

**OFFICIAL
February 10, 2014**

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

DATE: January 28, 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; Mary Varr, Clerk; John Carroll, Tracey Cavanaugh, John LaFleur, Julie Zito

Others Present: Georgia Fortunato, Superintendent; Eric Banville, Caroline Frey, Patricia Gablinske, Mark Gadbois, Susan Imschweiler, 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
The Superintendent reported this is still a draft because there are still so many unknowns. Kindergarten registrations in March will be a better indicator of how many Kindergarten classes will be needed. Utilities aren't exact and negotiations have not begun on the two expiring contracts.

At Julie Zito's request, the Superintendent reviewed the Charter School enrollments assuming a maximum of number of students enrolled at Blackstone Valley Prep.. The impact on the 2014-15 budget would be an additional \$1,584,000.

Superintendent Fortunato stated that reductions a in the amount of \$752,817 are required to comply with the 4% cap. The Superintendent then presented the detailed additional administration is recommending to reduce the 2014-15 Proposed Budget by the \$752,817: \$159,700 in salaries, \$26,690 in employee benefits, \$310,231 in purchased services, \$181,500 in supplies & Materials, \$62,196 in property, \$12,500 in debt service & Miscellaneous.

Discussion ensued. The Superintendent explained there will have to be purchases for programs at the high school, but there wouldn't be more purchases in the textbook line until they are aligned with the Common Core. Mary Anne Roll acknowledged the hard work put into this budget, but noted the need to move forward with Pre-K at some point. Maryann Struble stated they are working toward their own Pre School program and she has formed a partnership with RIDE and she is on a steering committee. The Chair expressed concern there will be a deficit with Medicaid. The Superintendent will invite Peter Carson from CompuClaim to a future school committee meeting to explain their forecasting.

Fortunato reviewed funding for the capital project with one million dollars for the field and the track funded from the Fund50 (Twin River VLT revenues). The remaining \$500,000 will be funded from the return of technology money to Fund 50, granted two years ago now that the wireless connectivity bond money from RIDE has become a reality. . The money from RIDE will offset that \$500,000 and will not require an upfront payment from Fund 50. RIDE went out to bid for the wireless connectivity for all districts – Lincoln will be awarded \$289,735 for wireless connectivity of all classrooms.

Lori Miller will be writing to the Town Administrator advising him to return the \$500,000 to Fund 50 so that it can be re-appropriated for the field renovations. One of the benefits of funding this through the school budget is there is reimbursement under health and safety. Mary Anne Roll expressed concern for the timing of the field project, whether the investment made in the field would be jeopardized with a construction or renovation project at the high school. She also commented on the maintenance. John LaFleur noted maintenance for three years was included in the warranty. Superintendent Fortunato also commented the track could bring in revenue since Lincoln could host track meets.

- II. Vote to Approve 2014-2015 School Committee Proposed Operating and Capital Budgets
Motion by Zito to approve the 2014-15 School Committee Recommended Operating and Capital Budgets as presented by the Superintendent. Seconded by Varr. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

Mary Anne Roll noted her disappointment there was no money for the elementary school roofs this year. She will trust the Budget Board to do their due diligence. Superintendent reported from his first day in Lincoln Armand Milazzo has dealt with heating issues at Saylesville, Lonsdale and the High School and he has assured them there are a lot of things that can be done internally, but he is confident they are good for another year. She noted they needed to act on the money being offered them for the field while it is available. Superintendent Fortunato thanked Lori Miller for her hard work preparing the budget – also the leadership team and teachers were thanked for their hard work in the budget process.

- III. Expense Warrants
Motion to approve the \$14,457.55 expense warrant for the 2013-2014 fiscal year by Cavanaugh. Seconded by Varr. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

Carl Brunetti wanted to note that you can't reallocate the money, it reverts back to Fund50. Fred Hoppe commended the committee for looking at class sizes and we need to provide the services we do.

- IV. Adjourn
Motion to adjourn at 7:20 PM by Cavanaugh. Seconded by Varr. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

MARY VARR, CLERK

DATE