

MINUTES OF THE LINCOLN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Thursday, January 31, 2008 – Open Session

Present: Julie Dobrow (Chair), Laurie Manos (Vice-Chair), Al Schmertzler, Tom Sander, Louann Robinson (Hanscom Representative) and Sharon Gillespy (Hanscom Representative)

Absent: Sharon Antia

Also present: Mickey Brandmeyer (Superintendent), Mary Sterling (Assistant Superintendent), Buckner Creel (Administrator for Business and Finance)

I. Greetings and Call to Order – 7:06pm

Julie Dobrow called the meeting to order at 7:06pm.

II. Chairperson's and Members' Reports

Julie Dobrow reported that she and Laurie Manos attended the 5th and 6th grade concert at Lincoln, complimenting the music program instructors, directors and the large number of students involved.

Al Schmertzler attended the Governor's presentation to recruit a Secretary of Education. He commented that the Governor spoke clearly and concisely about goals. Mr. Schmertzler added that Foreign Language and online courses were among the goals the Governor supported.

Al Schmertzler also reported attending an EDCO meeting where the topic was districts dealing with teacher contract negotiations.

III. Public Comments

None

IV. Consent Agenda

A gift of \$100.00 from a Hanscom resident was donated to purchase supplies for the Preschool.

On a motion by Julie Dobrow, seconded by Al Schmertzler, the School Committee voted unanimously to accept the donation of \$100.00 for Preschool supplies.

V. Time Scheduled Appointments

A. Progress Report on AED Program in Schools

***The School Committee recognized Maureen Richichi, Lincoln School Nurse, to present.**

****Last October the SC approved the development of an Automated External Defibrillator, or AED, program. Maureen Richichi, Lincoln School Nurse, was present to present the program details to the SC. If the program is approved, the SC will develop a policy, seek funds to purchase the AEDs, and begin the program implementation.***

Maureen Richichi began with an overview of the importance of having AEDs present in the school and covered what it would take, in addition to funding, to implement the program. This included:

- 1.) Placement of AEDs in schools
- 2.) Staff training

Ms. Richichi noted that Dr. Jean Klig-Flomenbaum had offered to serve as medical director to oversee the program. She added that Dr. Klig-Flomenbaum was certified in pediatric care, especially emergency care and is a Lincoln School parent.

Ms. Richichi stated that there would be teams on each campus that were certified in CPR, especially in the area of AEDs. She noted some staff members that hold positions that require CPR certification could be assigned to the AED team (school nurse, physical education teacher, specialists).

Al Schmertzler inquired when this program would be operational. Maureen Richichi replied that it was based on when the funding was received. Mickey Brandmeyer added that it should be done by this fall, noting that it wasn't in this year's budget but was a high priority for any available funds. Al Schmertzler inquired about the costs. Ms. Richichi responded that six units for two campuses would cost about \$10,000.

Tom Sander asked how many teachers needed to be trained. Ms. Richichi responded that it should be as many as possible. She noted that there are 3 staff members at Lincoln and 2 at Hanscom that were already certified, noting that P.E. teachers were CPR certified but that they needed to make sure they are AED certified.

Julie Dobrow questioned if people from the town could use the equipment at functions that may not be school related. Maureen Richichi replied that the use would be limited to location since it would be based on accessibility. She stated that if the function was in a school building such as a town meeting, then it could be used but added if an event occurred on the grounds but the building was closed then the equipment would not be available. She commented that anyone trained to use it should be the one using it but if it was needed and a trained individual was not available that it was simple enough for anyone to use. In other words, everyone should be aware of its availability should it be needed during a function.

Tom Sander inquired about the use of the equipment by someone that is not trained and what the liabilities are. Maureen Richichi responded that the equipment was made to be user friendly and, even if not used correctly, there is no liability.

Buckner Creel questioned if the equipment would be locked up. Maureen Richichi stated that the equipment would not be locked up but suggested placing it near secured areas to avoid any tampering or damage to the equipment.

