



LINCOLN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MICHAEL F. BRANDMEYER
SUPERINTENDENT

January 31, 2011

To: School Committee
From: Mickey Brandmeyer
Re: FY12 Budget – Final Recommendation

The process to develop the school budget begins in August when the Administrative Team reviews annual goals and develops workplans. The process continues in the fall when the School Committee establishes guidelines (September) and the Finance Committee issues revenue projections and growth guidelines. The process continues through the fall with the presentation of the Superintendent's Preliminary Budget, which includes enrollment and staffing projections, the cost to advance basic operations from one year to the next and modest improvement initiatives designed to improve and enhance the educational programs of the district.

The budget for the Lincoln Public Schools is comprised of three key funding components, the funds appropriated by the Town of Lincoln for the operation of the Lincoln School, the funds allocated by the federal government for the operation of the Hanscom Schools (Preschool, Primary and Middle) and funds received through grants, fees and rentals.

The funds allocated by the federal government are projected to be sufficient to support the operation of Hanscom Schools, including improvement initiatives as proposed. Funds received from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, in the form of grants, is projected to be less than the FY11 funding level. Three key grants may be under funded. These include the full-day kindergarten grant, the federal special education grant and the METCO grant. Each of these grants is factored into the operation budget for the Lincoln School.

The Lincoln Finance Committee issued a budget guideline allowing for 2% growth from FY11 to FY12. The FY12 Preliminary Budget request was \$9,801,138, which includes an anticipated funding shortfall of \$70,000 from the METCO grant. The Finance Committee growth guideline of 2% will make available \$9,475,105 resulting in a budget gap of \$326,033.

Over the past several meetings, I recommended a series of reductions and reorganizations, which reduced the gap to \$63,000. These included withdrawing several improvement initiatives, shifting other improvement initiatives to a federal stimulus grant and reducing the current operating budget. The most significant adjustment resulted from reorganization of the middle school schedule and personnel reductions. These are primarily associated with declining enrollment and will not result in program elimination. Finally, we have been able to project additional revenues, which included shifting EdJobs Stimulus funds from FY11 to FY12 and applying revenues, which the district will receive from the Town for utilities they will use during the period that the temporary town offices will be on the Ballfield Road campus. These funds will be contingent upon approval of the Town Offices Renovation Project at the March Town Meeting.

Due to the tentative nature of state funding for the METCO Program, we initiated a series of meetings with Boston parents. The final meeting was held last Wednesday evening. I had asked for information from the parents regarding the program supports they believed to be most important for the success of their children at the Lincoln Schools. After several meetings the parents indicated that they could not give specific recommendations for budget reductions but agreed that the school's mission of teaching and learning were most important and expressed a desire to maintain the current level of services for the METCO program.

Concurrently the Governor released his proposed budget for FY12 in which he recommended level funding for METCO. While this is an encouraging starting point it remains a strong possibility that the legislature will make reductions to this line item in the Governor's Budget. This has been the case for the past several years.

With two unknowns – the approval of the Town Hall Renovation Project and the METCO grant I am recommending that the School Committee approve a budget that is not balanced but rather one that still has a gap of \$29,615. This approval will allow the Selectmen and Finance Committee to complete the necessary warrant for Town Meeting and provide additional time for the School Committee to consider options for the final specific budget reductions.

Over the course of the next two months, the School Committee will complete negotiations with the Lincoln Teachers Association, I will develop a proposal to address both the anticipated METCO funding shortfall and a plan to more effectively address the academic achievement gap between white students and students of color which we discussed at the January 3rd School Committee meeting. Through these initiatives, as well as other options, I will make a final recommendation to balance the budget for next year.

I am confident that given current information the Administration and School Committee will be able to operate the Lincoln Schools at a high level with the funds allocated by the Finance Committee.

I am recommending that the School Committee VOTE to approve a FY12 Budget, by accepting the January 31st Gap Closing Recommendation (attached), in the amount of \$9,475,105.

FY12 Budget -- Gap Closing Recommendations
as of January 31, 2011

Lincoln Campus

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Preliminary Budget Proposal | \$ 9,731,138 |
| Projected METCO grant reduction (midpoint \$50 - 90K) | \$ 70,000 |
| Total | \$ 9,801,138 |

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Finance Committee Allocation | \$ 9,475,105 |
| Preliminary Appropriated Budget Gap | \$ 326,033 |

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Proposed Reductions -- Preliminary FY12 Budget | \$ 296,418 |
| Revised Budget Gap | \$ 29,615 |

| Appropriated Budget Item | Original Request | Proposed Reduction | Remaining Request |
|--|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Adjustments to Proposed Improvement Initiatives | | | |
| Computer Upgrade for Food Service (purchased with FY11 revolving acct funds) | 1,653 | 1,653 | - |
| Aspen X2 Customization | 3,300 | | 3,300 |
| Aspen X2 Webex Subscription | 660 | | 660 |
| ECove Observation Software and iPads (shift to ARRA grant) | 1,200 | 1,200 | - |
| Behavioral Consultation to Build District-wide Capacity | 9,600 | | 9,600 |
| Professional Development and Curriculum: Anti-Bullying | 3,000 | | 3,000 |
| Restore Night Custodian | 22,905 | 22,905 | - |
| Restore Summer Custodian for Lincoln Buildings | 4,050 | | 4,050 |
| Professional Development: Standards-based Classroom Assessment (shift to ARRA grant) | 7,600 | 7,600 | - |
| Elementary Mathematics: Content Expertise Development (shift to ARRA grant) | 5,470 | 5,470 | - |
| Standards Based Report Card Development | 3,825 | | 3,825 |
| FLES Program Development | 1,962 | | 1,962 |
| National Core Standards Alignment | 1,584 | | 1,584 |
| Funds to support Lincoln's Race to the Top Plan | 5,000 | | 5,000 |
| Facilities Manager (funded outside budget increase by FinCom) | 16,500 | 16,500 | - |
| Professional Development for the Preschool Team (deferred will seek alternate funds) | 1,420 | 1,420 | - |
| K-4 Math Camp 2011 | 10,030 | | 10,030 |
| K-4 Achievement Camp K-2 | 13,230 | | 13,230 |
| K-4 Lexia | 31,315 | 20,000 | 11,315 |
| 5-8 Developmental Design for Middle School | 22,035 | | 22,035 |
| 5-8 Foreign Language Textbooks for grades 7 and 8 | 6,151 | | 6,151 |
| 5-8 Science Equipment | 7,700 | | 7,700 |
| Reduction to Existing Operating Budget | | | |
| Reduce Teachers on Assignment stipends | 11,000 | 2,200 | 8,800 |
| Reduce Legal to FY11 level | 15,000 | 1,250 | 13,750 |
| Reduce Long-term substitutes | 50,000 | 10,000 | 40,000 |
| Reduce VHS fee | 6,000 | 3,500 | 2,500 |
| Revised CASE Special Ed transportation fee | 122,700 | 3,750 | 118,950 |
| Lincoln School 5-8 personnel adjustments | 1,839,378 | 108,338 | 1,731,040 |
| Reduce teacher stipends for middle school positions (responsibilities reassigned) | 9,740 | 9,740 | - |
| Additional Funding Applied to Budget | | | |
| Apply EdJobs grant funds | - | 53,055 | |
| Apply ARRA grant funds | - | 3,837 | |
| Apply funds from Town Hall temporary office relocation (utilities) | - | 24,000 | |
| Total Appropriated Budget Reductions | | 296,418 | |