

**OFFICIAL  
March 9, 2015**

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

**DATE:** February 4, 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, Julie Zito

Others Present: Georgia Fortunato, Superintendent; Eric Banville, Mark Gadbois, Kevin McNamara, Armand Milazzo, Lori Miller

Open Session

Right to be Heard - None

**I. Budget Workshop**

- Consideration and Discussion of Proposed 2015-2016 Operating and Capital Budgets  
Chairwoman Donabedian explained that Superintendent Fortunato was giving opening remarks at the Spelling Bee and would be a little late. She reported the Budget Subcommittee was unable to meet after the last budget workshop. The nature of some of the questions that arose at previous subcommittee meetings involved a line that wasn't fully spent last year, but had an increase for next year. She cited conference fees where there is a new principal at Lonsdale who wanted to take advantage of a conference. The Superintendent had gone through the budget line by line to make recommendations. The Chair explained they would review each line and if anyone had questions, to raise them. Mary Anne Roll made a point of order that in the past the Superintendent presented the budget and the role of the school committee was to review that budget and make suggestions. There was the appearance of two budgets now, the Superintendent's budget and an alternative. A budget has to be voted on and sent to the Budget Board. The Chair explained someone could call for a vote on any specific item. Roll noted they hired a Superintendent and charged her with day to day operations, part of which is the creation and management of a budget. She stated if there is not a consensus, she would call for a roll call vote. It was agreed to review the following:

School Committee: Mary Anne Roll thought there should be an adequate amount for conferences, i.e., the National School Board conference in Boston next year, but RIASC provides conferences for the committee members educational credit. It was agreed to reduce that line by \$2,000.

Curriculum: The Chair stated this was questioned because nothing had been expended last year and is now at \$35,000. Miller explained that this is part of teacher mentoring. The District is working with the Northern RI Collaborative and have not received a bill yet.

Business Ops: Donabedian asked about the audit and actuarial portion. The Business Manager explained that was the annual audit and the town goes out to bid every three years, breaking down the cost for the town, school department and water. This is a bid year so an increase was budgeted.

Human Resources: Miller explained there was \$800 remaining in the conference line. There were no questions.

Buildings, Grounds, Transportation – No Questions

Fixed Charges: The Chair explained there are anticipated changes for non-certified. There is no reduction in medical claims. Lori Miller said they are attempting to save four buses but they don't have the routes developed yet for 2015-16.

Technology: The Business Manager stated there are some computers which are seven or eight years old. This also covers the Windows license renewals. Mark Gadbois stated the Chromebooks for staff would cost approximately \$350 each. He also explained BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) for students initially since most students have cell phones. Miller explained there would be a device available for students without an ability to provide their own device.

Student Services – The Chair stated there was no comment on student services, but thought this was regarding the Truant Officer. Roll commented on the need for a residency officer, not for kids bunking school, that could result in a cost savings. Donabedian commented that overcrowding could be caused by non-residency. Central, Lonsdale, Northern, Saylesville, LMS – Miller repeated the conference fees, utilities at each school. The Chair asked for the web based line and Miller explained they are trying something new at the Middle Schools called IXL, a web-based Math software program to bring up math scores. Miller explained that the Superintendent was recommending funding for the ELA and Science curriculum supplies only at half next year and the following year. Miller noted that Curriculum Director Frey knew about the reduction and agreed that funding this purchase over 2 years would not impact the delivery of instruction in these areas.

It was agreed to recess for ten minutes for the arrival of Superintendent Fortunato.

Superintendent: Superintendent Fortunato explained she is still recommending the Communication Consultant and it will be listed as a new position at \$30,000. The actual reduction could be under printing services of \$1,000 and Dues & Fees of \$4,000. She explained she has been on Face Book, she tweets, but she needs assistance in getting out the word on Lincoln Public Schools. John LaFleur stated people have been asking him about the high school versus private school which would support that position. He also noted that in a prior discussion regarding this position, members thought this could be done on a volunteer basis but there has been no discussion since. This will help keep students in house. Fortunato wanted someone to start with upgrading the web site and showed a brochure from Cumberland. John Carroll thought future families would be a target audience. The Superintendent stated she would like to enhance home school communication. Chairwoman Donabedian stated she would like to call this for a vote and while she is opposed to this position, she will go along with the vote. She stated the position of Truant Officer directly impacts kids but the communications position doesn't.