**B. Recommendation for 2008-2009 Kindergarten Program
(Memorandum: *Full Day Kindergarten Recommendation*)**

The School Committee recognized Stephen McKenna, Lincoln School Principal, to present.

Mickey Brandmeyer introduced the topic of full-day Kindergarten at Lincoln, noting that it was a move to make Lincoln parallel with the Hanscom campus and to allow for more time to address learning standards already in place. He noted that the School Committee wanted to have another discussion on this topic at the next meeting, since it would be held at Lincoln, to allow for public comments and/or feedback. Therefore, the program was not voted on this meeting but deferred until February 14th, at the Lincoln campus.

Stephen McKenna reflected on the past months and the time he had spent obtaining feedback from the teachers and parents. He shared his findings and gave examples of feedback from the parents in a memorandum to the Committee. He noted that the consideration of full day Kindergarten was in response to the teachers' concerns about the time available to deliver the full curriculum in a "developmentally appropriate way." He stated that the teachers had requested additional time to allow for a more developmentally appropriate method of working with the students. Mr. McKenna indicated that the additional time was not to cover more work but to give greater time to extend learning and provide for dramatic play for Kindergarteners and reach out to individual students, especially "at-risk" students.

Mr. McKenna reported attending a conference for principals, at which it was reported, that the achievement gap starts before children reach the age of 5. He discussed the surveys that were distributed to parents of current and incoming Kindergarten students. He added that many neighboring communities' full-day Kindergarten programs were reviewed; noting that Weston did a web-based review of literature about full-day Kindergarten and found, that in general, students that attended full-day Kindergarten benefited from the program. Mr. McKenna reported that out of the 168 publications they looked at, less than 5% stated the full-day Kindergarten had any negative impact on the students and that the great majority of studies had found academic and social benefits for children who attended full-day programs.

Mr. McKenna acknowledged the goals for the Lincoln School includes exceeding the goals and standards. He noted that the recommendation aligns with the School Committee's focus on the achievement gap.

Mr. McKenna discussed the conversations he had with the current Kindergarten staff and said that, while the Kindergarten teachers can understand the concerns of some parents, they feel the current model forces teachers to cram too much into too short a time. He shared that the Hanscom Kindergarten staff noted that the slower pace worked well for the students.

Surveys results, as of the date of this meeting, are as follows:

61 respondents

- 23% favor current model, 65.6% support full day
- Start date – 18% want it in October, 18% for September, 8.2% for January.

Al Schmertzler questioned how the Governor's interest in full-day Kindergarten would affect implementing, or not implementing, this program. Stephen McKenna acknowledged that the Governor is looking to establish full-day Kindergarten statewide. Stephen McKenna noted that some parents were concerned about children being tired in a full-day program. He noted that the proposed additional hours are just 4 ½ hours a week, noting that this adds up to about 5 additional weeks of instructional time over the course of a school year.

Tom Sander questioned if part of the additional 4 ½ hours would be lunch and recess. Stephen McKenna responded that it was but noted that this, along with other times, allows for social learning.

Laurie Manos thanked Stephen McKenna for the thoughtful analysis and how respectful he was of the parents and community. She asked for clarification on the 61% response rate. Stephen McKenna noted that it reflected about 60 students in Kindergarten. He stated that the incoming Kindergarten parents got the survey mailed but the '09 and '10 incoming classes received surveys given out by the preschool directors so he was unsure how well it was distributed.

Sharon Gillespy asked Mr. McKenna is he was recommending a particular start date. He replied that he was suggesting September.

Julie Dobrow inquired if it was being explained that the additional 4 ½ hours would not used not be used to add additional things to the Kindergarten curriculum but rather to relax the remainder of the day and give the teachers a chance to do the same curriculum but with time to deliver it more effectively. Stephen McKenna replied yes and noted that the teachers have talked about it and that he has spoken with the teachers to make sure it was not just his vision but theirs, too.

