

**LEXINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Tuesday, September 4, 2007**  
**Lexington Town Office Building, Selectmen's Meeting Room**  
**1625 Massachusetts Avenue**

**Present: Superintendent Paul Ash, School Committee Chair Tom Diaz, School Committee Members Helen Cohen, Margaret Coppe, Tom Griffiths and Ravi Sakhuja. The minutes were taken by Leora Tec.**

**I. Call to Order and Welcome (Tom Diaz)**

**II. Superintendent's Announcements**

1. Introduction of New Town-wide Director of Facilities (Pat Goddard)
2. Summer Curriculum Update ( by Lynne Sarasin and Carole Pilarski)
3. Opening of School – Remarks by Dr. Ash

**III. Members' Reports / Members' Concerns**

**Tom Diaz:** The summer felt short. Regarding the broken water pipe at the East Lexington Branch; we will get more info on the damage soon.

**Tom Griffiths:** Dr. Ash's talk on opening day was quite inspiring. Regarding the East Lexington branch, we should think about whether it is serving a valid function.

**Ravi Sakhuja:** Questions from the public should be returned "over Dr. Ash's signature."

**Paul Ash:** Most of the email I get is more appropriately answered by a principal. I got 22,000 emails my first year.

**IV. Discussion Items:**

1. DPW Transition – Use of the New School Administration Building —  
Report by Bill Hadley, Director of DPW Mr. Hadley briefed the committee on the proposal to station 30 to 40 trucks at the old Harrington building while the new DPW building is under construction. The Superintendent, School Committee, and public discussed the pros and cons of this proposal with Mr. Hadley. Principal Elaine Mead and Director of Facilities Pat Goddard will represent the school department in further discussions.

2. Recommended 2007-2008 System Goals

Goals were discussed by Dr. Ash. They are available on the website. The Committee will vote on them at the next meeting. Margaret Coppe reminded Dr. Ash to include science and art safety in the goals. He agreed. The next meeting will include a report on the financial and educational implications of the new SPED programs. Whether or not to join GIC will be discussed at the next meeting.

3. 2007 Enrollment Numbers – Projected vs. Actual

Dr. Ash presented the enrollment numbers. Except for grade 5 in Bridge and Hastings, all classes are within the School Committee's guidelines for preferred sizes. This is thanks to the addition of four teachers and redistricting.

4. Transportation Update

**Mary Ellen Dunn, Assistant Superintendent of Finance**, apologized to the community for the transportation problems. She discussed: closure of Woburn Street, middle school routes, bus stop changes, busing to Hayden and bus passes. Several members of the public were recognized and registered specific concerns with the Committee.

**Paul Ash** apologized for the burden to families and noted that individuals are being impacted. Five buses were eliminated to save money. The staff is working hard to solve problems.

**V. Action Items:**

1. Vote to Approve School Committee Minutes of August 16, 2007

**Motion to accept the minutes of August 16<sup>th</sup>** (Cohen, Griffiths). **The motion passed 5-0.**

**VI. Motion to go into executive session for the purpose of negotiating with employees, not to return to public session** (Cohen, Coppe). Coppe-aye; Griffiths-aye; Cohen-aye; Sakhuja-aye; Diaz-aye.

The next meeting of the School Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, September 25, 2007, at 7:30 p.m. at the Lexington Town Office Building, Selectmen's Meeting Room, 1625 Massachusetts Avenue.