LEXINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OPEN SESSION
Tuesday, January 19, 2016
Cary Memorial Building, Battin Hall
1605 Massachusetts Avenue, Lexington, MA

Present:  Jessie Steigerwald, Chair; Bill Hurley, Vice Chair; Judy Crocker, Clerk; Alessandro Alessandrini, Mary Czajkowski, Superintendent
Margaret Coppe arrived at 6:28 PM
Student Representative Abigail Schwartz was not present

The Minutes were taken by Paula McDonough, Executive Assistant to the School Committee.

The meeting convened at 6:23PM

Call to Order and welcome: Chair Jessie Steigerwald called the meeting to order, and introduced committee members.

At 6:23 PM Steigerwald announced that the Committee would go into Executive Session and return to Open Session, and that while in Executive Session, the Committee would recess to relocate to the Ellen Stone Room in order to protect the confidentiality of the session as it was not possible to do so in Battin Hall. Following the Executive Session, Steigerwald said the Committee would return to Battin Hall for the rest of the meeting.

Motion to go into Executive Session in the Ellen Stone Room

At 6:23 p.m. Ms. Steigerwald stated: “I move that the School Committee go into Executive Session under Exemption 3 to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining pertaining to Lexington Education Association LEA Unit D, to return to open session. Further, as chair, I declare that an executive session is necessary to protect the negotiating and bargaining position of the School Committee.” (Hurley seconded the motion).

Alessandrini –AYE; Crocker -AYE; Hurley -AYE; Steigerwald -AYE; Coppe - Absent

Immediately following the roll call vote, at 6:24, Steigerwald moved to recess Executive Session for the purpose of relocating to the Ellen Stone Room. Hurley seconded the motion.

Alessandrini –AYE; Crocker -AYE; Hurley -AYE; Steigerwald -AYE; Coppe – Absent

Steigerwald stated that the Executive Session was in recess and the Committee relocated to the Ellen Stone Room.

At 6:29 p.m., Committee members, Dr. Czajkowski, Mr. Dailey, Mr. Harris and Ms. McDonough relocated to the Ellen Stone Room. The Chair welcomed Coppe (who had just arrived) and moved to end recess and return to Executive Session. (The motion was seconded by Alessandrini).

Hurley -AYE; Alessandrini -AYE; Coppe -AYE; Crocker -AYE; Steigerwald –AYE

The minutes for the Executive Session are in a separate document.
The School Committee returned to Open Session at 7:04 pm.

Others Present: Carol Pilarski (Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Professional Development); Pat Goddard (Director of Public Facilities); Ian Dailey (Interim Director of Finance and Operations); Maureen Kavanaugh (Director of Planning and Assessment); Ellen Sugita (Director of Special Education); Anna Monaco (Principal Clarke Middle School); Anne Carothers (Principal Diamond Middle School); Louise Lipsitz (Principal Hastings); Laura Lasa (Principal Lexington High School); Dr. Mary Anton (Principal Bowman); Meg Colella (Principal Bridge Elementary School)

The Chair announced that the agenda for tonight’s meeting would be taken out of order due to the difficult day at Bridge. She invited the administration, through Pat Goddard, Director of Public Facilities, to provide an update on the Bridge evacuation which took place earlier in the day, and said she would then recognize Dr. Czajkowski for further information.

Update from administration:
Pat Goddard: This morning the Bridge Elementary School was evacuated after staff detected a natural gas odor in the gymnasium during a performance. Department of Public Facilities staff responded and an exhaust extension will be installed to reduce the possibility of combustion air being entrained into the fresh air supply. Goddard identified the cause of the gas odor as combustible, gas-filled air being incorrectly funneled back into the gymnasium through the outside-air intake. The outside-air intake allows for fresh air to be transported into the school. On September 5, 2014, Bridge was evacuated because of reports of a gas odor. A similar event occurred on December 17, 2014. The next occurrence was in December 2015, and the school was evacuated again in March 2015 “due to noise created by ice settling.” A gas odor was reported on the playground on December 16, and on December 21 inside the building. Goddard said improvements to the gas system were installed in September 2014 including adding more sealant to the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems (HVAC), the programming of the equipment was modified, and exhaust stacks were added to help keep combustible air from fresh air in the outside-air intake. Goddard is exploring other consultants to take a look at the HVAC.