Mary Sterling added a curriculum and learning perspective noting that the expectations for the Kindergarten and first-grade students have increased since she was principal 15 years ago. She added that increased expectations for learning combined with some struggling students demand a program that allows for more time for at-risk students to get more individual care and tailored lessons to help them.

Al Schmertzler asked that if some children who cannot participate in a full day program whether they would have to attend. Stephen McKenna replied that each child's individual needs have to be evaluated but that it is the district's expectation that all children follow the same full-day Kindergarten schedule. Mr. Schmertzler asked what would happen if the full-day Kindergarten was mandated by the state. Mr. McKenna stated that the district would comply with state mandates but at this full-day Kindergarten, which is not a mandated program, districts are required to offer a Kindergarten for a minimum of 450 hours but students are not required to attend. He acknowledged there could be an open discussion for further clarification on that.

Louann Robinson asked if there would be additional time for specials. Stephen McKenna replied that there would be one special added to allow for the allotted planning in the teacher's contract, probably science-related. Louann Robinson asked if the parents would be given some Pre-K information to know how much the students already need to know before the start of Kindergarten. Mr. McKenna replied that there was an extensive amount given out now but agreed that more information could be useful.

Ms. Manos asked about the costs for the full-day K. Mickey Brandmeyer replied that there was \$10,000 in the preferred budget and there was also the Kindergarten grant, noting that the district has been able to enhance materials in past so there would not be an additional cost for that. Ms. Manos asked if \$17,000 was consistent with the yearly cost. Mr. Brandmeyer replied that it was a good estimate.

Laurie Manos questioned what would happen to the Kindergarten teachers that helped the students in other classes in the afternoon. Mickey Brandmeyer responded that it was a tradeoff and that their responsibilities would be reassigned to others. Ms. Manos asked if there was a concern about that. Stephen McKenna acknowledged that the first grade would be slightly affected more than the second, especially in reading, but commented that there were other resources in place to help with reading, and that the benefits of full-day Kindergarten outweighed that.

Julie Dobrow commented that Hanscom has had full-day K for ten years. Sharon Gillespy added that it did not negatively affect her son.

Staci Montori, a mother and community member, felt that her 2nd grader benefited from having the extra time at home so she wanted there to be accommodations made for parents that feel the same way. She added that some kids have been part-time in school so to go to a full-K is challenging for them.

Julie Dobrow acknowledged the public comment, adding that the vote will be done at the next meeting at the Lincoln campus where parents and community member can attend.

VII. Curriculum

A. Report on Options For Expansion of World Language Program

(Report: *Additional Information on Elementary Foreign Language Program Possibilities*)

Mary Sterling recapped the report that she and Karena Hansen presented on January 3, 2008 that proposed foreign language in 4th, 5th, and 6th grades. The SC members received a copy of the report, *Additional Information on elementary Foreign*

Language Program Possibilities, prior to the meeting. This report addressed many of the questions that were asked at the January 3, 2008 meeting.

Sharon Gillespy questioned if this program was to be implemented in one year or two. Mary Sterling replied it would take two years to implement the complete program. Ms. Gillespy then asked why there was an option for French at Lincoln but not at Hanscom. Karena Hansen stated that French was at Hanscom but was being phased out because there were only 3 – 4 students interested.

Laurie Manos asked what the total cost was. Mary Sterling responded that it depended on the campus since Hanscom already had a Foreign Language program. Karena Hansen added that for the first time the students are being introduced to the language, there would be more frequent visits in a week but smaller time increments and noted there needed to be curriculum developed. She added that there were a lot of materials available but not one curriculum to adopt, noting that the ideal one would have to be developed. She acknowledged that assessment and evaluation would also have to be developed and incorporated.

Mary Sterling stated that they wanted to make sure that the cultural connections were made to the language that was being taught. She added that was why it was important for the classroom teacher to be present in the foreign language class to allow for more integration into the regular classroom.

