

MINUTES OF THE LINCOLN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Thursday, April 12, 2012
Hartwell Building, Lincoln, MA
OPEN SESSION

Present: Jennifer Glass (Chair), Tom Sander (Vice Chair), Al Schmertzler, Tim Christenfeld, Jen James, Carol Perkins (Boston Representative). Also present: Mickey Brandmeyer (Superintendent), Mary Sterling (Assistant Superintendent), Stephanie Powers (Administrator for Student Services), Buckner Creel (Administrator for Business and Finance).

Absent: Lisa Pizarro (Hanscom Civilian School Liaison Officer).

I. Greetings and Call to Order

Ms. Glass, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

II. Chairperson's and Members' Reports

Mr. Christenfeld attended the 3rd grade wax museum, where students dressed as different historical characters. He said it was wonderful, and the students were very engaged. He thanked Ms. Sterling and the students who participated in the great Middle School Science Fair. Lincoln and Hanscom students presented projects, and he learned a lot.

Ms. Glass noted that April is the month of the military child. On April 3, she attended the celebration at Hanscom, which included the Band of Liberty and students who performed Catherine McSwain's song about being a military child. Colonel Wright signed a proclamation. She noted it was a moving event, and she asked if the students would sing at the next School Committee meeting.

Ms. Glass mentioned that the new superintendent, Dr. Rebecca McFall, visited the schools on April 2 and will visit again soon.

III. Public Comments

None.

IV. Consent Agenda

None.

V. Time Scheduled Appointments

A. Recognition of Lincoln School Model UN Participants

Document: None.

Ms. Glass introduced Mr. Keith Johnson, 7th Grade Social Studies Teacher, and the students who participated in the Model U.N. Project at Clark University on Saturday, March 24. The students are Michael Ciampa, Neandra Fernandes, Sophie Flomenbaum, Lia Gallo, Robert Jahrling, Eliza Jevon, Andreas Manos, Eve Montie, Dante Muzila, Jack Neuhaus, and Katherine Whalen.

Mr. Johnson explained that his elective was a great fit for the school's high-powered students, who participated in the Model U.N. for the first time. Students research and write position papers on problems in groups of two and present their papers to groups in an intense situation with the goal of passing a resolution. During the UN process, students can alter their position papers based on the discussions and collaboration with others. The Lincoln students had two of three possible resolutions pass. The students represented China, Ethiopia, and Azerbaijan and wrote position papers on youth unemployment, water security, use of nonstate actors, and water desalinization. Jack Neuhaus' and Andreas Manos' position paper on desalinization won the best position paper.

Students commented that they learned that other countries have laws that are different from ours, they learned to listen to others and learned to be public speakers, which gives them confidence and the ability to articulate ideas to relate to others better.

Ms. Glass and the Committee congratulated them, noting that the high school also has a Model U.N.

B. Report on Initiative to Implement Goal Focused Interventions

Documents: 1) Memorandum to School Committee and Mickey Brandmeyer from Stephanie Powers, Re: Report on Goal-Focused Intervention Plans, dated March 21, 2012; 2) Appendix A: Goal-

Focused Intervention Plans 2011-2012, Frequently Asked Questions; 3) Appendix B: Lincoln Public Schools: Student Intervention Plan

Ms. Powers reviewed her report about goal focused intervention plans [GFIP], noting that there have been many successes for students who are not in special education. GFIPs are mostly short-term (6-8 weeks) instruction focused on a specific goal with progress monitoring. GFIPs are intended for students who scored at below-proficient levels on MCAS ELA and Math, students who administrators, teachers, or parents have indicated have a need, and students with needs indicated by the district benchmark assessments in reading, writing, and mathematics. Some students have done well, and others have needed new goals and continued intervention. Principals and teachers collaborate on reports, and it is showing some results but is also a work in progress. They work with parents to help parents assist their children at home.

Ms. Sterling said it has been rewarding to collaborate with Ms. Powers on this, and they have a better sense of the whole student that enables them to write more effective plans and goals for students. This is an evidence-driven systematic way to help students. She noted that they work hard not to pull students out of the classroom but aim to have smaller groups of students work on these interventions in class. She feels that students are better served. All of this work is based on common assessments, and they can fine tune things in the coming year.

Ms. Sterling noted that in two years, they will be able really tell from the data how the interventions have helped. Mr. Brandmeyer noted that the National Common Core standards will change the metrics, but they can get trend data.

Ms. Glass was concerned that it was onerous on teachers to enter data and the GFIPs. Ms. Sterling indicated that there are no easy solutions with a data management system; the state has not been successful with its system, and the district cannot yet find a commercial product to house the data. Other districts do not have ready-made data systems for such data. Mr. Brandmeyer said that the goal is not to create IEPs, which are very specific and for an entire year. The math specialists and social workers have seen the biggest change, but it has been positive. Mr. Christenfeld asked whether it would help to have more math specialists, and Ms. Sterling and Mr. Brandmeyer agreed that it would.

Ms. Glass thanked them for their work.

VI. Superintendent's Report

Document: METCO Legislative Alert, dated April 11, 2012

Mr. Brandmeyer noted that Governor Deval Patrick identified April 13 as Purple Day to recognize military students and encouraged others to wear purple tomorrow to show support. Mr. Brandmeyer passed out purple bands like the Lance Armstrong yellow bands.

Mr. Brandmeyer also passed out the METCO legislative alert. The House Ways and Means Committee has cut \$1 million from the METCO budget, which is a drastic cut. Representative Jay Kaufman will file an amendment to restore funding to the FY09 levels by tomorrow by 10 am. Mr. Brandmeyer asked all to call their representatives and ask them to sign on to Rep. Kaufman's amendment. They would usually write a letter, but there is not enough time.