Dr. Czajkowski thanked parents and recognized Central Office Staff and Bridge Administration, Fire and Police Department. Dr. Czajkowski emphasized that student safety was the first priority and said the administration was looking at alternate ways to ensure this will not happen again. She added that a permanent solution was necessary. In the interim, one option is to have students keep coats and hats in the classroom. Exploring a possibility of hiring 6-7 buses staged at Bridge in the event of another evacuation, at least until a solution is identified. School Committee has offered their support; a cost estimate will be presented for review. Dr. Czajkowski is also exploring other locations as evacuation locations. Students were safe and returned to school by 10:00 a.m. This was a very difficult day. Dr. Czajkowski and Mr. Goddard will be attending a Bridge Site Council meeting on January 27 to discuss this matter.

During public comment, Ms. Steigerwald asked those present if anyone was in attendance for the budget hearing – one person indicated she was there for the budget hearing. The Chair asked the individual and the members of the School Committee if they wished to pause the public
comments to hold the hearing, or to extend time for comments. The individual and all Committee members agreed they would like to allow further comment.


Many parents addressed their concerns to the School Committee and Dr. Czajkowski regarding the evacuation at Bridge Elementary School. They asked for a solution to the facilities problems at Bridge Elementary School. Parents reported that students left the building without their coats and were extremely upset. They requested a contingency plan should this happen again so the students won’t be outside without their coats. Bridge parents asked why there are so many facilities problems that take place at Bridge Elementary, but not at Bowman Elementary, which is an identical school, and was renovated at the same time. Parents heard reports of children being traumatized from the event, and called on the guidance counselors to look into the issue. Parents supported Ms. Colella for her decision to remove the students from the school.

School Committee members thanked all the parents and administration and expressed their concerns regarding the evacuation. A member suggested that every school have a nearby facility to shelter students in case of an evacuation. The School Committee will be reviewing reports at their February 2 School Committee meeting from Mr. Goddard and Dr. Czajkowski.

8:07 PM - Public Hearing on the Superintendent’s FY 17 Recommended Budget
Ms. Steigerwald formally opened the Public Hearing. No public comments.
Chair closed the public hearing at 8:08 p.m.; the next public hearing is scheduled for Saturday, January 23rd at 10:00 a.m.

Due to time constraints, members and Dr. Czajkowski agreed to postpone Superintendent’s Announcements and School Committee Member Announcements to later in the evening – with further comments at the next meeting on Saturday, January 23, 2016.

**Agenda:**
**A.1 - METCO College Scholarship Fund of Lexington**
**Presenter:** Jill Smilow; President
**Summary:**
1. History of the METCO College Scholarship Fund of Lexington including success stories.
2. Supporters from the community over the years.
3. Strategic Plans: College Completion – to and Through College
4. 45th Anniversary Event to celebrate 45 years of scholarships
   a. Sunday, May 15th 3-6 p.m. at Depot Square, Lexington
5. Contact: [https://metcocollegescholarship.wordpress.com](https://metcocollegescholarship.wordpress.com)
A.2 – Planning Board Presentation on Proposed “Governmental – Civic Use” (GC) Zoning District and School Committee Discussion.

Presenter: Charles Hornig, Planning Board

Summary: The Planning Board is asking Town Meeting to amend the Zoning Bylaw and Zoning Map by defining a new district or districts, including establishing allowed uses, dimensional standards and transition and screening requirements and amend the Zoning Map by rezoning parcels owned by governmental bodies held for public use into the new district, or act in any other manner in relation thereto. This will impact existing school property. It also may impact the future ability of the Town to acquire land for school purposes. The Planning Board is sending a representative to the School Committee meeting so members are aware of the proposal and have an opportunity to ask questions in advance of Town Meeting.

Description: The Governmental – Civic Use (GC) zoning district is proposed to recognize the public nature of particular parcels of land and provide standards and guidelines for their continued use while ensuring that the use of these properties is related to the policies of the community, and that any development in the district, if any, will be compatible with surrounding districts and uses. The public hearing on this article is scheduled for January 20, 2016, in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, Town Office Building, 1625 Massachusetts Avenue at 7 PM.