Julie Dobrow asked for feedback from the teachers, especially fourth grade, on how this would fit into what they were doing now. Stephen McKenna noted that after the proposal was presented, it was discussed with the teachers and they were very supportive and saw the benefit of it, especially how it would tie into the Social Studies curriculum (i.e. – study of Mexico). Karena Hansen reiterated that a solid program for an instructor was needed to keep it in place, which was the only concern teachers had.

Mary Sterling acknowledged that some people had asked if the special education students would be included and the answer was yes unless there was a specific reason that the student would not be able to learn the language.

Tom Sander asked if it would have an effect on teacher planning time if the foreign language teacher was coming into the classroom. Mary Sterling responded that the foreign language would be during instructional time, not planning time.

Tom Sander noted that there seemed to be an estimate of almost \$11,000 for both campuses in the first year and questioned what the estimate was for the second year. Mary Sterling replied that the materials' cost of \$10,000 was the one-time cost to start up. She noted that materials would be added but that the investment cost would be minimal (only a few thousand which she felt was very manageable).

Tom Sander asked about the staffing costs. Mickey Brandmeyer replied it was mostly going to be the cost of professional development during the summer. He added that Hanscom did not have a need for additional staffing and that Lincoln's staffing costs were already built into the budget. He noted that there could be some increase, maybe a .2 position, for the second year given the time with the foreign language teacher may be increased in grade 5.

Mary Sterling commented that with any program development there would be a cost. She felt it was feasible and very manageable. She also reiterated that the students would not be moved out of class since the teacher would be coming in. Stephen McKenna added to that stating that there would be an hour taken out of the week's instructional time.

Laurie Manos expressed concern for time being taken away from other instructional time given the MCAS scores for Math in fourth grade was "disappointing" and felt that the fourth grade couldn't afford to lose any of their time. Stephen McKenna replied that in a given day, he has shown a schedule that allowed 90 minutes for math and 120 minutes for English and that there was still time for the Foreign Language instruction. He noted that he felt a concern about rolling this program out next year with the new math program being implemented since the new program may need more time, given it was new and covered skills more in depth. Mary Sterling concurred.

Julie Dobrow felt that there needed to be a focus on when it should be implemented. Mary Sterling commented on what it would take for the proposed Foreign Language program to be implemented in a thoughtful and structured way:

1. Visit other successful elementary programs and observe them
2. Ask the program directors and teachers about the programs
3. Write a curriculum for it
4. Buy and develop materials, which would involve research
5. Figure out scheduling and logistics
6. Recruit a quality teacher and provide professional development
7. Meet with teachers to make the connections of how it will be incorporated (collaboration)

8. Assessment and evaluation of the program and curriculum

Sharon Gillespy asked if there would be time built into the teacher's schedule to collaborate with the foreign language teacher. Karena Hansen replied that was one of the issues, especially if there was only a part-time foreign language position where the teacher was in and out of the classroom. Sharon Gillespy asked if there was way to involve the foreign language in the teacher's meetings (grade level) so that the foreign language teacher knew the curriculum. Mary Sterling replied that was a goal and Karena Hansen added that they would have to look at the scheduling.

Al Schmeitzler inquired about when this would happen. Mary Sterling replied that it was too short of a window to incorporate the program in September. She acknowledged that it was difficult give all this positive input for the program and then ask for it to be put off until next year but felt that Ms. Hansen would not have the time to implement this effectively and still continue the work she was doing in other areas. Tom Sander asked if it could be rolled out in January. Mickey Brandmeyer replied that staffing would become an issue.

Julie Dobrow questioned if this might qualify for a Lincoln Schools Foundation grant given all the hiring and significant amount of planning and training. Mary Sterling responded that it was a great idea from the budgetary point of view. Laurie Manos asked if there could even be a grant for buying consulting time to create the curriculum. Mickey Brandmeyer agreed that it could. Karena Hansen stated that there were other technology related LSF grants that she was already working on.

Julie Dobrow questioned how a '09 rollout would affect this FY Budget. Mickey Brandmeyer replied that it would just leave extra money for the foreign language program.

