

**OFFICIAL  
February 10, 2014**

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

**DATE:** January 23, 2014  
**PLACE:** Lincoln High School Library  
135 Old River Road  
Lincoln, RI 02865  
**TIME:** 6:30 PM

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

Others Present: Georgia Fortunato, Superintendent; Eric Banville, Mark Gadbois, Jeannine Magliocco, Kevin McNamara, Armand Milazzo, Lori Miller, Reza Sarkarati, Michele Sharpe, Maryann Struble, Mark Thompson

**I. Budget Workshop (OPEN SESSION)**

- Consideration and Discussion of Proposed 2014-2015 Operating and Capital Budgets  
Superintendent Fortunato reviewed the 2014-2015 proposed budget of \$52,930,058, an increase of \$3,320,096 or 6.69% over the \$2013-2014 adopted budget of \$49,609,961. She started with increases in salaries, additions of two elementary math coaches and a middle school language position, noting a reduction in a school nurse teacher, social worker, two reading teachers and a middle school business teacher. The certified and support staff contracts both expire this summer.

Fortunato reviewed current district enrollment, stating they cannot compete with the smaller class sizes at the Charter Schools. The projected Kindergarten enrollment is 25/25 at Lonsdale, 17/21 at Central, 25/23 at Saylesville and 23/22/22 at Northern. Registration will be in March. There are 180 students in Charter Schools, including Davies.

Medical will have an 8% increase of \$1,178,838. The increase for PPACA (Obama Care) is not known yet. The certified pension rate set by the State is 1.15% or \$258,158 and the private pension will be 7.1% or \$76,913.

Purchased Service Tuitions will have a 1% increase of \$473,000; \$174,300 for vocational schools. There will be a decrease in out of district tuition of \$121,000, offset by \$50,000 increase to support the in-district students. The Chair noted the Charter School lottery is in March. Julie Zito requested what the maximum number of 40 would look like for the next hearing. Zito also noted that Grade 9 at Blackstone Valley Prep is a big question for next year. The Superintendent pointed out that the Village Greene School is different from the Greene School and the projected Charter School tuitions are \$1,771,000. The total impact to the budget will be \$2,245,300. Transportation is projected at 6.2% or \$177,254, plus \$25,000 for athletics. Special Education will result in another 10% or \$50,000.

Property/liability insurance will increase \$10,000, Student information services \$6,400, increase in offices/referees for games played \$7,500 and HVAC preventative maintenance and repair \$36,900.

General supplies in subject areas include paper, science kits, athletic uniforms for all sports at the high school and middle school. The high school social studies curriculum revision and replacement textbooks will result in an increase of \$57,000. There will be an increase of \$15,000 for E books at the high school and small increases at the elementary and middle schools. Utilities will increase as well as lumber/hardware for aging building requiring maintenance. Custodial supplies and gasoline are projected increases.

Equipment for the high school auditorium LCD projector is \$25,000 and the technology equipment for film editing class is \$36,500.

The Governor's budget aid is \$9,863,322, with a projected revenue for aid increases of \$872,716. That will be offset by the increased dollars and going to the Charter Schools. The Chair noted that will go away in 2019. Superintendent Fortunato reviewed anticipated revenues from Medicaid, State Funding, Maintenance of Effort and local revenue for a maximum funding of \$52,177,241. There will have to be reductions of \$752,817 to comply with the 4% cap. Mary Anne Roll commented there is no state funding resolution, so there is no state maintenance of effort. Kristine Donabedian stated that state funding is dependent on population. The Superintendent stated they have level funded for five years, but cannot move forward a sixth year with level funding. She said they know what the costs are and now they have to go through to make reductions in the budget. She asked the School Committee to send ideas and she will meet with her team over the weekend and come back to the Committee. The budget has to be sent to the Town Administrator by January 31<sup>st</sup>. The Chair stated looking at the increases like Charter School tuitions she worries these may outpace the 4% cap. She stated they need a five year projection and that they may have to generate a surplus one year in preparation of another year. She would like to work with the Budget Board on that.

- Update Regarding Turf Field

Superintendent Fortunato reported there is only one item in the Capital Budget, 1.5 million dollars for Ferguson Field at the high school. They will be working closely with the town to renovate the field with a synthetic turf field and latex based track. This will be funded with one million dollars from the town's Fund50 and \$500,000 from the balance of the technology fund. An engineer from the Birchwood Design Group and one from Pare Corp. made a presentation regarding the durability of synthetic turf, providing more hours, an extended season, availability in any weather and reduction in maintenance. The average use of grass turf would be used only 25 hours a week and synthetic can be used 64 hours. They discussed the cost of construction and that other fields could rest or be maintained while using the new field. The design also includes extending the track meeting regulations for track meets. Their design currently comes with an eight year warranty. Julie Zito noted it could be income producing. John LaFleur stated that Ferguson Field is not playable right now and he has concerns for the sprinkler heads.

The Superintendent agreed all their fields are overused and Ferguson is not safe to play on. Mary Anne Roll expressed concern for the roof assessments and felt they should be looking at them over a five year period. She appreciates doing some work at Lonsdale and believes there should be something in the budget for roofs. LaFleur suggested having someone follow up with a second look at the roofs. The Chair stated she read the assessment and the only roof that needs immediate attention is Lonsdale and preventative maintenance goes a long way. Fortunato reported that Armand Milazzo looked at Lonsdale and the leak has stopped and the problem was a roof drain; there was no water coming in during the last rain storm. He thinks they can get by for a year. A Budget Board member shared his concern for Capital and putting things off tend to make it more expensive. He noted the money from Twin River won't always be there. A member of the public asked what parents can do to show support for the new field and the Chair suggested going to the next Budget Workshop and the Budget Board Meetings.

II. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 8:23 PM by Cavanaugh. Seconded by Roll. All in favor. Motion carried 6-0.

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MARY VARR, CLERK

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DATE