

OFFICIAL
~~February 9, 2015~~
February 12, 2015

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

DATE: January 20, 2015
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, Clerk; Tracey Cavanaugh, John LaFleur, Staci Rapko-Bruckner
Absent: Julie Zito

Others Present: Georgia Fortunato, Superintendent; Eric Banville, Alec Ciminello, Caroline Frey, Patricia Gablinske, Mark Gadbois, Kevin McNamara, Armand Milazzo, Lori Miller, Reza Sarkarati, Rosemary Stein, Maryann Struble, Mark Thompson

I. Budget Workshop (OPEN SESSION)

- Consideration and Discussion of Proposed 2015-2016 Operating and Capital Budgets
Superintendent Fortunato explained the 2014-2015 budget is \$51,110,515. The 2015-2016 Budget is \$53,324,625, an increase of 4.3% or \$2,214,110. She reviewed the budget drivers of health insurance, Charter School tuitions and ELA, science and math supplies. There are staff reductions of a Grade 5 teacher at Central and Grade 5 teacher at Lonsdale; however an additional Pre K Teacher is needed at Northern as well as a Technology Coach and .20 IT teacher. Also required would be a Pre K Teacher Assistant. The Superintendent is looking to increase the Truant Officer's hours to 15 or 20 to verify student residency. Both union contracts are in negotiations. Included in the budget is a 4% increase for medical expenditures. Currently the medical claims budget is more than 50% spent at mid-year. Purchased Services is decreasing and Medicaid revenue will be less since there are less students out of district. Superintendent Fortunato stated she has included \$20,000 under Purchased Services for a communications consultant to target communication to the community. Charter School tuitions reflect an increase of 1.3% or \$665,420. There will be an increase of 60 lottery seats for K at a cost of \$11,602 per student. A breakdown of Blackstone Valley Prep students by grade was shown from K to Grade 9. Grade 10 will be added. Also shown was the number of students at International Charter, CVS Highlander, RI Nurses. The Superintendent reviewed the cost of supplies and materials for ELA, Science and Math subjects and by school. Dr. Frey explained the need for upgraded science kits to be aligned to the Next General Science Standards and math workbooks. Also necessary are the math coaches.
State aid is projected at \$645,891. RIDE's projected local share for Charters is \$981,980, leaving a shortfall from Charters of \$335,909. Lori Miller noted she used RIDE's projections and then will use the Governor's budget when it is available. The Superintendent reviewed Capital Budget figures for each school and the Administration Building.

Armand Milazzo explained the security upgrades include a software driven program that allows use of the PA system. Administrators and teachers can go into the computer from the classroom and for the police to view cameras. The Chair explained the Budget Subcommittee has recommended spacing out the expense of roofs and rotating vehicles out. She requested a presentation of the vehicles plan at a future school committee meeting. Donabedian reported the Budget Subcommittee has been meeting and established a 2.5% increase overall and will be meeting before the next Budget Workshop.

Tracey Cavanaugh questioned the conference line and the Superintendent explained only administrators are attending out of state conferences, except for a three day conference in Boston where two teachers will attend with Dr. Frey. Staci Rapko-Bruckner asked about the positions Reform Facilitator and Energy Manager. The Superintendent provided a job description for the Reform Facilitator and will provide one for the Energy Manager. She noted how Mr. Fusco has saved millions of dollars. Rapko-Bruckner also thought the Administrative Liaison could be reallocated to a Social Worker. Mr. McNamara commented he needs the administrator, not another social worker. John Carroll asked when the last time a significant amount had been put into resources, such as texts. Superintendent Fortunato replied it had been a while and said even RIDE had advised not jumping at the first company saying they are aligned to the Common Core. The Chair asked the Business Manager to show medical claims details and how they got to the working rate. She also requested details on the negotiation lines.

Public Comment: Alison Gordon, a parent of students at Northern and Lonsdale, expressed concern about the availability of nurses in schools, especially for children with chronic medical issues. She felt nurse teachers were stretched thin with covering for others and teaching health. The Superintendent explained there is a posting on School Spring for substitute nurses. Fred Hoppe stated he is not advocating for any specific position, but we are going into the elementary with mental health issues and need to make sure everyone's needs are being taken care of.

II. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 7:50 PM by Cavanaugh. Seconded by Roll. All in favor. Motion carried 6-0.

JOHN CARROLL, CLERK

DATE