Follow Up: School Committee may wish to take a position on this for Town Meeting. Members may wish to follow the development of the proposal prior to Town Meeting.

School Committee members asked Mr. Horning questions about the impact on school property.

A.4 - Youth Risk Behavior Survey: Middle School 2015 Results and High School 2015 Results

Presenter: Amy Farrell Ph.D. Research Analyst and Jack McDevitt, Ph.D. Northeastern University

Summary: The results of the YRBS surveys completed by students at both the High School and Middles Schools in 2015 will be reported at the January 19 School Committee meeting by researcher, Amy Farrell. In a PowerPoint presentation, Dr. Farrell and Dr. McDevitt will highlight the salient points of the survey results.

School Committee Members had questions and comments:

- Data - Stress at high school level
- Data – Suicide, broken down by gender; freshmen, sophomores; early signs
- Data – Teachers not aware of students’ stress (educate teachers)
- Continue to educate parents, students – reduce stress
- Data – Sources of stress (i.e., loss of a family member, loss of job, divorce)
- Data – alcohol
- Data – cigarettes use dropped
- Data – binge drinking has gone down (encouraging)
- Data – Harassment at school (more insight); bullied electronically
- Students are exercising good judgment
- What time of year is the survey given?
- Develop a town wide web site in Lexington
- AD HOC committee not able to find the Youth Risk Surveys
Maureen Kavanaugh (Director of Planning and Assessment) - and Valerie Viscosi (K-12 Director of Counselling): Surveys are a good start; guidance has started to collect more detailed data throughout the year on Suicide Ideation. This is the first year that data is being collected electronically, student specific and not anonymous.

Dr. Czajkowski thanked the presenters and commended the guidance and Wellness staff and addressed:

- Homework Policy – symptom of the problem
- Community Coalition
- Talking to students
- Depression and anxiety
- Open discussion on suicide - Principals and Carol Pilarski (Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction and Professional Development)
- Resources not accessible on the website. Marianne McKenna (Technology) and Val Viscosi to update resources.

A.6 – Vote to Appoint Permanent Building Committee Members for Clarke and Diamond School Projects.

Steigerwald reached out to all those that applied and gave them information that Mr. Valente had suggested we have two spots for Clarke and two spots for Diamond and in addition we could have two spots for the modulars; Bowman, Bridge and Fiske. School Committee has not yet invited the community to apply for the modular projects yet, as they were just informed, and would do so at a later date. School Committee thanked Mr. Hurley for serving as one of the appointed members on the Permanent Building Committee (PBC) for school projects on the seat titled “Multiple School Projects”.

Motion that the School Committee end the appointment of Mr. Hurley on Multiple School Projects for the Permanent Building Committee (PBC). (Crocker/Alessandrini). The Motion was approved unanimously.

Steigerwald would like the community to know that 3 members (Hurley, Coppe and Crocker) are interested. Mr. Himmel spoke very highly of Mr. Hurley’s service to date and recommended that Mr. Hurley’s service on each of the projects would be welcome. Since we have 4 spots we could have two School Committee members and two residents. We anticipate there will be two spots at Hastings soon. Letters will be going out to all candidates; next meeting is scheduled for February 11th.

Mr. Alessandrini suggested including all 6 candidates for the projects. Not 6 per project but divide them among all the projects. Alessandrini also suggested that you could have one School Committee member and one resident.

Coppe asked for clarification on the seating; 2 for Diamond and 2 for Clarke, up to 2 for each of the 3 modulars. Coppe believes that 2 for each of the modulars is overkill they are not as complicated. Coppe expressed a concern about appointing School Committee members. Coppe
showed interest in the modulars and stated that Hastings would also be opened in the future. Recommends: Goodell at Diamond, Chase at Clarke, Coppe at the modulars, Hobbs either one, Hastings in the future. Wants to vote on the Middle Schools tonight.

