

1 MINUTES OF THE LINCOLN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
2 Thursday, April 28, 2011
3 Hartwell Building, Lincoln, MA
4 OPEN SESSION
5

6 Present: Jennifer Glass (Chair), Al Schmertzler, Tim Christenfeld, Jen James, Joe Connell (Hanscom
7 Representative), Deb Leister (Hanscom Representative). Also present: Mickey Brandmeyer
8 (Superintendent), Mary Sterling (Assistant Superintendent), Buckner Creel (Administrator for Business
9 and Finance).

10 Absent: Tom Sander (Vice Chair), Debbie John (Boston Representative).
11

12 I. Greetings and Call to Order

13 Ms. Glass, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

14 II. Chairperson's and Members' Reports

15 Ms. Glass was pleased to announce that the Lincoln Teachers' Association [LTA] has ratified a
16 new contract, the details of which will come out next week. She thanked the teachers, Mr. Brandmeyer,
17 and Mr. Sander for their cooperation and work.

18 Mr. Schmertzler noted the *Boston Globe's* summary of the status of the Lincoln School's
19 feasibility study.

20 Mr. Christenfeld reported that there will be a series of public meetings on the options that were
21 presented to the School Building Committee. He also mentioned that the *Lincoln Journal* mentioned Mr.
22 Schmertzler for his honored service to the Democratic Party. Mr. Christenfeld wanted to acknowledge
23 his service.

24 The Lego Robotics team won! Ms. James noted that the Lincoln Blue Gear Tech Team was one
25 of the 12 of 100 teams that were chosen and received the Global Innovation Award and also got 1st
26 place for programming in the World Championship. The team has the opportunity to apply for a
27 patent for its design for a medical stent that would continue to function for children as they are
28 growing, and the prize will be awarded in June.
29

30 III. Public Comments

31 None.

32 IV. Consent Agenda

33 None.
34

35 V. Time Scheduled Appointments

36 A. Discussion and Vote on Lincoln Foundation Grants

37 Documents: 1) Letter to Lincoln School Committee Members from Daphne Kempner, Grants
38 Committee Chair of the Lincoln School Foundation, dated April 12, 2011 RE: Lincoln School
39 Foundation 2010-2011 [sic] Grant Cycle; 2) List, Lincoln School Foundation Approved Grants for 2011-
40 2012, dated April 12, 2011; 3) List, Lincoln School Foundation Out-of-Cycle Grants Awarded 2010-2011,
41 undated

42 Eloise Patterson and Daphne Kempner from the Lincoln School Foundation [LSF] presented
43 their lists of Lincoln Foundation Grants, noting that the Ogden Codman Trust gave a matching grant of
44 \$10,000. The majority of money comes from loyal community donors and parents from the Lincoln and
45 Hanscom campuses. The grants are awarded to the Lincoln and Hanscom campuses. Ms. Patterson
46 said that the grant awarding process works well; the school principals sign off on the applications, and
47 they meet with Mr. Brandmeyer and Ms. Sterling to review the applications. Ms. Kempner said there
48 were several first-time applicants and many applications for curriculum development with a spike in
49 arts and music applications. They also awarded four out-of-cycle grants from 14 applications. While
50 there was a tighter budget, they negotiated amounts for grants.

51 Mr. Brandmeyer thanked them for raising the money and supporting the schools and is pleased
52 with their good relationship. Ms. Glass commented that students have been very interested in the data
53 collection on the iPads. The student response system has been helpful for teachers to assist students
54 who are not doing well; it enables all students to answer without the potential stigma of giving
55 incorrect answers. Ms. Glass thanked them for their work.

56 Ms. Glass moved, and Mr. Schmertzler seconded, the motion to accept the Lincoln School
57 Foundation grants as presented. The Committee voted unanimously to accept the grants.

1
2 B. School/Police Partnership: Memorandum of Understanding

3 Documents: 1) Memorandum from Kevin Mooney, Chief of Police, and Stephanie Powers to
4 School Committee, undated RE: Memorandum of Understanding between the Lincoln Police
5 Department and the Lincoln Public Schools; 2) Letter from Robyn Pontremoli, Community Programs
6 Coordinator, Middlesex District Attorney's Office to Superintendent Brandmeyer, dated February 24,
7 2011 RE: Memorandum of Understanding; 3) Memorandum of Understanding Between Lincoln Public
8 Schools and Lincoln Police Department

9 Mr. Brandmeyer reported that the school-police department partnership is great, noting that
10 after school the agency available to help is the public safety department. They share appropriate
11 information with each other when needed. Ms. Powers worked on the report and the memorandum of
12 understanding, which formalizes the collaborative relationship between the two entities. They meet
13 formally with the Principals, Administrator for Student Services, Social Worker, and the Police with
14 representatives from the Middlesex District Attorney's Office at the bimonthly Community-Based
15 Justice meeting.

16 Chief of Police Kevin Mooney noted the positive relationship that allows the department to
17 prepare if there is a problem with a student and/or family. He stressed that decisions are made
18 together, and when necessary, the District Attorney's office is involved. He began his involvement
19 with the schools by taking the DARE training program in 1990. Chief Mooney reviewed the
20 memorandum and mentioned the difference between bullying and crime. Bullying is handled by the
21 school, but the District Attorney's office will train DARE officers about bullying. Hitting is a crime,
22 and the police department works to solve the problem. When METCO students are involved, Chief
23 Mooney works with Boston police.

