

LEXINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, October 25, 2011
Cary Hall Auditorium
1605 Massachusetts Avenue

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

The minutes were taken by Jean Curran.

7:33 PM The Chair called the meeting to order and invited Public Comment.

7:34 PM Gretchen Reisig, Co-President, Estabrook PTA addressed the Committee regarding new construction and safety issues at the Estabrook School. Ms. Reisig also presented written comments signed by Estabrook School PTA Co-Presidents Gretchen Reisig and Betsy Sarles, Co-Chair of Estabrook Site Council, Margaret Counts-Klebe, and Estabrook Site Council members Susan Bottan and Hemina KrishnaBachia.

7:37 PM **Superintendent's Announcements**

Dr. Ash presented the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents Award to three Lexington High School seniors, Jonah Bader, Luke Johnson and Lauren Yates. He congratulated each senior for their educational excellence, leadership and dedication to their school and community.

Dr. Ash introduced Patrick Goddard, Director of Public Facilities, who presented the new three-year national gas contract. The new rate will see a savings of approximately \$864,000 over the next three years or about \$288,000 each year.

7:48 PM **Members' Reports/Member's Concerns**

Jessie Steigerwald reported that Stewart Kennedy, Chair of the Conservation Committee, shared details with her about their \$24,000 grant to improve the Estabrook School boardwalk in the Paint Mine Conservation area behind the school. Coach Bill Babcock rounded up 70 Cross Country team members from LHS who helped carry in the materials needed for the project and worked to rebuild the boardwalk.

Noah Coolidge stated that it was great to give back to the community and the LHS Cross Country team won the Cross Country Middlesex League meet.

Mary Ann Stewart thanked the Hastings PTA Arts Created Together (ACT) Committee Chair Jane Hundley, who is also LPS K-5 Social Studies Curriculum Coordinator, and Hastings PTA Co-Presidents Becky Barrentine and Lisa Mazerall for their invitation to the School Committee to attend the Destination Asia! Family Night on Monday, October 24, 2011 at the Hastings School. Three parent volunteers Jayshree Bala Rajamani, Dr. Cheryl Knott, and Helen Zhu, with assistance from her son David Sun (a Hastings student) also offered diverse presentations on arts, culture, and wildlife of Asia.

Ms. Stewart asked Dr. Ash to extend invitations to PTA Presidents and all Site Council Co-Chairs to the annual School Committee meeting to be held in Boston on November 22, 2011.

Ms. Stewart announced there would be a School Committee Public Hearing concerning the new Estabrook School building to be held on November 15th, 2011; location to be determined.

Margaret Coppe inquired about the upcoming meeting on November 15th and why the Conservation Commission was on the list.

7:54 PM

Agenda Items

Diamond Middle School Field Trip to Quebec City, Canada, May 30 through June 1, 2012

Diamond Middle School Principal, Anne Carothers and Joan Yarmovsky, French Teacher at Diamond presented their proposal for the Diamond Middle School Field Trip to Quebec, Canada in May, 2012. There were questions and comments from the Committee.

Motion to approve Diamond Middle School Field Trip to Quebec, Canada on May 30th through June 1, 2012 (Brodner, Alessandrini). The Motion passed 5-0.

8:00 PM

Update on the Study to Improve Professional Relationships

Bruce Wellman, Consultant with MiraVia, LLC presented an update on improving professional relationships. It was noted that a shift in the timeline for the data collection process was needed in order to communicate results with staff and faculty across the district. The Committee will be presented with the outcome in February instead of November. Phyllis Neufeld, President of the Lexington Education Association and a member of the Steering Committee, shared her views on the current process. There were questions and comments from the Committee.

Motion to suggest to the Steering Committee to expand their data collection process by inviting participation of all former Lexington principals in the last 10 years (Steigerwald, Coppe). Motion approved 5-0.

8:22 PM

Update on the Estabrook School Building Project

Donna DiNisco, Vice President, and Leno Filippi, Architect and Planner, of DiNisco Design Partnership/Boston presented an update on the Estabrook School Building Project. Their presentation showed their work addressing the required number of MSBA educational spaces, the educational programs, meetings to date, current conceptual options (including construction road access options), and an update on timeline of the process. There were questions and comments from the Committee.

9:00 PM

Recommended FY2013 Capital Budget

Dr. Ash announced that Thomas Plati, Director of Educational Technology and Assessment, was unable to attend this meeting, but will be available at the next meeting to show a video highlighting technology being used in the classroom and then take questions from the Committee.

Mary Ellen Dunn, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Business, and Patrick Goddard presented the school capital requests for FY 2013-2017, which included school department programs, public facilities programs, and town programs benefiting schools.

Dr. Ash recommended, on behalf of Thomas Plati, to have all classrooms outfitted with interactive White Boards.

William Hurley, Representative from the Capital Expenditures Committee had comments and questions for the School Committee.

There were questions and comments from the Committee.

9:51 PM

First Reading of Use of Drugs and Alcohol on School Property Policy

Margaret Coppe, Chair of the School Committee Policy Subcommittee, presented a First Reading of the Use of Drugs and Alcohol on School Property Policy. Jill Gasperini, LPS School Health Coordinator, addressed the Committee on the use or restriction of caffeine beverages. There were questions and comments from the Committee.

Motion to approve First Reading and move to Second Reading of the Use of Drugs and Alcohol on School Property Policy (Alessandrini, Brodner). The Motion passed 5-0.

First Reading of Copyrightable/Copyrighted Material Policy

As advised by School Committee counsel, Margaret Coppe proposed that the Committee postpone the First Reading of this policy. Noah Coolidge suggested that the Subcommittee address student copyrighted materials.

Motion to postpone First Reading of the Copyrightable/Copyrighted Material Policy (Alessandrini, Steigerwald). The Motion passed 5-0.

Second Reading of Security Camera Policy

Margaret Coppe presented the second draft of the Policy noting changes from the First Reading. There were questions and comments from the Committee.

Motion to approve Second Reading and move to Third Reading (Brodner, Alessandrini). The Motion passed 5-0.

Second Reading of Life Threatening Allergies Policy

Margaret Coppe presented and identified several corrections. There were questions and comments from the Committee. Jill Gasperini raised issues to the current reading. Dawn McKenna, Precinct 6 presented her views on this policy.

Motion to move to a Third Reading pending conversation with administration, staff and others (Steigerwald, Alessandrini). Motion passed 4-1 (Brodner)

School Committee Minutes of October 11, 2011

Motion to approve the School Committee Minutes of the meeting dated October 11, 2011 (Coppe, Brodner). The Motion passed 5-0.

Motion to Adjourn the School Committee Meeting (Coppe, Steigerwald). The Motion passed 5-0.

The meeting adjourned at 10:26 PM.

Documents: Meeting Agenda, Letter to School Committee from Gretchen Reisig (Co-President, Estabrook PTA), Betsy Sarles (Co-President of Estabrook PTA), Margaret Counts-Klebe (Co-Chair, Estabrook Site Council), and Estabrook Site Council members Susan Botton and Hemina KrishnaBachia, Diamond Middle School Field Trip Request and backup materials, MiraVia Timeline and Action Steps, DiNisco Design Meeting Agenda and materials, LPS FY2013-2017 Capital Improvement Requests, Capital Improvement Projects and PowerPoint Presentation, Use of Drugs and Alcohol Draft Policy Revision, Use of Drugs and Alcohol Current Policy, Security Cameral Policy (Second Reading), Life Threatening Allergies Policy (Second Reading), and October 11, 2011, School Committee minutes.

Voted by the School Committee _____ November 8, 2011