, Maryann Struble, Mark Thompson

I. Budget Workshop

- Consideration and discussion of proposed 2012-2013 Operating Budget
Superintendent Fortunato reported the proposed 2012-13 budget is \$48,840,433, an increase of 2.14% or \$1,025,384. She reviewed staff reductions in the amount of \$420,290, two staff additions in technology for \$142,211, noting the additions are a tech ed teacher for the Middle and High School and a data manager who will help with all the reporting in Race To The Top and teacher evaluations. Eleven retirements system-wide total \$416,345. Fortunato reported they are currently negotiating with certified staff (no raise included in 2012-13 budget) and the contract is settled with support staff through the 2012-2015 school year. There is a 2% raise included in the 2012-13 budget and a medical and dental co-share of 13% in the first year, 14% in the second year and 15% in the third year. The Superintendent reviewed the budgeted salaries, fringe benefits with a medical and dental insurance increase of 4%. She noted the certified pension rate would have been 20.98% without the pension reform; with the reform it will be 14.01%. The major budget increases are salaries \$347,368, fringe benefits with pension reform \$206,817 and medical/dental \$402,659.

In giving some background information, the Superintendent explained Mark Gadbois and Melinda Smith have been co-chairs of the Technology Committee which consists of administrators, central level administrators, teachers, parents, community members, members of the budget board. They met yesterday with the engineer. They are focused on what they are doing in technology in getting children ready for college and career. Mark Gadbois reported the existing technology is low level with no centralized control of access or features.

A new wireless network will operate separately from the existing network with individual access points. He showed diagrams of the schools with current wiring and proposed wiring.

Eventually the idea is to bring your own device. Space has to be available for elementary students to get early training and they can move on to the middle and high schools. Lori Miller explained Priority #1 covers the elementary library media centers and admin building for \$444,100; Priority #2 is for secondary schools wireless at \$501,500; Priority #3 is classroom tech upgrades all schools at \$1,090,000. The total project would be \$2,035,600. Superintendent Fortunato stated they came up with the priorities because last year they had the plan in June and it had to put in abeyance, so they've lost a year. Last week she was with the Commissioner in Washington and was able to talk to others about technology in other districts and how important a detailed plan is to prepare our students to compete in a global society.

Angelo Mencucci reported he met with each principal and toured every building to develop his capital budget. He reviewed the itemized budget by building and by priority. The figures are: High School \$2,383,600; North Elementary \$110,050; Middle School \$109,100; Central Elementary \$178,625; Lonsdale Elementary \$60,650; Saylesville Elementary \$112,125; Administration \$320,700 for a total of \$3,274,850.

The Chair commended the technology subcommittee for prioritizing the list and that they understand there is more than one way to fund some of the projects, and the same with the capital plan because as School Committee members they understand the needs of the district. Carl Brunetti stated he thought the technology committee would vote on the plan and present it to the School Committee and he questioned the numbers. The Superintendent explained Mr. Mencucci included the electrical upgrade. Michael Babbitt stated there was additional equipment to be purchased and it was explained that would be in future phases. The Chair stated the idea was to have a plan to approve and present to the budget board. Superintendent Fortunato stated she received figures from the engineer after the subcommittee meeting and she cannot afford to lose another year. She stated the first priority has to be the elementary media centers. This was prioritized because of the amount of money needed.

II. Vote to Approve 2012-2013 School Committee Proposed Operating Budget

Motion to approve the operating budget as presented by the Superintendent by Zito. Seconded by Lafleur. All in favor. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion to approve the technology capital budget as presented by the Superintendent by Zito. Seconded by Lafleur. Kristine Donabedian told the members of the Technology Committee that if they had comments about what was presented she would be interested in hearing them. Mr. Brunetti expressed concern over the numbers. The Superintendent again explained she used the numbers given by the engineer in order to move forward. It was agreed that the media center phase is complete. Superintendent Fortunato stated the committee could move forward and include it in the budget as they get more information. Motion to amend the motion to table Phase 2 and Phase 3 by Donabedian. Seconded by Zito. All in favor. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion to approve the technology plan with the appropriate amendment by Zito. Seconded by Lafleur. All in favor. Motion carried 6-0.

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Motion to approve the Capital Budget as presented by the Superintendent by Zito. Seconded by Lafleur. All in favor. Motion carried 6-0.

III. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 7:28 PM by Zito. Seconded by Lafleur. All in favor. Motion carried 6-0.

MARY VARR, CLERK

DATE