Tracey Cavanaugh stated she voted against it before and would like to see more details. She would like to tap into students' skills. She would like to see a benefit, such as kids coming back from BVP. A member of the public commented that colleges look at information on the web and this may help students.

Motion to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent for a Media Consultant by Zito. Seconded by LaFleur. On a roll call vote, it was VOTED 5-2 TO APPROVE, with Donabedian and Rapko-Bruckner voting against.

Lincoln High School – Superintendent Fortunato noted the Budget Subcommittee recommended a reduction in Conference Workshops of \$3,000 and she recommends \$2,000. The Subcommittee recommended the reduction of \$36,000 for the HS Reform Consultant and she adamantly feels this position is needed. The Chair explained the NEASC line for \$20,000 was questioned because there was no payment. Miller explained she put it in this line, but it was actually spent under salaries. The Superintendent reported she reduced Other Tech Athletic by \$5,000 and agreed with the \$24,000 reduction in Maintenance Rep Furniture, Athletic Fees and Dues reduction of \$5,000, Ice Rink Rental reduction of \$14,000, Water reduction of \$2000, Sewer reduction of \$2,000 and Electricity reduction of \$20,000. The Superintendent reported the reductions total \$74,000. Staci Rapko-Bruckner stated she felt the Reform Consultant duties could be done by other staff members. The Superintendent explained the position is necessary and that Mrs. Tavares works over 160 days and is paid for 90 days. Principal McNamara supported the need for this position. Roll commented on the confidence in the Superintendent's leadership and it becomes a slippery slope for the school committee to get involved in personnel. Julie Zito commented that they should not micro manage and this position would be a huge loss. The Chair reminded the committee that once the budget is voted on, it becomes the School Committee's budget and the Committee will have to support it before the Budget Board. Motion to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent for Lincoln High School reductions by Zito. Seconded by LaFleur.

Motion to amend to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent for total reductions of \$74,000 to the High School Line by Roll. Seconded by Zito. On a roll call vote, it was VOTED 6-1 TO APPROVE the amendment, with Rapko-Bruckner voting against.

On a roll call vote, it was VOTED 6-1 TO APPROVE the amended motion, with Rapko-Bruckner voting against.

## II. Vote to Approve 2015-2016 School Committee Proposed Operating and Capital Budgets

Superintendent Fortunato stated the new budget being requested is \$52,399,407, for an increase of 2.52 percent. Miller stated the number for state aid is an estimate from RIDE and that number may change when the Governor's budget comes out in March. She also noted Medicaid is coming in slower because students are being brought back from out of district placements.

Motion to approve the recommended Superintendent's budget by Zito. Seconded by Carroll. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

Superintendent Fortunato explained that the Town Administrator told them to include the \$619,929 in the Capital Budget. Already in the budget was repairing the heating pipe at the high school for \$40,000 and that will only happen if needed. A new air conditioner in the server room for \$16,429 was already in the budget, as well as the security alarm system for \$13,502. Added was the Ferguson Field reno in the amount of \$250,000 and the Ferguson Field bleachers, press box and concession for \$300,000, bringing the capital request for Lincoln High School to \$606,429. The total Capital Budget request is for \$1,086,260. Cavanaugh questioned the Links System because there are no schools in RI on the system. Armand Milazzo that stated RI Hospital has it set up as do some schools in Connecticut. He and the police representatives plan to go to RI Hospital to see it. The Superintendent stated she is happy that police and fire are at the table, but she recommended removing the \$54,000 for the Links System and they will do more investigation. They are doing the ALICE training this year and Links may be on next year's agenda. The new Capital Budget figure is \$1,032,260.

Motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendation for a Capital Budget of \$1,032,260 by Roll. Seconded by Cavanaugh. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

### III. Community Comment

Budget Board member, Carl Brunetti, stated he was disappointed with the amount of the field and that the concession stand, not part of the original scope, was now being included.

Superintendent Fortunato explained that figure was last year. The Chair explained this was money they thought they had last year and now there is more available. Brunetti said the point is the cost of the project. LaFleur stated they didn't talk about the scope of the project; it was the field.

### IV. Adjourn

Motion to approve adjourning at 8:37 PM by Zito. Seconded by Roll. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

---

JOHN CARROLL, CLERK

---

DATE