

LEXINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Friday, December 19, 2014
Lexington Town Office Building, Selectmen's Meeting Room
1625 Massachusetts Avenue

PRESENT: Chair Margaret Coppe, School Committee Members Jessie Steigerwald, Judith Crocker, Alessandro Alessandrini, William Hurley, Student Representative Abigail Schwartz

The minutes were taken by Christine Ashness, Recording Secretary

The meeting convened at 4:03pm

Call to order and welcome: Chair Margaret Coppe called the meeting to order, and introduced committee members.

Selection of Final Superintendent Candidate:

Margaret Coppe: Tonight we are voting on the new superintendent. It has been a long and vigorous process. She introduced John Connolly, Stephen Dlott and Gary Burton from Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates who conducted the search. The three finalists for superintendent were Mr. Kaine Osburn, Dr. George Entwistle and Dr. Mary Czajkowski. She appreciates all the time everyone has given to this search and gave special thanks to the eleven members of the search committee. She also thanked Alessandro Alessandrini and Jessie Steigerwald for chairing on the search committee.

She explained that each school committee member will give their preference, and if they have a consensus, will vote. If there is not a consensus, members will discuss strengths and concerns.

She also informed people that the Elementary World Language report would not be on tonight's agenda. It will be in January. And the Update on Ad Hoc Master Plan Committee agenda item does not have any action required so it was removed from tonight's agenda.

Each member stated his or her choice for superintendent. There was a consensus and each of them picked Dr. Mary Czajkowski.

MOTION to offer Dr. Mary Czajkowski the position of Superintendent of Lexington Public Schools. (Coppe, Steigerwald)

The motion was approved 5-0.

Margaret Coppe offered her congratulations to Dr. Czajkowski and read a statement.

The committee recessed at 4:20pm to call Dr. Czajkowski and offer her the superintendent's position.

The committee reconvened at 4:50pm.

School Committee Discussion of SMMA Proposed Elementary and Middle School Master Plan Options:

Judith Crocker: SMAA has requested long-term evaluation criteria from the School Committee in order to define its scope. The school committee had a discussion on December 16 and believes that maintaining class size, grade equity, parity across schools and maintaining specialist space are priorities. There were many options/possibilities. The charge of the committee is to pare down SMMA's expansive list of building capacity options and make it realistic.

The selections made do not mean they are the final decision. The committee looked at various grade configurations and decided to stay with the status quo. The selections:

- Brick & Mortar – Fiske, Harrington, Diamond:
- Pre-fabricated modulars – Clarke, Diamond, Bridge Bowman
- LHS – Needs HVAC system (on the capital list for the school committee)
- Estabrook and Central Office: Decided it is not feasible to expand either.
- Hastings: Disappointed we did not get a positive response on the SOI submitted to the Massachusetts School Board Assistance to finance a rebuild. They have asked the architect for a cost estimate.
- Pre K: Looked at various configurations and decided to stay at the Harrington but change its location in that building for more space and a stand alone wing. Convert old space to Kindergarten or general education classroom. Add a row of general education classrooms or a gym with brick and mortar to right size the building.
- Bridge, Bowman, Harrington and Fiske all need to be right sized.

This is a 5-year plan. Phase 3 of the report will include information on the high school, but not costs.

Dawn McKenna, 9 Hancock Street: She asked if the plans are still on the table for rebuilding Hastings. She urges they continue to advocate for it.

The committee answered yes, but they need a better idea of what it will cost.

Margaret Coppe: They'd like to schedule a site visit to Barnstable possibly for next week on Monday or Tuesday with two school committee members, maybe a couple of members of the superintendent's search committee, and an administrator. Judith Crocker and Jessie Steigerwald volunteered to go.

MOTION to go into Executive Session under exemption 2 to discuss negotiation strategies with non-union personnel, Dr. Mary Czajkowski, for a superintendent's contract beginning July 1 2015, not to return to open session. An open session would have a detrimental effect on our bargaining position. (Hurley, Alessandrini)

The Motion was approved by a roll call vote.

Judith Crocker: AYE

Jessie Steigerwald: AYE

Alessandro Alessandrini: AYE

William Hurley: AYE

Margaret Coppe: AYE

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15pm.

Executive Session

Exemption 2 – To discuss strategy in preparation for contract negotiations with the incoming Superintendent of Schools

Voted by the School Committee February 10, 2015