

MINUTES OF THE LINCOLN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
 Thursday, November 4, 2010
 Hartwell Building, Lincoln, MA
 OPEN SESSION

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

I. Greetings and Call to Order

Ms. Glass, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Tonight's meeting is being taped; the meetings will be cablecast in the very near future.

II. Chairperson's and Members' Reports

Mr. Schmertzler reported that the Capital Planning Committee [CPC] is not planning to fund the asbestos abatement and the ventilator removal. He has asked them to reconsider, offering up the \$25,000 in class maintenance funding since he believes that both projects are important.

Ms. John arrived at 7:10 pm.

Ms. Glass reported that an interactive State of the Town meeting will be held on Saturday, November 6 from 9:30 to 12:30. The MSBA feasibility study and the Town Hall feasibility study will be discussed; the agenda is posted on the Town's web site.

III. Public Comments

None.

IV. Consent Agenda

A. Accept Gift

Documents: 1) Memorandum from Stephen McKenna, Lincoln K-4 Principal, to School Committee and Mr. Brandmeyer, dated November 4, 2010 RE: PTA Donation to new Teacher Patricia Desmarais to set up new 3rd grade classroom, 2) Memorandum from Stephen McKenna, Lincoln K-4 Principal, Sharon Hobbs, Lincoln 5-8 Principal, to School Committee and Mr. Brandmeyer, dated November 4, 2010 RE: The Pehl Family's Donation to purchase spare clothing for Health Unit

Ms. Glass moved, and Mr. Schmertzler seconded, the motion to accept the donations totaling \$300 for the setup of Ms. Desmarais' 3rd grade classroom and for the Health Unit to purchase spare clothing. The Committee voted unanimously to accept the gifts.

Mr. Brandmeyer will send thank you letters when he returns.

V. Time Scheduled Appointments

A. 2010 MCAS: Results and Interpretation

Document: Memorandum from Mary Sterling to School Committee, dated October 26, 2010 RE: MCAS 2010: Results and Interpretation, slide presentation

Ms. Sterling referred to the first part of the MCAS report given to the Committee on September 30 and noted that this report emphasizes what they learned from the MCAS results and what they are doing about these results. She thanked Suzette Brydie for her assistance and also thanked Terry Green, Fred Lipton, Ellen Metzger, and Judy Merra for their analysis of the results in their subjects.

The District has developed individual learning plans for students who scored Needs Improvement or Warning in English Language Arts and/or Mathematics using MCAS data, local assessments, and classroom observations. An analysis of the strands shows that students do not score as well on composition and open response questions as they do with multiple choice questions, which is the case statewide. This year's writing initiative will strengthen student skills across all academic subjects. In science, the recent restructured science curriculum will be tweaked to refresh scientific concepts each year.

Ms. Randy Davis and Mr. Erich Ledebuhr, Hanscom Primary and Middle Schools' Principals, noted how student turnover makes it harder to meet Adequate Yearly Progress [AYP] because newly arriving students have different and sometimes inadequate preparation. Mr. Ledebuhr noted that in the 6th to 8th grades, 30 new students arrived, and 65% of them needed some type of special intervention. Ms. Davis noted that Massachusetts' adoption of the Common Core standards will help military families arriving from different military schools. They believe that looking at growth percentiles provide a more helpful view of Hanscom's progress, given their student turnover.

Mr. Steve McKenna, Lincoln K-4 Principal, and Dr. Sharon Hobbs, Lincoln 5-8 Principal, said the literacy specialists are identifying the supports that can help students. In 3rd grade, they are using 2-3 week periods of time to set smart goals, such as working on writing organization, and students are receiving short one-on-one writing conferences. Middle school students are working on the evidence to support their topic sentences. They do have some after-school targeted interventions for those students who need it.

Ms. Glass thanked them for their time, thought, and innovation.

B. Report on New / Revised Programs

1. Elementary Science

Document: Memorandum from Mary Sterling to School Committee, dated October 27, 2010 RE: Science Enrichment Program

Ms. Terry Green, Science Specialist, thanked the Committee for its vision in expanding science at the Hanscom Primary School, which she said has really excited students with topics such as soil sampling. Ms. Sterling said that the value of mistakes in science projects helps students to solve problems. She thanked Ms. Green for her leadership on these efforts, and Ms. Randy Davis, Hanscom Primary School Principal, said they love to watch Ms. Green's work.

