

LEXINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, November 13, 2012
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; Members: Mary Ann Stewart, Bonnie Brodner and Jessie Steigerwald, and Sam Alpert, Student Representative

The 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

There were no public comments.

II. Superintendent's Announcements:

Dr. Ash presented the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents Award for Academic Excellence to Lexington High School Seniors Veronica Wharton, Isabel Evans and Felix Cancre

Dr. Ash announced that the Joseph Estabrook Elementary School was selected as the gold medal winner of the Massachusetts School Wellness Award, a joint initiative between the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

III. Members' Reports / Members' Concerns:

Bonnie Brodner announced that the Ad hoc Cary Memorial Building Program Committee which looks at improvements and restorations to Cary Hall will be holding a public hearing on November 27th in Cary Hall at 7:00 p.m.

Alessandro Alessandrini reminded everyone that the second Budget Summit will be held on November 15th at 7:00 p.m. at the DPW Building with the Board of Selectmen, Capital Expenditures Committee, Appropriations Committee and the School Committee.

Mary Ann Stewart announced that she and Margaret Coppe attended the Massachusetts Association of School Committee conference and updated the Committee on resolutions that were passed and discussed last Friday, November 9th. There were six resolutions and all were passed. Resolution 1: Establishment of a Special Commission of the Legislature for the Study of Mandated Reports and Data Submissions for School Districts, as amended; Resolution 2: Modification of the Circuit Breaker Formula; Resolution 3: health Insurance Coverage for Medically Necessary Treatment in School; Resolution 4: Funding for Educator Evaluation System; Resolution 5: Relative to an Adequacy Study; and Resolution 6: Election of Governing Boards of Common Charter Schools. For more detailed information please visit

www.mass.org. They also attended a Legislative Update seminar which discussed recent and pending legislation and the impact on communities and school district budgets. Ms. Stewart then asked Dr. Ash if he would speak to Title 1, IDEA and how Lexington would be affected.

Jessie Steigerwald shared that she and Bonnie Brodner attended the PTA President's meeting last week and they were asked to reach out to Mary Ellen Dunn about fees charged to parents who pay with credit cards and whether taxpayers pay for those fees as part of budget process. Dr. Ash recommends that they come forward over the next few weeks and make a proposal to the School Committee. The parents and Ms. Dunn can meet with them after January 1st.

Ms. Steigerwald thanked Carol Pilarski, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development and all the teachers who participated in 300th Anniversary Music Festival and all the students in show.

Margaret Coppe thanked Sam Alpert for chairing the Twelve O'clock Scholars Team who will represent the School Committee at this year's Lexington Education Foundation Trivia Bee to held tomorrow evening. Ms. Coppe also shared a letter from the Clarke Middle School Social Study Chair Matthew Mehler regarding the mock elections which were held on Election Day.

IV. Agenda:

1. Article 6 of Special Town Meeting – Vote to Request Additional Funding, as Recommended by the Permanent Building Committee

Patrick Goddard, Director of Public Facilities presented a PowerPoint presentation of the Estabrook School Project Budget Overview. The presentation included (i) April 2 STM Project Budget, (ii) Cost Drivers, (iii) Value Engineering (VE) Process with No Cuts to Education, (iv) 60% CD Project Budget Update, (v) Estabrook Construction Risks, (vi) School Budget Trends, (vii) Project Schedule, (viii) Estabrook Budget Review October 23, 2012, (ix) Plan for Getting to Budget, and (x) Notable Cost Increases. There were questions and comments from the Committee regarding (a) State reimbursement, (b) MSBA and contingencies, (c) additional money.

Motion to Request Additional Funding for Estabrook School Project in the Amount of \$2.6 M to Bring to Special Town Meeting (Stewart, Steigerwald) the Motion was Approved (5-0).

Rod Cole Moderator for Article 5 – Estabrook School Access Improvement-- inquired of the Committee if the funding for Article 6 will also fund Article 5.

The Committee members discussed whether they could vote on Article 5 since this Item was not on the Agenda. After discussion it was decided that Article 5 would posted as an Agenda Item for a School Committee Meeting on Monday, November 19, 2012.

2. Vote to Approve Clarke Middle School Field Trip to Quebec City, Canada, June 5 through June 7, 2013

Mrs. Monaco, Principal, Clarke Middle School presented the Clarke Middle School Field Trip to Quebec City, Canada June 5 through June 7, 2013. Mrs. Monaco stated that any 8th grade student taking French can go on the trip and the trip is being led by Mr. Michael Berjoan. There were questions and comments from the Committee.

Motion to Approve Clarke Middle School Field Trip to Quebec City, Canada, June 5 through June 7, 2013 (Brodner, Stewart). The Motion was Approved (5-0)

3. Vote to Approve Lexington High School Community Service Field Trip to Golfito, Costa Rica, February 18-27, 2013

Haley Fradkin, Adam Dobbs, Russell Gens and Shatora Everett-Hannah presented the Service Field Trip to Golfito, Costa Rica, February 18-27, 2013 to the Committee. The chaperones on the field trip will be Martha Queenin and Charlie Mixer. Dominique Auban, owner and education director of O₂ For Life Reserve, Osa Peninsula Costa Rica, has hosted this field trip in the past. There were questions and comments from the Committee.

Motion to Approve Lexington High School Community Service Field Trip to Golfito, Costa Rica, February 18- 27, 2013 (Stewart, Alessandrini) The Motion Approved (5-0).