Stephen McKenna inquired if there was a mid-year rollout, the FTE could be hired in September to create and develop the program and then the curriculum or instruction be implemented in January.

Mary Sterling stated that there needed to be more time spent on this, especially given the new idea by Mr. McKenna, before the program was voted on. She suggested that the program only offer Spanish for the initial grades and the School Committee all agreed.

Al Schmeitzler inquired about integrating other languages into the program, such as Chinese. Karena Hansen replied that the limitation with the Asian languages was due to L-S not offering it therefore the choice would end in the 8th grade.

Mickey Brandmeyer requested a timeline for the finalization of the proposed program given there needed to be time for recruiting, applications, and the hiring process for a quality teacher to be hired. He added the need for an early budget decision for the position if it was to be implemented.

VIII. Policy

A. Discussion of Revised Policy on Commercialism and Advertising

(Documents: Minutes from the December 12th School Committee Meeting by the Advertising Policy Subcommittee, Revision by Julie Dobrow and Tom Sander, Advertising and Commercialism – Original and Draft Revision, email – Advertising Policy Discussion, Letter – Ellie Goldberg; Massachusetts PTA, Letter – Kathy Clark; President Lincoln PTA and Larissa Cattles; President Hanscom PTO, Impact of Elimination of Fundraising Activities)

***Recap: In April 2007, the SC adopted its Advertising and Commercialism policy but in the fall, questions arose from the impact the policy had on the PTA fund-raising efforts. Since the initial discussions, proposed revisions have been made to make the details of the policy less subjective to avoid any misinterpretation.**

Julie Dobrow complimented the hard work of the PTA and PTO and noted that they, along with Laurie Manos, had drafted a change to the policy since they felt that it restricted them as school organizations. She added that Tom Sander and she thought that simply exempting the PTA and PTO from the policy did not make sense. She noted that the draft by Tom Sander aimed to strike a balance treating the PTO and PTA as responsible partners who perform a vital role in our schools in fundraising but requiring them to make reasonable accommodations to reduce the advertising footprint of fundraising activities.

Kathy Clark inquired about the Innisbrook Fundraiser and asked if the School Committee had a problem with that fundraising. Tom Sander responded there was not a problem with Innisbrook or any other particular fund raising but rather the School Committee felt that was a need to provide the guidelines for doing the fund-raising that protect the children from excessive advertising.

Julie Dobrow stated that the revision proposed by her and Mr. Sander actually allowed for greater oversight on the part of the

PTA and PTO. She added that there were many parents that were very passionate about not having so much commercialism in the schools.

Laurie Manos commented that everyone needed to remember that the School Committee had no jurisdiction over the PTA and PTO and many parents felt that the School Committee was trying to tell the parents how to do their job. She added that the paragraph is confusing and wanted to know if the PTA and PTO could still go about their business or was the School Committee just adding that they wanted the parents to be educated about commercialism.

Tom Sander commented that while the School Committee did not have jurisdiction over the PTA and PTO, that it was responsible for everything that happened in the schools.

Kathy Clark acknowledged that the PTA always wanted to work with the school and they were not trying to disregard the School Committee. Shing Hsieh added that the language in the paragraph raises the bar for the PTA and PTO fundraising.

Al Schmertzler asked the PTA and PTO attendees how they would suggest it be reworded. He added that he felt the parents and the administrators all had the same ideas about what the children should be exposed to, therefore, the new revision was unnecessary, adding that there should be some trust that the PTA and PTO will do what is in the best interest of the child.

Laurie Manos suggested that the first sentence be kept with the added notation that the SC hoped that the PTA and PTO would support the intent of this policy; that this would be feasible because it acknowledges that the School Committee doesn't have jurisdiction over the fund-raising by the organizations.

