

MINUTES OF THE LINCOLN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Thursday, March 10, 2011
Hartwell Building, Lincoln, MA
OPEN SESSION

Present: Jennifer Glass (Chair), Tom Sander (Vice Chair), Al Schmertzler, Tim Christenfeld, Joe Connell (Hanscom Representative), Deb Leister (Hanscom Representative). Also present: Mickey Brandmeyer (Superintendent), Buckner Creel (Administrator for Business and Finance), Stephanie Powers (Administrator of Student Services).

Absent: Jen James, Debbie John (Boston Representative).

I. Greetings and Call to Order

Ms. Glass, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. The meeting is being taped.

II. Chairperson's and Members' Reports

Ms. Glass thanked 6th grade science teacher David Trant for training excited student volunteers to tape Committee meetings.

Ms. Glass noted sadly that Assistant Superintendent Mary Sterling broke her arm while ice skating and has already endured two surgeries, asserting that the Committee will persevere, but things will not be the same without her. All assembled wished her a speedy recovery, and Ms. Powers circulated a card.

Ms. Glass attended Dr. Sharon Hobbs' coffee on February 17; the discussion was about transitions to high school.

Mr. Schmertzler noted the *Lincoln Journal* article about the feasibility study and the SBC's intention to keep the issue in the paper in the weeks leading up to the March 26 Town Meeting. He also went to Waltham to see a sophisticated portable generator that burns trash without exhaust and could generate electricity for the school. The generator would be at the transfer station (not on school property), and the investment payback could be 3-10 years. He will notify OMR, the design architects, about it.

Ms. Leister noted a new data-driven report about strengthening military families and asserted that most Hanscom students are unfamiliar with *Everyday Math* even though the Department of Defense has approved it for use in military schools nationwide.

III. Public Comments

None.

IV. Consent Agenda

None.

V. Time Scheduled Appointments

A. Review Materials for Annual Town Meeting Presentation

Document: Draft, Lincoln Public Schools: Office of the Superintendent, FY 2012 School Budget Presentation

Mr. Brandmeyer noted his discussion with Town Administrator Timothy Higgins about the budget presentation for Town Meeting; he was advised to keep both the budget presentation and School Building Committee update short and concise. They will show photographs of students but will not include audio of students singing in Spanish. Mr. Creel advised against specific government grant projections since these may still decrease.

The Committee edited the presentation draft and included adding percentages on the pie charts and clarifying pages four to six. They advised mentioning off-slide the cooperation of the Lincoln Teachers' Association [LTA] in the contract negotiations.

Mr. Sander arrived at 7:30 pm.

The School Building Committee will present its slides and update and will work on pages eight to ten, especially the section about the feasibility study.

Mr. Brandmeyer said they will continue to revise the presentation and will verify the numbers on the slides and bring it back to the Committee.

B. Facilities Report: Hanscom Middle School Roof

Document: Memorandum from Buckner Creel to Mickey Brandmeyer and School Committee, dated March 7, 2011 RE: Status of Roofs—Hanscom Middle School

Mr. Creel said that the February 3 roof collapse at Donelan's Supermarket from snow and ice led them to hire the services of a structural engineering firm to examine the Lincoln School roof. The firm determined that there was no structural danger, but they recommended removing the snow.

Mr. Creel reviewed his memorandum about the Hanscom roofs, built in the 1970s. The considerable weight of snow on the old roof areas compressed the insulation and the membrane split. One quarter of the gym floor was wet, and the custodians have been mopping up the water.

The roof of the B cluster has been repaired, and the F cluster roofs are almost repaired. They have not yet repaired the gymnasium roof. Unfortunately, as the buildings belong to the federal government, the insurance company will not cover the costs of these emergency repairs. Mr. Brandmeyer noted they are working with Department of Defense Educational Activity [DODEA] to pay for the repairs. There are Hanscom fund reserves that they may be able to tap, and they are working on a solution. They are restoring the buildings to safe conditions and continuing to educate students. Mr. Creel and Mr. Brandmeyer thanked Michael Haines and the custodians for their work.

Ms. Glass thanked them for their work.

C. Lincoln Review Submission

Documents: 1) Draft of Lincoln Review Submission by Jennifer Glass, dated March 2011, Entitled, "Why Now? What Next? How Much?"; 2) Draft of Lincoln Review Submission by Timothy Christenfeld, dated March 10, 2011, Entitled, "Why Now? How? When?"

Ms. Glass noted tomorrow's (March 11) deadline for the *Lincoln Review* submission. Various members suggested changes to Mr. Christenfeld's shorter draft, including articulating the costs of inaction, and the impact of not improving the schools on Lincoln's competitiveness *vis-a-vis* peer communities, and not including any ballpark cost figure since it was premature.

Ms. Glass thanked Mr. Christenfeld for his draft.

Mr. Sander moved, and Ms. Glass seconded, the motion to approve the draft for the *Lincoln Review* as edited by Timothy Christenfeld and subject to additional comments. The Committee voted unanimously to approve Mr. Christenfeld's draft.

VI. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Brandmeyer attended the EDCO meeting today and announced their legislative forum on April 26 at 4 pm at the Bigelow Middle School in Newton about how technology improves learning; he advised attending since it might benefit the potential Lincoln school building project on how best to incorporate technology.

