

LEXINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, March 1st 2006
Lexington High School

Present: Superintendent Paul Ash; School Committee: Helen Cohen - Chair, Scott Burson, Tom Diaz, Tom Griffiths, and Olga Gutttag;
Minutes taken by Leora Tec

The meeting was convened at 5:11 p.m.

- I. Call to Order and Welcome** (Helen Cohen)
- II. Public Comment:** none
- III. Superintendent's Report:** none
- IV. Members' Reports / Members' Concerns:** none
- V. Discussion Items:** none
- VI. Action Items**

A. Motion to Approve the Lexington Education Secretaries Association contract
(Burson, Gutttag). The motion passed 5-0.

B. Motion to approve the technology contract (Burson, Diaz). The motion passed 5-0.

C. Vote to Approve the FY07 Budget:

Olga Gutttag wanted to split voting the budget into several votes to show commonality among SC members in many respects but the committee decided to vote only on the soundness and the full budget.

1. Motion that the School Committee endorse the educational soundness of the Superintendent's recommended budget (Gutttag, Griffiths). The motion passed 5-0.

A discussion ensued wherein Olga Gutttag wanted to discuss specifics and vote the budget incrementally but Helen Cohen reminded her that the subject on the agenda was the total budget. Olga Gutttag wanted to recommend a level-service budget of \$64,080,462 instead of the Superintendent recommended \$66,703,858. Dr. Ash stated that this number would not allow the District to make progress.

2. Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommended budget of \$66,703,858
(Burson, Griffiths). The motion passed 4-1 (Gutttag).

Olga Gutttag did not want to have her dissenting vote misunderstood as failure to support an override. She felt the amount was inauspicious considering town sentiment and the state economy, that the current budget was funding too many

initiatives, that some programs put on the override should have been protected, and that some cost reduction initiatives (e.g. early partial redistricting) had not been explored. Also discussed were the merits of multi-year overrides.

- VI. Motion to suspend the session** until the summit meeting (Griffiths, Cohen). The motion passed unanimously. Meeting was suspended at 6:39 p.m.