

LEXINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, August 16, 2007
Selectmen's Meeting Room, Town Hall
17 Stedman Road

Present: Superintendent Paul Ash, School Committee Chair Tom Diaz, School Committee Members: Tom Griffiths, Helen Cohen, Ravi Sakhuja, and Margaret Coppe. Minutes taken by Tom Diaz.

1. Call to Order and Welcome (Tom Diaz)

Mr. Diaz welcomed Gabe Schonfeld as the new Student Representative to the School Committee

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

3. Members' Report, Members' Concerns

Ms. Coppe reported on the 20/20 Vision Committee's plans for a demographic study committee.

Mr. Griffiths reported that PBC work is under way on Clarke and Diamond safety improvements and that a firm has been hired for post-commissioning work on Fiske and Harrington. DPW bids are due to be opened September 13. Several committee members joined Mr. Griffiths in thanking Phil Poinelli for his service as PBC chairman.

4. Discussion Items

4.1. Personnel

Mr. Harris reported the substantial amount of hiring done to prepare for the opening of the 2007-2008 school year.

4.2. FY09 Budget Timetable

Dr. Ash wants to present the recommended budget by December 15, about a month earlier than the FY08 budget. He thinks the staff has learned from the past two years and can expedite things. The committee discussed the needs of Town Meeting members for handouts and other deadlines that would occur after the mid-December presentation, including the need for public budget hearings starting in early January. Committee members also discussed the need for roll-ups and discussed whether to continue review of budget areas by small groups of committee members.

4.3. Budgeting Process for Special Education

Mr. Griffiths reported that Burlington has a special system for budgeting certain special education expenses separately from the rest of the school budget. He will set up a meeting in Burlington to discuss the subject with Burlington officials.

4.4. School Committee Goals

Committee members began a discussion of goals for FY08 and FY09. Ideas included requests for mission statements for each school level, reports on the new special ed programs, facility maintenance and energy conservation, more timely minutes, and better town governance and budgeting to get through non-override years.

Most members were in favor of an additional off-site meeting to discuss goals and teamwork, and Mr. Diaz will schedule it.

5. Action Items

Committee voted 5-0 to reappoint Stoneman, Chandler, and Miller as legal counsel. (Griffiths, Cohen)

The next meeting is Tuesday September 4. Following that, the next four meetings are September 25, October 3, October 16 (in Boston), and November 6.

Committee voted 5-0 to adjourn at 9:07 PM. (Griffiths, Coppe)