4. Vote to Approve S.E.I.U., Local 888, Memorandum of Agreement

Alessandro Alessandrini presented the S.E.I.U, Local 888, Memorandum of Agreement along with Robert Harris, Assistant Superintendent Human Resources. Margaret Coppe thanked Mr. Harris, Mr. Alessandrini and all the others who worked so hard on this Agreement.

Motion to Vote to Approve S.E.I.U., Local 888, Memorandum of Agreement, as presented (Stewart, Brodner) The Motion was Approved (5-0).

5. Discussion of the New Teacher and Administrator Evaluation Regulations

Dr. Ash presented a PowerPoint presentation of the New Teacher and Administrator Evaluation Regulations approved on June 28, 2011 by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education which requires evaluation of all educators and is designed to promote leaders and teacher's growth and development and to support and inspire excellent practice. The presentation included (i) Goal Setting Process, (ii) System Overview, (iii) Components of System, (iv) Framework Which Establishes the Four Standards of Practice with Supporting Rubrics Defining Four Levels of Effectiveness, (iv) Standards, Indicators and Rubrics, (v) Model Rubrics: Structure, (vi) Rubric Alignment, (vii) Model Rubrics, (viii) Standard 1: Curriculum, Planning and Assessment, (ix) Self-Assessment, (x) Five Step Evaluation Cycle, (xi) Massachusetts SMART GOALS, (xii) Isaac Foster – Analysis of Student Learning Needs, (xiii) Five Step Evaluation Cycle: Rubrics, (xiv) multiple sources of evidence, (xv) Four

Different Educator Plans, (xvi) Phase-In Over the Next Few Years, (xvii) Next Steps for Lexington, and (xviii) and What Plan Will I Be On Next Year.

There were questions and comments from the Committee regarding (i) MCAS and Standardized Tests, (ii) will Lexington experience problems due to the fact that Lexington Public Schools score very high now, (iii) assessment indicators, (iv) rubric alignment, (v) data collection, (vi) teacher evaluation and who would perform this task, (vii) who receives the evaluations, (viii) unannounced visits and who performs those, (ix) evaluation appeals, (x) teacher pilot program and who is participating, (xi) teacher training, (xii) costs to implement, (xiii) teacher moral, and (xiv) software and evaluators.

Thomas Plati, Director of Education Technology and Assessment addressed the Committee regarding iPads, laptops and software to support the evaluators. He expressed his concerns about the amount of time to implement and best practices.

6. Vote to Accept a Donation to Bridge School from Target Corporation's Take Charge of Education Fundraising Program in the Amount of \$496.69

Motion to Accept with gratitude a Donation to Bridge School from Target Corporation's Take Charge of Education Fundraising Program in the Amount of \$496.69 (Steigerwald, Alessandrini) **The Motion was Approved (5-0)**

7. Vote to Approve School Committee Minutes of September 20, 2012

The Committee discussed changes to the Minutes.

Motion to Approve School Committee Minutes of September 20, 2012, as amended (Stewart, Brodner) **The Motion was Approved (5-0)**

8. Vote to Approve School Committee Minutes of October 2, 2012

The Committee discussed changes to the Minutes.

Motion to Approve School Committee Minutes of October 2, 2012, as amended (Brodner, Alessandrini) **The Motion was Approved (5-0)**

9. Vote to Release Approved Executive Session Minutes of February 25, 2009

Motion to Release Approved Executive Session Minutes of February 25, 2009 (Stewart, Steigerwald) **The Motion was Approved (5-0)**

10. Vote to Release Approved Executive Session Minutes of June 15, 2011

Motion to Release Approved Executive Session Minutes of June 15, 2011 (Stewart, Steigerwald) **The Motion was Approved (5-0)**

11. Vote to Release Approved Executive Session Minutes of December 6, 2011

Motion to Release Approved Executive Session Minutes of December 6, 2011
(Stewart, Steigerwald) **The Motion was Approved (5-0)**

12. Vote to Release Approved Executive Session Minutes of March 27, 2012

Motion to Release Approved Executive Session Minutes of March 27, 2012
(Stewart, Steigerwald) **The Motion was Approved (5-0)**

Motion to Adjourn (Steigerwald, Stewart) The Motion was approved (5-0)

Meeting Adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Documents: Meeting Agenda; Estabrook School Project Budget Overview; Jonas Clarke Middle School Field Trip Request Form Trip to Quebec City June 5th – June 7, 2013; Lexington High School Field Trip Request Form Trip to Golfito Costa Rica February 18th – February 27, 2013; Educator Evaluation System PowerPoint Presentation dated October 30, 2012; Evaluating the Superintendent under the New Massachusetts Educator Evaluation System prepared by MASC dated September 2012; Memorandum of Agreement by and between Service Employee International Union, Local 888 and the Lexington School Committee (ERRATA included); Letter dated October 17, 2012 to Lexington School Committee from Margaret Colella, Principal, Bridge Elementary School regarding donation in the amount of \$496.69; Draft Lexington School Committee Meeting Minutes dated September 20, 2012; Draft Lexington School Committee Meeting Minutes dated October 2, 2012; Lexington School Committee Executive Session Minutes dated February 25, 2009; Lexington School Committee Executive Session Minutes dated June 15, 2011; Lexington School Committee Executive Session Minutes dated December 6, 2011; Lexington School Committee Executive Session Minutes dated March 27, 2012

Voted by the School Committee January 8, 2013