

LINCOLN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
LINCOLN, RHODE ISLAND
MINUTES

DATE: January 12, 2015
PLACE: Lincoln Middle School
152 Jenckes Hill Road
Lincoln, RI 02865
TIME: 6:45 PM - Band Room - Open Session

School Committee Members Present: Kristine Donabedian, Chair; Mary Anne Roll, Vice Chair; John Carroll, Clerk; Tracey Cavanaugh, John LaFleur, Staci Rapko-Bruckner, Julie Zito

Others Present: Georgia Fortunato, Superintendent; Eric Banville, Caroline Frey, Mark Gadbois, Armand Milazzo, Lori Miller, Maryann Struble,

Convene Into Open Session at 6:45 PM

1. Transition Workshop Meeting

a. Vote on reorganization and school committee appointments

Kristine Donabedian was nominated for Chairperson by Roll. Seconded by LaFleur. There were no further nominations; nominations were closed. Motion carried 6-1 to approve, with Zito voting against.

Mary Anne Roll was nominated for Vice Chair by LaFleur. Seconded by Cavanaugh. There were no further nominations; nominations were closed. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

John Carroll was nominated for Clerk by LaFleur. Seconded by Roll. There no further nominations; nominations were closed. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

Mary Anne Roll commented they had to be careful of communicating by email and by phone because the public had the impression that the school committee held discussions other than in open session and only voted in open session.

Opening Ceremony

Right to be Heard – None.

I. Consent agenda:

Motion to approve by Cavanaugh. Seconded by Carroll. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

1. Salary Warrants
2. Expense Warrants
3. Approval of Disposition of Obsolete Equipment and Books
4. Home School Request
 - Mr. and Mrs. Carlos Semedo

5. Personnel Recommendations

Leave of Absences

- | | |
|---|--|
| a. Alicia Kroszner
438 Tiffany Ave.
Warwick, RI 02889 | From: English – High School
Effective: January 20, 2015 – June 2015 (extension) |
|---|--|

Teacher Appointments

- | | |
|--|---|
| a. Susan Pepper
286 Huntinghouse Road
North Scituate, RI 02857 | To: Title 1 After School Grade 2 Teacher - Northern
Effective: January 13, 2015 – May 21, 2015
Salary: \$44/hour (grant funded) |
| b. Paul Melarango
17 Nicholas Drive
Cumberland, RI 02864 | To: Title 1 After School Grade 3 Teacher - Northern
Effective: January 13, 2015 – May 21, 2015
Salary: \$44/hour (grant funded) |
| c. Colleen Randall
20 Audrey Street
Warwick, RI 02886 | To: Elementary Math Interventionist - Northern
Effective: January 26, 2015 – June 2015
Salary: B-1 \$19,733.41 (grant funded) |

Long-Term Substitute Appointments

- | | |
|---|--|
| a. Kayla Brown
684 Hope Street
Providence, RI 02906 | To: 1.0 LTS – English – High School
Effective: January 20, 2015 – end of 14/15 school year
Salary: B-1 \$20,612.20 |
| b. Megan Donohue
56 Cooke St.
Providence, RI 02906 | To: 1.0 LTS – Guidance – .6 LHS/.4 LMS
Effective: October 29, 2014 – March 16, 2015
Salary: M-1 \$19,139.34 |

Support Staff Appointments

- | | |
|--|--|
| a. Scott Mowry
28 Knotty Oak Shores
Coventry, RI 02816 | To: Data Manager - Administration
Effective: January 13, 2015
Salary: \$52,000 (prorated for 14-15 SY) |
|--|--|

Coaching Appointments

- | | |
|---|--|
| a. Andrew Hallam
30 Ethan St.
Warwick, RI 02888 | To: Baseball Head Coach – High School
Effective: 2014 – 2015 Spring Sports Season
Salary: Per contract |
| b. Brian Grant
11 Rita St.
Warwick, RI 02889 | To: Boys Outdoor Track Assistant Coach – HS
Effective: 2014 – 2015 Spring Sports Season
Salary: Per contract |