VII. Curriculum

None.

VIII. Policy

None.

IX. Facilities and Financial

A. Warrant Approval

Document: None.

Mr. Creel presented the payroll warrants totaling \$1,199,447.79 and the accounts payable warrants totaling \$413,197.80 for a total of \$1,612,645.59. Mr. Schmertzler reviewed the warrants and commended Mr. Creel for his work. Mr. Sander moved to approve the warrants, with Ms. Glass seconding the motion. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the warrants.

X. Old Business

Document: Letter from Mary Pichetti, Director of Capital Planning, Massachusetts School Building Authority [MSBA] to Mickey Brandmeyer, dated February 28, 2011, RE: Enrollment Projections for the Lincoln School

Mr. Brandmeyer noted that the Town and the MSBA have to determine the student enrollment numbers for the school building project. The MSBA's original enrollment figure was in the high 400s, whereas the school has a current enrollment of 611 students. After discussion with Mr. Brandmeyer, the MSBA agreed to modify its estimate to 600. The School Building Committee [SBC] has signed the letter of design enrollment, and Ms. Glass and the Selectmen will need to also.

Mr. Schmertzler moved, and Mr. Sander seconded, to approve the enrollment projections as presented in the document. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the enrollment projections.

XI. New Business

None.

XII. Approval of Minutes

Document: Draft of School Committee Minutes for November 4, 2010

Ms. Glass moved, and Mr. Sander seconded, the motion to approve the minutes for the meeting of November 4, 2010. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes. They will be posted on the web site.

XIII. Information Enclosures

None.

D. Evaluation of the Superintendent

Documents: Lincoln School Committee Evaluation of Superintendent 2010-2011, Member Comments, Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Teacher Excellence and Professional Development; Leadership and School Culture; Facilities, Operations, Health and Safety; Operations of the School District

Ms. Glass noted that they need to discuss Mr. Brandmeyer's performance in open session and will adjourn to executive session to write the summary and negotiate his contract.

Ms. Glass noted that one of his strengths is meeting many goals. Mr. Sander mentioned that it has been an active year, and overall Mr. Brandmeyer has made strong forward progress on standards-based report cards, common assessments and the achievement gap. One area where he would have liked to see more progress is in planning strategies on differentiated instruction across the broader array of subjects, and another area where Mr. Brandmeyer has not fulfilled what was in the District goals was in not completing the Annual Report on school metrics for the Finance Committee.

Ms. Glass said professional development of teachers has been a clear success. Mr. Schmertzler asked him to continue the challenging task of finding diverse faculty members.

Mr. Schmertzler asked that they expand the amount of civic engagement by having Board and Committee members talk to students about town government. Mr. Christenfeld suggested improving the district's web site for those in the community who do not have children. Ms. Glass said the district's work on Responsive Classroom and Developmental Design does work on civic engagement, and she appreciated his leadership on it. Mr. Connell said that he liked the work on Responsive Classroom. He said the teachers are always well prepared when he meets them, and he praised the Hanscom school culture.

Ms. Glass, Mr. Schmertzler, and Mr. Connell noted Mr. Brandmeyer's great leadership with the MSBA, the Department of Defense, and the G4 towns. She mentioned that he does well with the other Town Boards, and Mr. Schmertzler praised how he has developed trust with the other Town Boards. Mr. Sander mentioned his creative thinking in reaching agreement on a contract with the Lincoln Teachers' Association, in developing the new middle school staffing model, and in his leadership on assembling data on issues like student performance and the achievement gap.

Ms. Glass thanked him for his work and said the district runs well and is moving forward. Mr. Christenfeld said trust and transparency are critical. With the Boston parents, Mr. Christenfeld urged that Mr. Brandmeyer approach the issue differently and make greater efforts to work with all of the

stakeholders before a policy is made. Mr. Schmertzler disagreed and thought the last two meetings with METCO board and staff were very constructive as he put things on the table. Mr. Connell noted that having the meetings on television is good, and the web site is well done.

Each Committee member thanked him for his work.

XIV. Adjournment

On motion by Ms. Glass, seconded by Mr. Sander, the Committee voted unanimously to go into Executive Session for the purpose of writing the Superintendent's yearly evaluation summary and contract. Ms. Glass, yes; Mr. Sander, yes; Mr. Schmertzler, yes; Mr. Christenfeld, yes; Ms. Leister, yes; Mr. Connell, yes. The Committee would be returning to open session. The first open session adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Executive Session

Second Open Session attendees:

Jennifer Glass (Chair), Tom Sander (Vice Chair), Al Schmertzler, Tim Christenfeld, Joe Connell (Hanscom Representative), Deb Leister (Hanscom Representative). Also Present: Mickey Brandmeyer (Superintendent).

Ms. Glass moved, and Mr. Sander seconded, the motion to return to open session. The Committee voted unanimously to return to open session at 10:30 pm.

The Committee discussed the evaluation summary, which will be available.

Mr. Sander moved, and Mr. Schmertzler seconded, the motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 pm. The Committee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah G. Marcotte
Recording Secretary