Hurley asked for clarification on the 3 modulars, since an invitation has not been sent out for those 3 projects – should we wait until we do that instead of assigning people that applied for the two middle schools. There will be residents interested in the modulars as it applies to their district. As far as the two middle schools there are distinct advantages to appointing a School Committee member. He would be interested in both but would like to see more people involved. His preference is Diamond and recommends Crocker at Clarke as she’s been the liaison and has followed these projects. Recommends: Hobbs and Goodell be representatives to the two middle schools. Wait for more feedback from the Elementary and those that have applied for these may be interested in the modulars. Points out that when Hastings comes forward there will be two appointees to those as well. Harrington/Pelham are also potential future projects.

Crocker would like to suggest that we appoint Hobbs, Chase, Goodell and Mr. Hurley for the middle school projects. Crocker would be willing to remove herself from the docket and either put herself back in for the Hastings which will be down the line or the modulars.

*Motion that the School Committee vote to appoint Permanent Building Committee (PBC) members to Clarke and Diamond for multiple school projects and at Diamond Mr. Goodell and Mr. Hurley to be our representatives and at Clarke Ms. Chase and Mr. Hobbs. (Moved by Alessandrini /Steigerwald seconded).
The Motion was approved unanimously.*

**A.5 – Extended Day Program Request for Proposals (RFP) #16-1**

**Presenter:** Ian Dailey

**Summary:** The School Department is approaching the end of a five-year agreement to provide after-school care at the elementary school level. This current contract concludes on June 30, 2016. The final year of this agreement included the addition of a program at Bridge Elementary School, so that all six elementary schools could offer a program on-site. With the end of the current agreement approaching, staff worked with Principals and other stakeholders to develop a new Request for Proposals. This agreement would span July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2019 with two possible one-year extensions (up to June 30, 2021). In an effort to maintain appropriate timelines for awarding the agreement, this Request for Proposals is being released January 19, 2016. Should there be any substantive requested changes, the can be issued via an Addendum. The full Request for Proposals timeline can be found attached.

The recommended Request for Proposals (RFP) seeks to maintain the current after school program as it is operated today, as an after-school program offered at all six elementary schools. Additionally, with the potential implementation of Elementary World Language triggering the elimination of half-day Thursdays at the elementary level, pricing will be required for both scenarios. Should the School Committee implement the Elementary World Language program and eliminate half-day Thursdays at the elementary school level, this RFP will already have pricing included accordingly.
Feedback has been provided to the School Department seeking a before-school program be implemented at the elementary level as well as an after-school program at the middle school level. Staff is not recommending these additional requests be included in this Request for Proposal as outlined below.

Currently schools are experiencing compressed program spaces. At the elementary level, many spaces are already being utilized by schools in the mornings. Many schools use their gyms for Before School Sports or BOX (K-2 Activity club); their cafeterias for clubs, school breakfasts, and as a place for students during inclement weather; and their libraries for miscellaneous meetings. In addition to these compressed spaces being already utilized, our schools are undergoing multiple school projects to address overcrowding for our core school programs. Should there be a desire to later add a before school program if space becomes less compressed and the multiple school projects are completed, that could be explored. Additionally, as previously mentioned, staff has received feedback regarding an after-school program at the middle schools. Currently, the middle schools have a number of programs and clubs being offered (including athletics). The middle schools use their gyms for basketball and intramurals; their cafeterias for clubs; and their libraries for miscellaneous groups such as the METCO After School Program. In addition to these compressed spaces being already utilized, our middle schools are undergoing multiple school projects to address overcrowding for our core school programs. Should there be a desire to later add a middle school program if space becomes less compressed and the multiple school projects are completed, that could be explored.

School Committee members shared questions and comments for Mr. Dailey.

Motion that the School Committee approve the Extended Day Request for Proposals, as to form included with this item, for an after-school program at each of the six elementary schools for a term of July 1, 2016-June 30, 2019, with the option of two one-year extensions (Crocker/ Coppe).

The Motion was approved (5-0).

In taking up the agenda item on the budget discussion, Ms. Steigerwald suggested identifying an alternate date to the Public Hearing of 1.23.16 in the event it is snowed out; suggestion was Tuesday, January 26, 2016, alternate date Saturday 30, 2016 at 10 a.m. Crocker will be on vacation and will not be able to attend.