Co-Curricular Appointments

- | | | |
|--|------------------------------|---|
| a. Megan Doran
63 Royal Avenue
Warwick, RI 02889 | To:
Effective:
Salary: | Drama Advisor – High School
January 13, 2015 – end of 14/15 school year
Per contract (prorated based on start date) |
|--|------------------------------|---|

- 6. Approval of Regular Session Minutes
 - a. December 8, 2014 School Committee Meeting
- 7. Approval of Executive Session Minutes
 - a. December 8, 2014 School Committee Meeting

II. Superintendent’s Report

a. Citations

Superintendent Fortunato recognized the following students for being selected to the 2014-2015 Rhode Island Senior All-State Band and Kristine Donabedian presented them with certificates of recognition:

Carlos Cosme, First Ranked Trumpet; *Melissa Drake*, Eighth Ranked Flute; *Alexandra DalBon*, Twelfth Ranked Trombone

b. NECAP Science Update

Dr. Frey reported that Science NECAP tests will continue to be administered until 2017. The new PARCC testing will begin in March 2015. Science scores were above the state average in all schools. Many students with IEPs were either partially proficient or not proficient. Mary Anne Roll asked how to replicate the higher scores and Dr. Frey stated they should start with other teams as a collaborative approach. Included in the action plan is to determine how students are understanding what they read. They will be using inquiry, formative assessments and updating instructional resources.

c. Discussion of Substitute School Nurse Teacher Pay Rate

The Superintendent reported they want to become competitive in paying substitute school nurses. She recognized Eric Banville in obtaining rates in other districts, noting the range from \$125 to \$150. There is a frequent need for substitutes and often nurses try to cover, but they are still teaching health. Fortunato requested increasing their per diem from \$125 to \$150. Motion to approve by Cavanaugh. Seconded by Roll. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

d. Presentation of 2015-16 Budget

Superintendent read her transmittal regarding the budget:

Enclosed herewith is the 2015-16 Superintendent’s Proposed Operating Budget for the Lincoln Public Schools.

The 2015-16 proposed operating budget totals \$53,324,625 which is a 4.33% increase over the 2014-15 operating budget of \$1,110,515. The funds requested in the proposed budget generally support current service levels. There are, however, some program enhancements in the areas of technology education and instruction in the common core areas of Mathematics, Science and English Language Arts.

The 2015-16 Superintendents Proposed Operating Budget was developed using a zero based budgeting methodology which requires that every budget request be analyzed independently while incorporating the goals in the school improvement plan and the district’s strategic plan. It should be noted that many of the line items remained the same as the 2014-15 operating budget, despite increases in almost every area. Budget managers were diligent in asking for only essential items.

There are reductions in professional staff in the 2015-16 proposed operating budget. Two (2) grade 5 positions were eliminated at the elementary level because of enrollment. Kindergarten enrollment is projected at the same level as the actual enrollment for the 2015 school year. Two (2) grade 1 classrooms closed but will be reopened as grade 2 classrooms to satisfy contractual class sizes.

The two certified positions will be “repurposed” to provide a preschool teacher at Northern, a Technology Coach at the elementary level and a .2 increase in a technology educator at Lincoln Middle School. Additionally, a teacher assistant must be added as a result of the increase in preschool students and the new classroom. Students who are identified as special needs at the age of 3 are an increasing population in Lincoln. A .1 preschool teacher was added to the 2014-15 budget for the second semester of the school year because of increasing enrollment.

The district's technology plan is currently under revision and will require professional development for certified staff to embrace blended learning that can be differentiated for each student's needs. The technology educator at LMS will provide more technologically focused course offerings for middle school students.

Lincoln's two union contracts expired early in the year in fiscal 2015. Contract talks are ongoing and we believe that an agreement with each union will be reached in the near future. The 2015-16 budget provides step increases for certified and support staff. Cost of living increases for all full time staff are provided in a negotiation line in the amount of \$400,000.

Other areas showing increases include medical benefits, charter school tuitions and general supplies and materials. The medical benefits line was reduced in the 2014-15 because it was thought to be a spike, i.e., a onetime occurrence. Unfortunately, claims are still running above budget for 2015-16 and it appears that this higher number for claims is becoming a new normal. Fiscal 2016 claims are budgeted at \$5,437,032 which is a 4% increase in the 2015 working rate. This increase alone accounts for a 2.3% increase in the 2016 budget.

