

LEXINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Monday, July 31, 2017
Central Office Upper Level Conference Room
146 Maple Street, Lexington MA

Present:

Chair, Alessandro Alessandrini; Vice Chair, Eileen Jay; Jessie Steigerwald; Kate Colburn, Kathleen Lenihan, Superintendent, Dr.Czajkowski;

The minutes were taken by Kristen Cronin, Executive Assistant to the School Committee and Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent

The meeting convened at 6:30 pm

Call to Order and Welcome:

Chair Alessandro Alessandrini called the meeting to order, and introduced committee members.

Public Comments:

Superintendent's Announcement:

Dr. Czajkowski congratulated Lexington High student, Catherine Wang, who received a Gold medal at the 2017 International Biology Olympiad, held at the University of Warrick in the United Kingdom. This Olympiad included 264 students from 68 different countries.

Dr. Czajkowski passed around pictures of Clarke and Diamond Middle School to members. Project at both schools are moving on schedule. Principals Anna Monaco and Jen Turner will be sending out communications to parents and staff explaining the traffic patterns which has been adjusted.

Dr. Czajkowski updated members on the LHS Security Assessment timeline. Dr. Czajkowski will submit a final report to school committee when she receives a copy on August 11.

The High School Nurses office abatement work was completed on July 25. Electrical is close to completion, as well as rough carpentry and air-conditioning units. Work at the high school is on track.

New Hire, Zachary Taylor, Second Shift Custodian at Central Administration Building.

School Committee Member Announcements:

Jessie Steigerwald: Addressed to the community that School Committee members have new email accounts since LPS is switching over to Google. Would like to request Kristen Cronin to have new business cards made for members. Jessie also suggested Kristen Cronin create a calendar in Google to help keep track of all committees and subcommittee dates.

Jessie handed out an updated version of the Lexington Community Coalition Youth Initiative and Support Map. She would like members to review the map and send feedback with suggestions to her by August 5th in order to have a final version printed for schools in the fall. She thanked all of the community groups that worked with the School Committee and Selectmen on the monthly welcome coffees.

Eileen Jay: Reminder that the Lexington Coalition as well as other co sponsors, including the Lexington Public Schools, are sponsoring a summer reading book “How to Raise an Adult”, by Julie Lythcott-Haims. Upcoming dates in October for community discussions will be publicized.

Alessandro Alessandrini: Suzi Barry, Chair of Board of Selectmen, is requesting a meeting between BOS, SC, PBC, and Sustainable Lexington to discuss Hastings Geothermal. Dates requested are the following: August 15, 16, 17 meeting 8 am or 7 pm. Alessandro will send out a Doodle calendar with requested dates and times.

Consent Agenda:

1. Vote to Approve School Committee Minutes from May 23, 2017
Vote to Approve School Committee Minutes from June 20, 2017

Motion to approve consent agenda item as amended (Alessandrini/Steigerwald)

The Motion was approved (5-0).

Agenda:

1. Discussion of Lexington High School Graduation Requirements and School Committee Role (10 minutes)

Jessie Steigerwald updated the committee on Lexington’s graduation requirement and the School Committee role. The current School Committee Policy Manual does not include a policy about graduation requirements. Jessie reached out to Jim Hardy at the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC). He is the same person that guided us in revising the Policy Manual. Mr. Hardy advised that whatever our graduation requirements are, there should not be a need to make individual exceptions. We have learned that some exceptions have been made and should learn where, perhaps, the existing requirements are not serving our students or our mission.

There are two ways that School Committee can handle graduation requirements:

- Have a Policy (IKF): Have a policy and include in the policy manual. If put in the policy manual, it must undergo the formal policy approval process for any change, even small ones.
- In School Handbooks: If it is in the handbook, School Committee must stick to the annual process of having the LPS Administration bring the entire handbook to the committee in a timely fashion for approval.

The policy should reflect what the state requires, plus additional requirements that we believe should be required from all students. It is not clear whether our requirements have been formally reviewed since the 1990s. Since that time we have embraced a more inclusive educational program. We also need to consider how we want medical absences-whether for physical or mental health – to be handled. As we review and adopt a graduation requirement policy it should reflect what we believe and staff believes that will serve our mission statement for all students

Motion to request Policy Subcommittee bring forward a draft Graduation Requirement Policy for the full committee to review (Alessandrini/Steigerwald) Motion Approved 5-0

- 2. Vote to Appoint Kate Colburn and Kathleen Lenihan to the Planning Board's Comprehensive Plans Committee (5 minutes)**

Motion to Approve Kate Colburn and Kathleen Lenihan as the School Committee Representatives to the Planning Board's Comprehensive Plans Committee (Jay/Alessandrini) Motion Approved 5-0

- 3. Vote to Appoint Sandra Trach as the Assistant Superintendent of Strategic Planning and Operations of Lexington Public Schools from August 1, 2017 – June 30, 2020 (10 minutes)**

Committee members and Dr. Czajkowski discussed the position's scope, the duration of the proposed contract, and the recommended candidate. Members proposed a compromise of a one-year contract as an alternative to a 3-year contract. Members and Dr. Czajkowski discussed the pros and cons of this alternative.

Motion to Appoint Sandra Trach as Assistant Superintendent of Strategic Planning and Operations of the Lexington Public Schools, from August 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018 (Alessandrini/Colburn) Motion approved 5-0

School Committee took a 5-minute break before rejoining for Executive Session

Meeting Materials: Agenda; A.1- None A.2- None A.3- Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System – Graduation Requirements (2) Lexington Program of Studies (3) Lexington Handbook 2016-2017 (4) March 1996 School Committee Minutes Reflects presentation to School Committee regarding graduation requirements. No vote is recorded. (5) Concord-Carlisle School Committee Policy IKF – Graduation requirements (6) Cambridge School Committee Policy IKF – HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (7) MCAS Policy Service Information