A.3 – Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Discussions
Presenter: Dr. Mary Czajkowski and Ian Dailey, Ian Dailey (Interim Director of Finance and Operations), Ellen Sugita (Director of Special Education)
Summary: The Superintendent’s Fiscal Year 2017 Budget was presented to the School Committee on January 12, 2016. As part of reviewing the Superintendent’s Recommended Budget, public hearings are held to gather feedback on the budget. January 19, 2016 is the first of two public hearings. The second public hearing is on Saturday, January 23, 2016 (at Lexington High School). Subsequent to this meeting, additional budget discussions will be held on February 2, 2016. The culmination of these meetings seeks a School Committee vote to adopt the Fiscal Year 2017 School Committee budget on February 9, 2016.
School Committee Members: Thanked Mr. Daily and the superintendent for their first budget book and to the principals for streamlining their building requests. In particular, thanked Mr. Daily for including the student account activity review, salary charts, per pupil Expenditure charts and for breaking out many line items.

- SPED circuit breaker - thank you for increasing this line item for FY17. According to the revenue chart, there is an upward trend for students with appropriate claims. Can we deliver any of these services in-house? – Answer: Ellen Sugita, there are a number of students that do qualify and services are provided.

- Why is the redistricting consultant fee listed for both FY16 and FY17? - Answer: Dr. Czajkowski is looking at phase 1 and phase 2. Phase 1 is currently redistricting to Estabrook and potentially Hastings. Phase 2 after we finish phase 1 looking at Hastings. Continue the work with Applied Geographic (App Geo).

- Why is the Superintendent's new assistant listed at the upper end of its proposed salary range? Answer: Dr. Czajkowski is looking at a range at this point, and wants to be sensitive. Dr. Czajkowski is also now considering contracting for services, or a lower range, will post to see if there are qualified candidates. Ian Daily: this position includes benefits.

- K assistant is listed therefore we can expect to continue to have some, larger K classrooms? Answer: Ian Daily: Projected additional section for kindergarten.

- To lower fees, please look into acquiring in-house legal counsel.

- What is the status of the bus captain positions? Answer: Ian Daily: Still in the budget this year and next year, will be done by end of school year.

- Detail on the Estabrook morning club – does it pay rent, a nonprofit, and how it ties into the RFP for extended day elementary student care? Answer: Ian Daily: Large amount is addressing the second year of the adjustment of K5 expenditure levels. Adjusted by 1.8%.

- Caseload and budget projections for next year would potentially result in caseloads which would be too high – Answer: Dr. Czajkowski, Ian Daily, Ellen Sugita and Principals came up with a reallocation of 28 positions. Decrease in number of students requiring service.

Ian Daily – reported that there was an update to the white book on the High School HVAC was presented at $186K, was amended in Carl’s white book $500K.

Superintendent’s Announcements:
- The Boston Globe inquired if the Lexington School Department received any bomb threats, we did not receive any.
- The Debt Exclusion Campaign Seminar conducted by the Massachusetts Office of Campaign and Political Finance ((OCPF) is scheduled for February 2 from 5-6:30 p.m. at the Community Center

School Committee Member Announcements:
Steigerwald: Thanked the Community Coalition, students, school and town staff and Dr. Czajkowski.
Hurley: Will provide an update on the PBC - The critical dates Feb 23; final bids in mid of March. Bid the two middle schools as one project or to separate them. Most people are interested in the bigger projects vs. smaller ones. Diamond and Clarke up and running by September 2016.

Alessandrini: Thanked all the volunteers on the Martin Luther King Celebration and the SNAP Chorus

Crocker:
• Census forms have been mailed to Lexington households. It is one vehicle LPS relies on to obtain information on possible incoming public school students. Even if your school-age child does not attend LPS, please complete the yellow form indicating this.

• When discussing the school capital plan at the Jan 12 SC meeting, I asked if the SC had or will vote on the traffic site plans. I failed to state the reason I inquired about a vote was to comply with the LPS Policy EEAC - Traffic Safety and Mitigation. I would like the topic to include on the Jan 23 agenda for a committee discussion.

