

LEXINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

**Monday, March 18, 2013
Cary Memorial Building, Estabrook Room
1605 Massachusetts Avenue**

Present: Dr. Paul Ash, Superintendent, Margaret Coppe, School Committee Chair; Alessandro Alessandrini, Vice Chair; Members Bonnie Brodner, Jessie Steigerwald and Mary Ann Stewart; and Sam Alpert, Student Representative

The Meeting Minutes were taken by Jean Curran, Recording Secretary

The Meeting convened at 6:35 p.m.

I. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order and invited public comment.

There were no public comments.

II. Member's Report/Members' Concerns

Mary Ann Stewart congratulated Jessie Steigerwald on all the work that had been done for Incorporation Weekend. Ms. Stewart announced that she missed last week's meeting because she was in Washington DC attending National PTA's Annual Legislative Conference and met with the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation on public policies regarding reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act/No Child Left Behind, support for students in special education and discussion on school safety and security measures.

Jessie Steigerwald thanked all the teachers involved in Incorporation Weekend for helping with student's work K-5 Social Studies which is on display in the High School Media Room and the 8th grader mock town meeting. She wants to arrange to show the K-5 Social Studies work in the lobby of Cary Hall prior to Town Meeting. Ms. Steigerwald announced the Master Planning Committee will meet on Wednesday. Ms. Steigerwald also asked the Chair if she would share the student letters received by her.

Dr. Ash stated that he fully supports Ms. Steigerwald's suggestion for showing student work and will work with Carol Pilarski, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development to arrange the showing if the Moderator will allow them to do that.

Margaret Coppe shared that Robert Harris, Assistant Superintendent is looking for confirmation on who will be the School Committee Liaison with respect to Collective Bargaining for the four upcoming contract negotiations. Ms. Brodner will be the Liaison to the Association of Lexington Administrators (ALA) and the Lexington Education Association Technology Unit. Ms. Steigerwald will be the Liaison to the Lexington

Education Secretaries Association (LEA-Unit D). Ms. Coppe will be the Liaison to the Lexington Education Association (LEA Unit C).

III. Agenda

1. Discussion of the Superintendent Evaluation Process

Margaret Coppe shared that Dr. Ash's Evaluation is contractually to be completed in March. Ms. Coppe met with Ms. Stewart and they both reviewed last year's procedures. The packets to the Committee are what Ms. Coppe proposes to use for the Evaluation. Ms. Coppe asked members if two to three weeks from March 18 to complete the Evaluation would be acceptable. There were questions and comments from the Committee regarding a limited 360 survey being sent to PTAs, Site Councils, Principals, and Town Administrators. Discussion included (i) sending the survey out this week and providing those taking the survey ten (10) days to complete the survey; (ii) posting the survey on the community link and on Global Connect; (iii) breaking down the data from the survey from each individual group responding; and (iv) confidentiality of those taking the survey; and (v) providing room for comments on survey.

Margaret Coppe suggested April 12, 2013 for members to send their evaluations to her. Ms. Coppe will send out the survey this week. Public comments to the Committee will be due by April 5, 2013.

Ms. Coppe also announced that Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) will be holding a training session for Committee members on the new evaluation procedures the state is requiring.

2. Superintendent's Recommendation to Appoint Ellen M. Sugita as the Director of Special Education, Effective July 1, 2013

Dr. Ash recommended the Committee appoint Ellen M. Sugita as the Director of Special Education, effective July 1, 2013. There were questions and comments from the Committee.

Motion to Appoint Ellen M. Sugita as the Director of Special Education (Alessandrini, Stewart) The Motion was Approved (5-0)

3. Discussion of Town Meeting Articles

The Committee discussed the following Town Meeting Articles:

Article 2 - Land Purchase

Article 4 – Budget

Article 8 - CPA projects having school interest

Article 8(N) – system to connect pathway on safe routes to school

Article 9 - Lincoln Park improvements

Article 13 - school project

Articles 14 Finance for Schools

Article 2 Special Town Meeting

This is an article to approve the purchase of the Marrett Road property by the town. Ms. Brodner will speak on this Article.

Motion to Support Article 2 of Special Town Meeting (Brodner, Steigerwald) The Motion was Approved (5-0)

3. Vote to Accept a \$1,502 Donation from Shire Human Genetic Therapies Inc. in Support of the 2013 LHS Science and Engineering Fair

Motion to Accept with Gratitude, a \$1,502 Donation from Shire Human Genetic Therapies Inc. in Support of the 2013 LHS Science and Engineering Fair (Stewart, Steigerwald) The Motion was Approved (5-0)

4. Vote to Accept a \$10,000 School Award and a \$5,000 Educator Independent Study Award from Genzyme Corporation to the LHS Science and Engineering Fair

Motion to Accept with Gratitude, a \$10,000 School Award and a \$5,000 Educator Independent Study Award from Genzyme Corporation to the LHS Science Department (Alessandrini, Brodner) The Motion was Approved (5-0)

The Chair moved to recess and reconvene on the floor of Town Meeting at 7:21 p.m.

Documents: Meeting Agenda; 2012 Superintendent Evaluation Form; Resume of Ellen M. Sugita; Memorandum dated March 8, 2013 re Shire Human Genetic Therapies Inc. donation to the 2013 LHS Science and Engineering Fair; Email dated February 10, 2013 from Ellie Tishler to Whitney Hagins and Jacquie Crowe regarding Genzyme Corporation donation to the LHS Science Department; and 2013 Town Warrant

Voted by the School Committee May 14, 2013