24 They discussed drills and emergency plans for the feasibility study.

25 Ms. Glass thanked them for their work.
26

27 C. Discussion of METCO Staffing Reorganization

28 Document: Memorandum from Mickey Brandmeyer to School Committee, dated April 25, 2011
29 RE: Proposed METCO Program Reorganization

30 Mr. Brandmeyer received good news on the METCO funding on the state level. Representative
31 Jay Kaufman's amendment is to restore METCO funding at an equal level to last year's in the House
32 budget. Mr. Brandmeyer has scheduled a meeting for either May 9 or May 11 in Boston with METCO
33 parents. His current memorandum covers the many questions and comments he has received. He
34 reiterated that next year's grant allocation is driven by this year's enrollment.

35 Mr. Brandmeyer does not see the situation as changing the District's and the Town's
36 commitment to METCO unless there is a significant triggering event, such as a drastic cut in funding
37 from the state. In that event, they will need to reassess things. He recommends that they redirect their
38 resources to academic support of METCO students. Currently, there is not an academic support person
39 for students in grades K-4. He would like to have intervention in those earlier grades, and they want to
40 hire a licensed teacher for the academic support. They are also concentrating on admitting METCO
41 students into the lower grades in order to give them the best chance for success. He will have an
42 implementation team ready to evaluate the new METCO plan by September 15.

43 The biggest recommended change is to have a METCO half-time coordinator instead of a full-
44 time METCO director. The half-time coordinator would report to the principals. There is a possibility
45 to put together the half-time teacher with the coordinator position if one person is licensed and trained,
46 but it is not required. The half-time teacher will work similarly to the math and literacy specialists. If
47 the district receives more money, the implementation team would decide how to use the resources, and
48 Mr. Brandmeyer would increase the academic support for students.

49 Mr. Creel said there is competition for the transportation portion of the METCO grant, and the
50 contract will be awarded in June. The bus monitors' salaries are included in the transportation part of
51 the METCO grant, but there is a limit to the amount of money in the transportation part that can be
52 transferred to the other portion of the grant. All parts of the grant are encumbered, and the state's
53 Department of Elementary and Secondary Education audits the grant monies.

54 Carol Kochman, Maria Hylton, and Cecelia Nunez Doherty mentioned teachers' attitudes
55 toward students, concerns about how the academic support person would work, and the
56 communication between teachers and Boston parents. Ms. Hylton voiced disappointment with
57 METCO graduates and their post-graduate choices despite the amount of money spent on the program.

1 The proposal will be voted on at the May 12 meeting. Ms. Glass thanked Mr. Brandmeyer for
2 his work.

3
4 VI. Superintendent's Report

5 Document: E-mail message to Mr. Brandmeyer from Kathy O'Connell, dated April 27, 2011,
6 Subject: Kudos for students

7 Mr. Brandmeyer congratulated the Lincoln School grade 3 math team for scoring first in the
8 region for the Continental Math League Competition. There were 17 schools in the New England
9 region, and nationally there were 429 schools that competed. Lincoln scored 16th nationally. The
10 League will send a plaque with all the students' names. The students are: Benjamin Altman, Laura
11 Appleby, Alkinoos Armoundas, Callie Breiter, Alex Cheung, Christopher Chin, Sam Drummond,
12 Caoilin Engstrom, Gregory Gallo, Collin Graf, Hannah Hwang, Keith Hylton, Nicholas Kasper, Mira
13 Kharbanda, Roshan Kharbanda, Gladys Manzira, Quinn Meyerson, Tom Mount Miller, Tara O'Malley,
14 Anna Sander, Agnes Shan, Nathan Soukup, Zachary Tam, and Ethan Webber. Ms. Sterling noted it
15 was the first time that the entire team won.

16
17 VII. Curriculum

18 Document: None.

19 Ms. Sterling said student artwork and the bouquets are upstairs. Grade 4 switched classes for
20 science. They did stretching and math facts. She also attended a class that was receiving poetry lessons
21 and was revising the work of Georgia O'Keeffe. As students went through their revisions, they
22 examined the parts of speech to use stronger words to convey the images.

23
24 VIII. Policy

25 Document: None.

26 Ms. Glass thanked Mr. Christenfeld for his work analyzing the school policies that need to be
27 updated. They will bring some to the next meeting to set a long-term agenda for updating them.

28
29 IX. Facilities and Financial

30 A. Warrant Approval

31 Document: None.

32 Mr. Creel presented the payroll warrants totaling \$622,508.56 and the accounts payable
33 warrants totaling \$341,193.34 for a total of \$963,701.90. Mr. Schmertzler reviewed the warrants and
34 recommended that they be approved. Mr. Schmertzler moved to approve the warrants, with Ms. Glass
35 seconding the motion. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the warrants.

36
37 X. Old Business

38 None.

39 XI. New Business

40 None.

41 XII. Approval of Minutes

42 Documents: Drafts of School Committee Minutes for January 20, February 3, and February 17,
43 2011

44 Ms. Glass moved, and Mr. Schmertzler seconded, the motion to approve the minutes for the
45 meetings of January 20, February 3, and February 17, 2011. The Committee voted unanimously to
46 approve the minutes. They will be posted on the web site.

47
48 XIII. Information Enclosures

49 None.

50 XIV. Adjournment

51 On motion by Ms. Glass, seconded by Ms. James, the Committee voted unanimously to go into
52 Executive Session for the purpose of contract negotiations. Ms. Glass, yes; Mr. Schmertzler, yes; Mr.
53 Christenfeld, yes; Ms. James, yes; Mr. Connell, yes; Ms. Leister, yes. The Committee would not be
54 returning to open session. The open session adjourned at 9:20 pm.

55 Respectfully submitted,

56 Sarah G. Marcotte

57 Recording Secretary