Ms. Glass thanked him for his work.

VII. Curriculum

Document: None.

Ms. Sterling attended the very successful Science Fair. The student presenters were there all day, and all other students were asked to attend the Fair. The Fair is now a tradition, and she heard a lot of younger students discussing the things they observed. Students understand what it means to formulate a hypothesis, and it is exciting to see them use this framework for thinking about a project. She thanked Elizabeth Averch for coordinating the Science Fair and Chris Rogers for being a helpful visitor. 16 students from Hanscom participated.

Grade 1 students at Smith have a display about their learning on five mathematical goals, including fractions, cents and money. She recommended that all view it.

She also noted that English Language Learners [ELL] are working on vocabulary and concepts for the MCAS. They are analyzing the academic vocabulary in the rubric, and when they have mastered that, they then study the MCAS questions, and learn the math.

Ms. Glass thanked her for her work.

VIII. Policy

None.

IX. Facilities and Financial

A. Warrant Approval

Document: None.

Mr. Creel presented the payroll warrants totaling \$623,191.12 and the accounts payable warrants totaling \$264,732.43 for a total of \$887,923.55. Mr. Schmertzler reviewed the warrants and recommended that they be approved. Mr. Sander moved to approve the warrants, with Ms. Glass seconding the motion. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the warrants.

X. Old Business

A. School Building Committee [SBC] Update

Documents: 1) School Building Neighborhood Gatherings; 2) Scope Review Summary, Lincoln K-8 School, OMR Architects, dated April 2012

Mr. Creel noted they had a challenging agenda at last Monday's SBC meeting. The SBC toured the part of the building that will be renovated with Dan Tavares of Skanska (the Owner's Project Manager) and Jeanne Roberts and Chuck Koehler of OMR. They looked at the finishes and rooms and the need for renovations and compiled the Scope Review Summary presented tonight. They added and changed some things and also marked some items for potential value engineering and add alternates that would not be included in the initial project, but could be included as the design moves forward. The SBC will have several value engineering decisions to make, such as HVAC in the library, and the SBC's next meeting will be May 1. By May's end, there will be a document like the one presented tonight to be presented to the Massachusetts School Building Authority [MSBA]. OMR has to submit the Schematic Design Report on June 6.

The SBC will also discuss the Construction Manager at Risk versus the typical Design Bid Build delivery method; the MSBA would increase the project reimbursement by 1% if the SBC chooses the Construction Manager at Risk delivery method, and the SBC will decide on May 1. On May 22, the SBC will review the construction budgets, value engineering items, and add alternates. On May 29, the SBC will approve the construction and total budget.

Mr. Creel noted that the goal is to end the school year with presentations and gatherings to get the school information out on the project. A schedule of gatherings was distributed. The website is www.lincolnsbc.org. He also said they hope to drive the cost of the total project below \$49 million, and the project is at the cost estimators. Mr. Schmertzler mentioned that there were some items they do not have to do but others that need to be replaced in the Reed Field House. The key item is that they want to improve the learning environment for students and replace the HVAC systems with something quieter. There are items that could use improvement in the Brooks Auditorium, but they cannot change that space in a major way as the MSBA will not provide reimbursement funds for it.

Mr. Schmertzler mentioned the new Finance Committee/CapCom effort to price out the repair option; the group met last night. They asked many questions, but Mr. Schmertzler is concerned about the negative attitude toward the project. Many are concerned about the tax implications of the potential project, and while the net increase in taxes will be significant, the bonding is decreasing. That group's next meeting is Wednesday, April 18 at 7:30 pm at Bemis Hall, and a School Committee member needs to attend.

B. Design Contract Amendment

Documents: 1) Memorandum to School Committee and Mickey Brandmeyer from Buckner Creel, Subject: Lincoln School—Budget and Contract Matters, dated April 3, 2012; 2) Contract for Designer Services, Amendment No. 7, Lincoln Public School Committee and OMR Architects, Inc., dated April 2, 2012

Mr. Creel noted that the contract amendment with OMR is to decrease the cost of the hazardous materials survey from \$9,845 to \$8,075 and make no other change to the contract terms.

Mr. Sander moved, and Ms. Glass seconded, the motion to approve the proposed amendment to the contract with OMR to decrease the fees for the hazardous materials survey by \$1,770. The Committee voted unanimously to amend the OMR contract.

XI. New Business

A. Establish Date for School Committee / Administrative Team Goals Workshop
Document: Lincoln Public Schools, School Committee, Long Term Agenda: 2011-2012, printed April 12, 2012

Ms. Glass asked to move the item to the next meeting on April 26, 2012.

B. Other Meeting Dates

Document: None.

Ms. Glass proposed a change in meeting dates to May 10, May 17, and May 31. There will be a joint meeting with the SBC on Tuesday, June 5 to authorize the submission to the MSBA, so she proposed that the School Committee meeting of June 7 be cancelled. She also asked that the last meeting be June 21 with no meeting on June 28.

Ms. Glass moved, and Mr. Sander seconded, the motion to change the meeting dates to May 10, May 17, May 31, June 5, and June 21. The Committee voted unanimously to change the meeting dates.

XII. Approval of Minutes

None.

XIII. Information Enclosures

None.

XIV. Adjournment

On motion by Ms. Glass, seconded by Mr. Sander, the Committee voted unanimously to go into Executive Session for the purpose of preparation for contract negotiations. Ms. Glass, yes; Mr. Sander, yes; Mr. Schmertzler, yes; Mr. Christenfeld, yes; Ms. James, yes; Ms. Perkins, yes. The Committee would not be returning to open session. The open session adjourned at 8:58 pm.

XV. Executive Session

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah G. Marcotte
Recording Secretary