

LEXINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

**Tuesday, March 12, 2013
Lexington Town Office Building
Selectmen's Meeting Room
1625 Massachusetts Avenue**

Present: Dr. Paul Ash, Superintendent, Margaret Coppe, School Committee Chair; Alessandro Alessandrini, Vice Chair; Member Bonnie Brodner; and Sam Alpert, Student Representative

Absent: Mary Ann Stewart and Jessie Steigerwald

The Meeting Minutes were taken by Jean Curran, Recording Secretary

The Meeting convened at 7:30 p.m.

I. Call to Order and Welcome

The Chair called the Meeting to Order and invited public comment.

Holly Boker, SEPAC Treasurer, questioned if this was the right time for SEPAC to bring up the possibility of hiring a Transition Coordinator due to the increased number of students in the ILP programs. This issue will be part of the space needs at the high school in the future. Ms. Boker shared her thoughts on the need for someone to coordinate all these programs in the District. Ms. Boker also shared that she has information on a job description and salary if the Committee would like to review it.

Margaret Coppe stated that this will be for next year's budget and will not be part of the high school space needs presentation this evening.

II. Superintendent's Announcements

Dr. Ash announced the LHS PTSA March Forum, "Identifying, Understanding and Coping with Stress & Anxiety: Strategies for High School Students and Their Parents," will be held tomorrow night from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the High School Media Room (Room 147). Dr. Ash then shared that at the last School Committee meeting parents came forward to discuss the topic of student stress at the High School.

Dr. Ash announced the Estabrook "Topping Off Ceremony" will be held on Wednesday, March 13th at 9:30 a.m. A "Topping Off Ceremony" is when the last beam to complete the steel structure of the school is put into place. He shared how last week students from the Estabrook Elementary School were signing the beam. It is a very symbolic event for the Estabrook community.

Dr. Ash also shared that he has been working to be more visible in the community. A week ago on Saturday morning, he attended the LexFun Event for 3-5 year olds "Barn Babies." Dr. Ash also attended the play "A Good Man Charlie Brown" put on by the

Bowman Players at the Bowman Elementary School. Dr. Ash then shared that this week he went to the Fiske Elementary School Science Fair for 2nd, 4th and 5th Graders. Last night Dr. Ash, along with Alessandro Alessandrini, and heard Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland, speak at the High School.

III. Members' Reports/Members' Comments

Alessandro Alessandrini updated the Committee on a meeting he attended with the Student Health Advisory Committee (SHAC). The subject of a subcommittee to deal with youth stress came up again and Mary Ellen Dunn, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance, suggested that they form an ad hoc committee similar to the Traffic and Safety Committee combining the town with the schools. He talked to Margaret Coppe and Debra Mauger, Chair of the Board of Selectman and both were very enthusiastic. Currently they are in the process of having the group put together a charge and hopefully we could have that Ad Hoc Committee charge ready to be voted on by the Committee and the Board of Selectmen. He also attended Bowman Elementary School Science Fair as visiting scientist.

Margaret Coppe received an email that Lexington High School students attended the State Science Fair and out of the top 40 winners, 20 of them were from Lexington. The Environmental Team came in second in the oceanographic category. Ms. Coppe then shared that she had received a letter from the Golden Foundation for Excellence in Education and one of this year's honorees is Beth Glick, Guidance Counselor/Assistant Principal, Bowman Elementary School. Congratulations to Ms. Glick.

IV. Agenda

1. Draft Mission, Draft Vision, and Draft Beliefs Statements for Lexington Public Schools

Dr. Ash presented the draft Mission and Vision Statements and draft Beliefs.

Dr. Ash shared that school districts and companies often have these statements and he has come to believe strongly in these statements. Dr. Ash shared the importance of having these statements which are strongly rooted in organizations and how they become powerful drives of change and stability. There were questions and comments from the Committee.

Andrei Radulescu-Banu, 86 Cedar Street, shared his thoughts regarding the mission statement and curriculum reviews.

2. Report on K-12 Guidance

Valerie Viscosi, K-12 Director of Guidance presented her update on K-12 Guidance *Entry Plan*. Ms. Viscosi shared that her work on the *Entry Plan* has allowed her to understand the ways in which the Guidance Department has operated and to begin the transition to a consolidated K-12 Guidance Department. Ms. Viscosi recognized the members of the Lexington Public Schools team who have given their time and energy to this task. Ms. Viscosi's presentation included (i) The American School Counselors Association National Model: A Framework for School Counseling Programs; (ii) Key

Finding and Proposed Priorities: (a) Clearer Articulation of Roles and Responsibilities through Greater Alignment with the State and National Standards, (b) Streamlining of Protocols and Practices for Maximum Efficiency, and Clearly Communicating Protocols and Practices for Maximum Consistency, (c) Curriculum Review to Create a Horizontally and Vertically Aligned K-12 Guidance Curriculum that is Integrated with School and District Goals and Initiatives, (d) Parent Programming Review to Align with K-12 Guidance Curriculum, (e) Meaningful Assessments, (f) Greater Accountability, (g) More Focused, Productive PLCs, (h) Professional Development that is Relevant to Guidance, (i) Strong Networking Relationships, and (j) Communication with the School Community; and (iii) Proposed Plan for Moving Forward for the next three years. Ms. Viscosi also shared her recommendations. There were questions and comments from the Committee.

Laura Lasa, Principal, Lexington High School answered questions from the Committee regarding the attendance policy and its value.

Jennifer Wolfrum, K-12 Assistant Coordinator and High School Physical Education and Wellness Department answered questions from the Committee regarding the health curriculum on education and prevention work with respect to the prevention program. Ms. Wolfrum also spoke to the health issues regarding depression, suicide and available prevention programs.