Ms. Glass thanked her for her work.

2. Grade 3 Spanish

Documents: 1) Memorandum from Mary Sterling and Karena Hansen to School Committee, dated October 25, 2010 RE: Progress Report on the FLES Program; 2) PowerPoint presentation of students in Spanish class

Ms. Karena Hansen, Curriculum Leader for Foreign Language, presented a report on teaching Spanish on both campuses. She thanked Mark McDonough for converting their videos for the presentation and the Committee for the language program. Third grade teachers are excited to use Spanish, and parents and students have commented positively about the three 20-minute sessions each week. She reported that students are uninhibited about pronunciation, and have eagerly taken to learning Spanish, partly through song. In 4th grade, the Spanish curriculum is integrated into social studies' focus on Mexico and the cultures. They celebrated El Día de Los Muertos [The Day of the Dead] on November 1. In 5th grade, students have 30 minutes, and are diving into writing and the language's history.

In 6th grade, Lincoln students choose Spanish or French, but Lincoln's French teachers report faster progress now from students switching to French from their familiarity with a Romance language. Once students are in 7th and 8th grade, the language is taught five days a week as an academic subject.

Ms. Hansen noted that a once a week program for a longer period is not as effective as their three times a week for shorter periods.

Ms. Glass and Mr. Sander thanked Ms. Hansen for her leadership in designing the program which has brought Spanish into their homes.

3. Preschool at Hanscom

Document: Memorandum from Lynn Fagan, undated, RE: Lincoln Preschool Program

Ms. Powers stated that the public preschool is required by law to provide services in the most integrated fashion for students with special education needs. It has been very effective and builds confidence in these students.

Ms. Lynn Fagan thanked the Committee for their support. They have four classrooms at Lincoln and two classrooms at Hanscom with a total enrollment of 104 students. Students who need more specialized services are accommodated on the Lincoln campus. Each campus meets a variety of

scheduling needs, offering different hours and days; the Hanscom campus holds a shorter day. They have waiting lists.

The program focuses on academics and students' social and emotional development. They teach students to resolve conflicts and to wait in line. Student learning outcomes are published and aligned with kindergarten programs. There may be potential to expand the Hanscom campus to full-day.

Ms. Glass, Mr. Sander, and Mr. Connell thanked her for their exciting work.

VI. Superintendent's Report

None.

VII. Curriculum

None.

VIII. Policy

None.

IX. Facilities and Financial

Document: None.

There were no warrants.

Document: Information Sheet on the Feasibility Study for Lincoln School, dated November 2010

Mr. Creel indicated that the information sheet on the Lincoln School Feasibility Study will be available at Saturday's State of the Town meeting. The sheet highlights the places where community feedback and involvement are needed.

Update on Hanscom Middle School project

Document: None.

Mr. Creel said they are awaiting Congressional approval and next steps on the Hanscom Middle School building project. Hanscom parents will have less input into the project; their building envelope is more defined, and the process differs from the Lincoln school process. February 2011 is planned for the design charrette and community input. Mr. Connell mentioned that parents seek the most school for the money and are excited about the process.

X. Old Business

Documents: None.

Ms. Glass mentioned that the Town and the schools are investigating whether having a shared facilities manager for Town and school buildings would save money and make sense. Mr. Schmertzler noted that the CPC would likely favor the idea. This topic will be pursued as part of the budget process.

XI. New Business

None.

XII. Approval of Minutes

Documents: 1) Draft of Minutes for School Committee Meeting of July 8, 2010; 2) Draft of Minutes for School Committee Meeting of July 21, 2010.

Ms. Glass moved, and Mr. Schmertzler seconded, the motion to approve the minutes of the meetings of July 8 and July 21, 2010. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

XIII. Information Enclosures

None.

XIV. Adjournment

On motion by Ms. Glass, seconded by Mr. Schmertzler, the Committee voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah G. Marcotte
Recording Secretary