• FY16 Safe Routes To School Update – PowerPoint - tabled the Safe Routes update due to the time constraints and will speak to it on Feb 2.

• The monthly EDCO meeting is Jan 20 at 10:30am (time change). The topic will be a continuation of the school start time discussion. Panelists will include MIAA representatives and local Athletic Directors.

• Policy EEAC Traffic Safety and Mitigation as it relates to the School Capital Projects – February 2, 2016.

Coppe:
None

Steigerwald received an email from a resident inquiring about the status of the School Committee minutes and the resident noted that minutes were not updated on the Lexington Public School website. The Superintendent’s Office is the keeper of public records. Steigerwald shared that Ms. McDonough and Ms. Sousa were sharing files to address this backlog – which began prior to January 2015. There are many sets of approved minutes that have not been posted to the website. Though some sets from 2015 had been posted, there were sets from 2014 and 2015 that were not posted. In addition, there were some minutes posted from 2014 where a corresponding agenda had not been uploaded to the website. The School Committee did not have a recording secretary from the period of July through October 20, 2015. Members reviewed print outs from the LPS website that show what the website carried when the resident inquired, and the current status of the meeting minutes as it is being brought up to date. Steigerwald stated that counsel has advised that the Committee does not have an obligation to post minutes on the website, but that it was helpful to make them accessible to the community and that the work to complete the update would continue if members agreed they shared this goal – members agreed. Steigerwald encouraged the residents to contact Ms. McDonough if they are interested in any minutes or agendas and are not able to find them on the web as they are available through the office.
Consent Agenda:
1. Vote to Approve and Not Release School Committee Executive Session Minutes of September 8, 2015
2. Vote to Approve and Not Release Amended School Committee Executive Session Minutes of September 15, 2015
3. Vote to Approve and Not Release School Committee Executive Session Minutes of September 16, 2015
4. Vote to Approve Minutes of January 31, 2015
5. Vote to Approve Minutes of February 10, 2015
6. Vote to Approve Minutes of September 16, 2015
7. Vote to Approve Minutes of November 2, 2015
8. Vote to Approve Minutes of December 4, 2015
9. Vote to Approve Minutes of December 10, 2015
10. Vote to Accept a $250 Donation to the Nick Barnett Science Olympiad Team

Motion to approve consent agenda Items 1,2,3,4,5,6,7, 9 as amended and 10 (Crocker/Hurley)
The motion was approved (5-0).

Vote to Approve Minutes of December 4, 2015- tabled

10:54 p.m. Adjourn: On a motion made by Hurley and seconded by Crocker the School Committee voted unanimously 5-0 to adjourn at 10:54 pm.

Meeting Materials:
HO.1–Memo dated 1.19.16 from Pat Goddard (Director of Public Facilities) to Dr. Czajkowski RE: Bridge School Odor/Evacuation History; A.1-METCO College Scholarship Fund of Lexington – January, 2016; Lexington Minuteman – Thursday, December 3, 2015 – Clip; Save the date – Sunday, May 15th at 3 p.m., Depot Square, Lexington Center; A.2-Amend Zoning Bylaw-Civic District Article XX; Appendix A-Table 1, Permitted Uses and Development Standards; Appendix B-Table 2, Schedule of Dimensional Controls; List of Parcels to be Rezoned to Governmental/Civic Use District; Proposed Governmental/Civic Use District Map; A.3- PowerPoint presentation of the Lexington Public Schools FY2016-17 Budget dated January 12, 2016; A.4-HO.2-PowerPoint presentation Lexington High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey 2015 Results and Lexington Middle School Youth Risk Behavior Survey 2015 Results; Executive Summary-Youth Risk Behavior Survey Lexington Middle School and Lexington High School 2015 Results Reported by Amy Farrell, Ph.D., Jack McDevitt, Ph.D and Rachel Austin; A.5- Extended Day Request for Proposal (RFP) #16-1; A.6-Canditates to the PBC Clarke and Diamond Applications.

☑ Place on Consent Agenda for SC Approval 2.23.16
☑ Voted Approved by School Committee  2.23.16