

LEXINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Saturday, January 12, 2008

Cary Hall Auditorium

1605 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.

The meeting was convened at 10:10 a.m.

I. Call to Order and Welcome (Tom Diaz)

Mr. Diaz announced the upcoming School Committee meetings.

II. Public Comment

Jill Gaspirini (Nurse Leader): Ms. Gasperini discussed a grant that will end at the end of the school year.

Phyllis Neufeld (LEA president): Ms. Neufeld requested an additional public meeting in case there is an at-risk list.

Jerry Lacey: Mr. Lacey congratulated the school administration and School Committee on the SAT results and said the stock market has gone down and we need to consider that when we think about a possible override.

III. Members Reports/Concerns:

Helen Cohen: I chaperoned the middle school field trip to Nashoba last Thursday on the bus. It was wonderful.

Tom Griffiths: I've had several meetings on school capital that have been great.

All the major seats in Lexington are uncontested. Rod Cole will replace me on the School Committee on March 4th.

Tom Diaz: I left a handout for my colleagues on the Lexington Forum for Youth on Feb 2nd. A panel of experts will discuss the challenges of adolescence.

Motion to support the Lexington Forum for Youth (Griffiths, Cohen). **The motion passed 5-0.**

IV. Discussion: School Committee Short- and Long-Range Goals

Each Committee member shared his or her short and long-term goals for the school system.

Dr. Ash commented on what he had heard from the Committee and described the intention behind his use of the phrase, “a world class education.” He added to what the Committee members said by saying that engineering technology is missing from our science curriculum. The United States needs engineers. This needs to be added K-12.

A short discussion of fiscal issues ensued, i.e., where the money will come from. We may get an increase in Chapter 70 aid but it will be well after we have voted the budget. The Town’s stabilization fund has over five million dollars in it; perhaps we should scale back our deposits to that fund.

One more meeting for a daytime public hearing: January 24th at 10 a.m. hopefully at Cary Hall.

V. Motion to Adjourn (Cohen, Griffiths). **The motion passed 5-0.**

The next meeting of the School Committee is scheduled for Monday, January 14, 2008, at 5:00 p.m. at Cary Hall Auditorium, 1605 Massachusetts Avenue.