Leslie Zales, 7 Page Road thanked Ms. Viscosi for her work and looks forward to working with her in the future. She shared her thoughts on national standards and parent education. She also shared her concerns about the effects changing demographics in Lexington have on views about homework and home/school communications.

3. Lexington High School Space Needs

Patrick Goddard, Director of Public Facilities presented the Lexington High School overcrowding update to the Committee and included (i) LHS Space Drivers; (ii) LHS Enrollment Since 2000 Renovation; (iii) LHS Enrollment Trends and Capacity; (iv) Project Scope; (v) LHS Floor Utilization Analysis; (vi) Potential Classroom & ILP Locations; (vii) Massing Overview; (viii) 10 Year Facility Master Plan; (ix) Recommendation; and (x) Article 14 of 2013 Annual Town Meeting requesting \$362,000 for LHS Overcrowding Phase 3. There will also be a need for a special Town Meeting in the fall for funds to begin installing classrooms over the summer of 2014 to be ready for the fall of 2014. There were questions and comments from the Committee.

Laura Lasa, Principal, Lexington High School took questions from Committee regarding modular classrooms.

Andrei Radulescu-Banu, 86 Cedar Street had clarifying questions regarding capacity versus headcount with modulars over the next 10 years and bumps in enrollment.

4. Recommended Revisions to 2013-2014 School Calendar

Dr. Ash provided a brief explanation for the recommended revisions to the 2013-2014 School Calendar. He thanked Phyllis Neufeld, President, Lexington Education Association and their members for their consideration.

Carol Pilarski, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development presented the other changes to the school calendar.

Margaret Coppe suggested that the Committee vote this item on March 27, 2013. She thanked everyone for their hard work on this matter.

Andrei Radulescu-Banu, 86 Cedar Street shared his comments on the school calendar revisions and religious holidays.

Margaret Coppe shared that she and Alessandro Alessandrini met with the Chinese American Association and came up with a suggestion for a lunar holiday and whether that would work for the Indian population.

5. Vote to Accept a \$500 Donation from Houston & Associates LLP in Support of the 2013 LHS Science and Engineering Fair

Motion to Accept with Gratitude, a \$500 Donation from Houston & Associates LLP in Support of the 2013 LHS Science and Engineering Fair (Alessandrini, Brodner) The Motion was Approved (3-0)

6. Vote to Approve School Committee Minutes of January 15, 2013

Motion to Approve School Committee Minutes of January 15, 2013 (Brodner, Alessandrini)

Changes to the Minutes were discussed by the Committee.

Motion to Approve School Committee Minutes of January 15, 2013, as amended (Brodner, Alessandrini) The Motion was Approved (3-0)

7. Vote to Approve School Committee Minutes of January 30, 2013

Motion to Approve School Committee Minutes of January 30, 2013 (Alessandrini, Brodner)

Changes to the Minutes were discussed by the Committee.

Motion to Approve School Committee Minutes of January 30, 2013, as amended (Alessandrini, Brodner) The Motion was Approved (3-0)

8. **Vote to Approve School Committee Minutes of February 2, 2013**
The Committee decided to table these minutes until the next Committee Meeting.

9. **Vote to Approve School Committee Minutes of February 12, 2013**

Motion to Approve School Committee Minutes of February 12, 2013
(Brodner, Alessandrini)

Changes to the Minutes were discussed by the Committee.

Margaret Coppe shared that Senator Donnelly thanked the Committee for sending him the letter on school gun safety.

Motion to Approve School Committee Minutes of February 12, 2013, as amended (Brodner, Alessandrini) **The Motion was Approved (3-0)**

10. **Vote to Approve School Committee Minutes From Budget Collaboration-Summit Meeting on February 13, 2013**

Motion to Approve School Committee Minutes from Budget Collaboration-Summit Meeting 5 of February 13, 2013 (Alessandrini, Brodner) **The Motion was Approved (3-0)**

11. **Vote to Approve and Not Release School Committee Executive Session #1 Minutes of February 26, 2013**

Motion to Approve and Not Release School Committee Executive Session #1 Minutes of February 26, 2013 (Brodner, Alessandrini) **The Motion was Approved (3-0)**

12. **Vote to Approve and Not Release School Committee Executive Session #2 Minutes of February 26, 2013**

Motion to Approve and Not Release School Committee Executive Session #2 Minutes of February 26, 2013 (Alessandrini, Brodner) **The Motion was Approved (3-0)**

Motion to Adjourn (Brodner, Alessandrini) The Motion was Approved (3-0)

The Meeting Adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

Documents: Meeting Agenda; LHS PTSA March Forum; Press Release Submitted by Estabrook School; LPS Draft Mission Statement and Vision Statement and Draft Beliefs dated February 5, 2013; Memorandum to LPS School Committee from Valerie Viscosi dated March 2013 re Update on K-12 Guidance Entry Plan; Lexington High School Overcrowding Update to School Committee dated March 12, 2013 PowerPoint Presentation; LHS Space/Program Study, dated February 2013 and Updated March 14, 2013; Lexington Public Schools 2013-2014 Revised School Calendar; Donation from Houston & Associate LLP in the amount of \$500 to LHS Science & Engineering Fair; Lexington School Committee Meeting Minutes dated January 15, 2013; Lexington School Committee Meeting Minutes dated January 30, 2013; Lexington School Committee dated February 2, 2013; Lexington School Committee Meeting Minutes dated February 12, 2013; Lexington School Committee Meeting Minutes – Budget Collaboration – Summit Meeting 5 dated February 13, 2013

Voted by the School Committee May 14, 2013