Tom Sander commented that the School Committee was not saying how to fundraise if they do it off of school grounds but affirmed that it definitely was the responsibility of the School Committee was to establish policies that govern what can take place on the school grounds. Louann Robinson added that the PTA and PTO are linked to the Lincoln or Hanscom campus. She stated that it was in the best interest of the School Committee to have some guidelines since the group makeup of these organizations would change over the years and there would be too much room for personal interpretation of the fundraising etiquette based on commercialism and advertising. Sharon Gillespy concurred, stating she supported the newer wording so that anyone coming in would not be unaware, especially for the Hanscom campus where there was so much turnover.

Mickey Brandmeyer commented that the School Committee adopted the policy before this year's Innisbrook fundraiser which is why the question arose as to whether this triggered the concern. He added that the School Committee should not exclude teacher and student organizations. He felt that there was a need to either state the policy and implement it or do away with the policy if there wasn't a problem to begin with.

Al Schmertzler stated he remembered the parents being more passionate about not having advertising. Laurie Manos added that there were a number of people that feel strongly about it but don't feel it was a real problem.

Mark Kaufman asked what the expectations of the school were with regard to the policy. He questioned if advertising had to be removed from magazines that the school received or were they not use the magazines. He felt that it should be in the trust of the principals, PTA and PTO to reduce the amount of advertising. Laurie Manos responded that the policy was to protect the children with any personnel, not just the ones around now.

Tom Sander stated that with the new revision that changed the language from "teacher and/or student organizations" to "Hanscom PTO and Lincoln PTA", it specifically covered the organizations affected, noting that it pertains to things they do on school grounds. Mickey Brandmeyer commented that one concern with the Innisbrook fundraiser was that the students were doing most of the advertising, not the parents. Kathy Clark responded that the fundraiser only puts the work on the students if the parents choose for them to. Mr. Brandmeyer replied that it was sent home with the students, that they received the information first. Laurie Manos added that the students hear the information, take the information home, and then they push to do it for the prizes.

Julie Dobrow stated that since she and Mr. Sander had presented a revision to the policy, this could be considered a first reading and they would vote on it at a subsequent meeting.

V. Time Scheduled Appointments

C. Mid-Year Report on District Goals and Work plans

(Report: *District Goals 2007 and Beyond*)

****Recap: Last June, the SC approved the district goals for the 2007-2008 school year. During the fall, the facilitator of each goal developed and submitted a work plan, known as "the district's work plan". A status report was discussed at this meeting.***

Mickey Brandmeyer acknowledged where there are successes and where areas need more work. He reported that the administration was pretty much on target and made comments regarding each section of the report. All the reports notate the goals and the current actions.

Julie Dobrow stated that she currently has a child in middle school and that she sees some of the same engagement problems that have always been there. Mickey Brandmeyer noted that they were looking at the achievement gap and high achieving students to address the disengagement issues. He noted that some of the things that would be successful would be to give the students different outlets to get excited about in school. Ms. Dobrow requested some reassurance given to parents to ensure them that this was getting addressed. Laurie Manos added that in the last week there had been three parents that had spoken with her about lack of engagement within the school, homework in the school, and the grading being punitive.

Tom Sander requested feedback with regard to the Responsive Classroom Training questioning how well the training was going and the effectiveness. He noted that while he knows there has been a lot on the administration's plate, he feels frustrated by lack of progress on the civic engagement topic and feels that the Administration doesn't really have a plan on how to move forward on this. Mickey Brandmeyer and Mary Sterling agreed with Ms. Sterling adding that she felt the civic engagement needed to be more defined. Julie Dobrow commented that it was something that could be defined and interpreted differently by different people. Mickey Brandmeyer agreed to have a workshop summer to gain clarity among the School Committee and Administration regarding civic engagement and agree on more concrete goals here.

VI. Superintendent's Report

None

VII – Curriculum

Mary Sterling reported attending the Brooks Concert and commented on the improvement of the music program, noting that the emphasis that was in the 4th and 5th grades showed throughout the higher grades.

IX. Facilities and Financial

A. Warrant Approval

On a motion by Laurie Manos, seconded by Julie Dobrow, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the warrants in the amount of **\$1,520,205.94**.