Charter school enrollment is increasing for fiscal 2016. Kindergarten enrollments could climb to 60 at Blackstone Valley Prep, an increase of 20 available seats in kindergarten alone. We have conservatively budgeted for 45 kindergarten seats. The additional monies needed for charter enrollments in the 2016 budget is \$66,420 or 1.3% increase. The money follows the student yet the district does not realize any efficiency savings with lower enrollments.

General supplies and materials are budgeted to increase by \$480,000 in large part due to materials required at the elementary level for math, science and English language arts. Monies are required to provide math workbooks for students that are aligned to the common core. Science kits will be upgraded to meet the Next Generation Science Standards. Finally the English Language Arts Curriculum is complete and now supplies and materials that align to the curriculum must be put into the hands of students and teachers to keep the teaching and learning process moving forward.

Fortunately, decreases in utilities because of rigorous energy management help to offset increases in the aforementioned areas. Salaries are also showing only a small increase because of replacement of top step teachers with lower step teachers and an experienced staff resulting in minimal step increases.

Like last year, the 2015-16 budget is presented in a format using the Uniform Chart of Accounts (UCOA) mandated by the State of Rhode Island. There are still a few alignments that must be made between the UCOA and the budget. The UCOA format will ensure that the financial information presented is transparent and easy to understand.

The 2015-16 Superintendent's Proposed Operating Budget is a work in progress and requires your input so that scarce resources are used to maximize student achievement while remaining compliant with the Basic Education Plan (BEP) required by RIDE. The Lincoln Administrative Team is ready, willing and able to assist you in this difficult task and we look forward to working with you to provide a financial document that will support the quality education Lincoln residents appreciate and expect.

- e. Approval of Budget Workshops 1/20/15 & 1/28/15 – 6:30 PM @ Lincoln High School
Motion to approve by Cavanaugh. Seconded by Roll and Carroll. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.
The Chairwoman commented on the importance of attending these workshops.
- f. Approval of Verizon Cell Phone Contract
Motion to approve by Cavanaugh. Seconded by Carroll. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.
- g. Financial Report/Charter Schools Update
The Business Manager is projecting a zero deficit. Utilities are doing well with their conservation efforts. Special education tuitions are good. She reported there were five additional students at Blackstone Valley Prep before the Christmas break, but they will only be charged half. Julie Zito asked if there were anything about “jump in” students who come after the school year starts. Lori Miller explained these students were not Lincoln students so she believes these are students who just moved to Lincoln. Miller noted that there was new member on the Committee so this report would be more detailed and provide and explanation of the reports given to the School Committee. She reported that she is concerned with Medicaid revenue and may not collect the million dollars. If they are not spending the money they can't be reimbursed for it. The tuition money saved will offset that. There is a savings of \$19,220 in non-certified pensions, but there is also a negative variance in workers comp. There is a positive variance in unemployment insurance; there was a credit of \$4-5,000 which helped reduce that line.

Medical expense costs are at \$2.5 million which is more than half the allocation, halfway through the fiscal year. There was a medical bill of \$210,000 for three days in December. They are 58% spent at this time. Miller reiterated that she believes that this is the new normal for medical claims.

III. School Committee Reports

Mary Anne Roll reported they are looking at the Tobacco Policy. The Safety Committee will be looking at different approaches in evacuations in the event of a shooter and providing ALICE staff training at all schools. Roll also stated first responders are also part of the School Safety Committee. By State law these plans are private. Superintendent Fortunato noted the Budget Workshop will be at 6:30 PM in the high school library on Tuesday. John Carroll welcomed new committee member, Staci Rapko-Bruckner who was sworn in at the inauguration with the new Town Council and Town Administrator. He offered kudos to those students who performed at the inauguration.

IV. Community Comments

Fred Hoppe also welcomed Staci Rapko-Bruckner. He encouraged the Superintendent to concentrate on the elementary Common Core. He also noted in reference to medical claims, there is an older staff with over 20 members over 60 years of age. He wished everyone good health.

V. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 8:06 by Cavanaugh. Seconded by Roll. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

JOHN CARROLL, CLERK

DATE