

MINUTES OF THE LINCOLN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Tuesday, July 14, 2009 @ 8:00 a.m.
Hartwell Building
OPEN SESSION

Present: Julie Dobrow (Chair), Jennifer Glass, Al Schmertzler and Tom Sander (Vice Chair)
Also present: Mickey Brandmeyer (Superintendent), Stephanie Powers (Administrator for Student Services) and Buckner Creel (Administrator for Business and Finance)
Absent: Rob Orgel

I. Greetings and Call to Order

Ms. Dobrow called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

II. Chairperson's and Members' Reports

Julie Dobrow acknowledge both the Lincoln and Hanscom Grade 8 graduations.

Ms. Dobrow announced that Cynthia Nunes-Taijeron has had to resign her position as Hanscom Representative.

III. Public Comments

Sharon Antia, parent and former School Committee member, read a petition from parents sharing their concerns about the changes to the course schedule at the Lincoln middle school.

Julie Dobrow thanked her for coming this morning and representing a group of middle school parents.

Mickey Brandmeyer spoke briefly to the issues raised in the petition and recommended that Ms. Antia meet with Sharon Hobbs to speak with her about the specific issues raised. He also stated that more information regarding the schedule and program changes will be on the agenda for the first School Committee meeting in September.

IV. Consent Agenda

A. Establishment of Computer Loan Program

Julie Dobrow pulled this item from the consent agenda asking for more information on the program.

Mickey Brandmeyer said that since the Lincoln Public Schools has recently completed an acquisition program to replace desktop computers in classroom, computer labs and administrative offices, he is requesting that the School Committee authorize the Superintendent to establish a loaner program with available computers to students whose families may not be able to afford computer hardware and software. This opportunity will provide technology access that can make a difference in a student's academic achievement.

On a motion by Julie Dobrow, seconded by Al Schmertzler the School Committee voted unanimously to establish a computer loan program at the Lincoln Public Schools.

B. Accept Gifts from Lincoln Land Conservation Trust

On a motion by Ms. Dobrow seconded by Mr. Schmertzler the School Committee voted unanimously to accept a donation up to \$3,000.00 from the Lincoln Land Conservation Trust to fund professional development workshops for teachers K-5 to enhance the existing science curriculum with an ecological focus.

C, Accept Gift for Betty Bjork Fund

On a motion by Ms. Dobrow seconded by Mr. Schmertzler the School Committee voted unanimously to accept the donation of \$500.00 to the Betty Bjork Professional Development Fund.

D. Accept Gift of Books

On a motion by Ms. Dobrow, seconded by Mr. Schmertzler the School Committee voted unanimously to accept the donation of books valued at \$3,200.00 to the Hanscom Primary School.

V. Time Scheduled Appointments

A. Assessment Plan for English as a Second Language Program

Stephanie Powers, Administrator for Student Services, presented a report on the district's ESL Assessment Plan. The teachers of the English as a Second Language program (ESL) and Dr. Sterling have focused their attention this year in looking at the individual progress of that population and have developed an assessment plan, in partnership with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, to track individual student progress and intervention when needed.

B. Discussion of RFP for Lease of Hartwell Classroom space

Ms. Dobrow commented that the School Committee has heard and listened to a significant amount of feedback in regards to the proposed RFP for the Hartwell building. The School Committee asked the Administration to propose ideas and to address some of the helpful suggestions that were heard.

Mr. Brandmeyer summarized adjustments made in the RFP since the last review of the draft document and recommended the current form of the RFP that will be used and is responsive to the interests expressed.

Julie Dobrow spoke to the recent request from the Magic Garden Board to consider a 2 year extension to their current lease. Mickey reviewed recent conversations had with both the School Department and Town legal counsels in regards to this request.

The School Committee proposed developing mutual acceptable terms for a one year occupancy extension for Magic Garden from September 1, 2010 to August 31, 2011. This would give an opportunity to work with Magic Garden as School Committee considers next steps in going forward.

Sarah Cannon Holden from the Board of Selectmen suggested that a committee of interested parties, i.e. representatives from School Committee, Magic Garden, Selectmen and perhaps Finance Committee, get together to do some fact finding to come to a mutual understanding between School Committee and Magic Garden. She offered to facilitate these meetings if that would be helpful and the various parties agree.

The School Committee responded to comments and questions from the audience.

Ms. Dobrow moved to extend Magic Garden's term of occupancy for one additional year through August 31, 2011 at terms to be mutually agreed upon by Magic Garden and School Committee over the next 3-4 weeks. Mr. Sander seconded. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Ms. Dobrow moved that the School Committee convene a working group that will be composed of representatives from the School Committee, the School Administration, Magic Garden, as well as representation from the Board of Selectmen, the Finance Committee and the Town Administrator to review options beyond the term of occupancy and that this process begin in the fall and conclude by the end of the calendar year. Mr. Sander seconded. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the motion.

VI. Superintendent's Report

None

VII. Curriculum

None

VIII. Policy

None

IX. Facilities and Financial

A. Warrant Approval

Mr. Creel presented the payroll warrants totaling \$1,013,048.18 and the accounts payable warrants totaling \$655,040.63 for a total of \$2,511,802.79. Mr. Schmertzler reviewed the warrants. Mr. Schmertzler moved to approve the warrants, with Tom Sanders seconding the motion. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the warrants.

B. FY08 and FY09 Budgets: Release of Fund Balances

Mr. Creel recommended that the School Committee authorize him to release the following fund balances in the FY2008 Budgets:

- \$1,444.51 in the Lincoln operating budget released to the Lincoln Town General Fund Free Cash
- \$3,765.78 in the Hanscom operating budget transferred to the Hanscom General Reserve.

Mr. Creel recommended that the School Committee authorize him to release the following fund balances in the FY2009 Capital Warrant:

- \$9,575.45 remaining balance in Warrant 16 for Emergency Access Road released to the Lincoln Town General Fund.

Under a motion by Ms. Dobrow, seconded by Mr. Schmertzler, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the request to release the fund balances as recommended.

X. Old Business

Mr. Sander asked if materials for upcoming School Committee meetings could be available on our website prior to the meeting. Mr. Brandmeyer indicated that, beginning in the fall, reports will be published on the website prior to the meeting.

XI. New Business

None

XII. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Dobrow moved to approve the minutes of May 21, 2009 and May 28, 2009 with corrections, Mr. Sander seconded. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the May 21 and May 28 minutes with the corrections.

XIII. Information Enclosures

None

XIV. Adjournment

On motion by Ms. Dobrow seconded by Mr. Sander, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting. The open session adjourned at 9:20 a.m.