B. Award Transportation Contract

(Report: Recommendation for Contract Award – Bus Transportation Services 2008-2011)

Buck Creel summarized the process for the bus transportation contract selection. He noted that even the companies that had corresponded with him but did not submit a bid wanted to be considered in the future. He felt Lincoln got a competitive price on the bus contract.

Mickey Brandmeyer requested the School Committee discuss about how they wanted to include video cameras in two buses to look at safety issues. He acknowledged that there wasn't enough funding to put cameras in all the buses but noted that there was a way to mount the cameras to allow the cameras to be moved to other buses.

Buck Creel commented that there could be a camera in all the buses although the recording device would be very few because those were a big expense.

Julie Dobrow commented that she wanted the School Committee to talk with other communities and see if the cameras worked, how the system works, how effective they were, etc. Mickey Brandmeyer felt that the results were only helpful if the School Committee inquired about how many problems were happening before the cameras were installed.

Louann Robinson questioned if the cameras could be seen. Buck Creel replied that they were domes that had 4 cameras in them, so they were not an obvious camera.

On a motion by Al Schmertzler, seconded by Laurie Manos, the School Committee unanimously voted to award the Doherty's Garage, Inc. the transportation contract for the period of three years.

C. Review RFP Process for Lease of POD C

***Recap: The current lease for POD C expires on June 30, 2008. The memo discussed outlines some considerations for the re-competition, as well as proposing several actions for the SC to consider at its February 14, 2008 meeting.**

Buck Creel reported that for more than 12 years, POD C had been leased to the Lincoln Extended After-School Program. He noted that the document states what is requested of the School Committee before the lease could be up for proposals.

Al Schmertzler questioned how close the \$20,900 lease cost was to covering certain maintenance expenses associated with POD C. Buck Creel replied that he would get that together for the next discussion but did not have it available now given it was the first reading. He added that the minor maintenance costs had not been that expensive over the past few months. Al Schmertzler commented that it all had to be to the SC standards. Mickey Brandmeyer noted that the school budget could not be subsidizing programs.

Laurie Manos asked about the bidding and if it had to be for an after-school program. Buck Creel replied that this was a decision for the School Committee but that the LEAP program, which currently leases the space, does provide a valuable service to the community. Laurie Manos wanted clarification that the space could be bid on. Mickey Brandmeyer replied that it could; that it was designated for after-school programs.

Tom Sander agreed that the School Committee had to cover the costs with the proposed rent, or lease, but expressed desire if the bidding was close, that they go with the existing program since parents and students are very happy with this and change was stressful to them. Buck Creel noted he could consider how this could be interpreted in the proposed document. Buck Creel replied that this was for a proposal, not necessarily a bid, adding that the proposals were scored based on different things and prior service could be considered.

X. Old Business

A. Vote on FY'09 Preferred Budget

Mickey Brandmeyer requested a total amount to be voted on for the FY'09 Preferred Budget even though the amounts and where they could go may vary slightly but could be determined by the School Committee at a later date, if needed. He reviewed some examples such as if the Full-Day Kindergarten and/or the Foreign Language Program were not implemented; he noted that the money left over if these programs were not implemented wouldn't be used to implement new initiatives but to restore funding cuts.

Tom Sander questioned that if either or both of those programs were implemented in the FY'10, would the cost be the same. Mickey Brandmeyer responded that it would be a close estimate.

On a motion by Tom Sander, seconded by Laurie Manos, the School Committee unanimously voted to approve the FY'09 Preferred Budget.

XI. New Business

None

XII. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Julie Dobrow, seconded by Al Schmertzler, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the December 6, 2007 minutes.

XII. Information Enclosures

All were disbursed at the beginning and throughout the course of the meeting.

XIV. Adjournment –

On motion by Julie Dobrow, seconded by Al Schmertzler, the School Committee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Christy Waters, School Committee Recording Secretary