

Lexington School Committee  
January 17, 2006  
LHS Media Center  
251 Waltham Street

**Present: Superintendent Paul Ash, School Committee: Chair Helen Cohen, Scott Burson, Tom Diaz, Tom Griffiths, Olga Gutttag and student representative Toni Maeck**  
**Minutes taken by Leora Tec.**

The meeting was convened at 7:36 pm

**I. Call to order and welcome:** Helen Cohen

**II. Public comment**

Paul Stricker (Bridge parent): Bridge School is overcrowded.

**III. Superintendent's report**

Bill Hartigan: Clarke School had a sprinkler pipe failure today. School will be open tomorrow. Sprinkler system is fully operational. Fire alarm will be ready tomorrow evening. Instruments and computers were not affected.

**IV. Members' Reports/Members' Concerns**

**Tom Griffiths:** Senior Center Siting Committee. There will not be plans for DPW for TM, so that may affect how quickly there is a submission for the *White House* project for debt exclusion because the thinking was that DPW would go together with the *White House*.

**Helen Cohen:** Training for committee chairs in town on running public meetings.

**V. Action Items:**

1. Vote to approve LHS trip to Sienna, Italy: Michael Jones introduced the two advisors, Samantha Lowe and Cara Bean. The trip will take place February 16th-March 1<sup>st</sup>. School Committee members received a packet with all the details. Students will be staying with host families. SC members asked questions about chaperones and various safety arrangements.

Motion to approve trip to Sienna (Burson, Griffiths) passed unanimously with the understanding that the accompanying parents will become official chaperones and will be CORId.

**VI. Discussion Items**

**A. Update on NEASC Accreditation Process:**

Deb Hoard and Henry Turner, co-chairs of the Mission Committee have solicited feedback in a number of ways. They are close to a final draft.

B. Recommended Grades 9-12 budget (presented by Guttag and Burson):

Principal Michael Jones' priorities are protecting class size and protecting the richness of course offerings. The high school population is stable, there is a bubble in 11<sup>th</sup> grade, and a decrease in 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

373 students are taking a "light load." There are many non-professional status teachers who need support to become professionals. Level 2 classes usually have 18 students or fewer, so Level 1 have 25 or fewer and honors have more than 25. We should allocate the last few fractions of FTEs after we know what classes are in demand.

	Requesting	This Year	Next Year	Comments
English	.5 FTE for Hon Senior course, another .5 FTE for reading, and 5 extra secretarial days over 10 months pos'n	\$23,491	\$36,500	Adding AP English
Foreign Language	Lab technician?	\$22,500	\$28,645	
Guidance	Seasonal staffing to help registrar			
Mathematics	1 FTE and 8 secretarial days			
Science	1 FTE replacement microscopes			
Social Studies	.5 FTE teacher and 5 secretarial days			

There was a discussion about balancing electives among the disciplines.

C. Recommended Grades K-5 budget (Presented by Guttag and Diaz):

[Paul Ash addressed the concerns about overcrowding brought by Bridge School parents to the last few School Committee meetings and said that the only solution is that parents of children in the most crowded grades will be able to transfer their children to Fiske or Estabrook for one year. Barbara Manfredi read a letter that she wrote to Bridge parents in which she stated that the Bridge community is managing and by working together they can get by until redistricting.]

**Literacy:** Stephanie Grimaldi reported that they are requesting 0.6 FTE but are doing significant restructuring. They are changing the focus from reading specialists to literacy specialists.

**Mathematics:** They are requesting an additional 1.7 FTEs and anticipating year one of a vertical program review process. The mathematics budget assumes a 15% decrease in federal funding while the literacy budget does not.

K-5 Curriculum Office: requesting additional secretarial support.

Specific elementary schools:

Expense budgets and enrollment don't change a lot.

**Hastings:** No headcount changes.

**Harrington:** No headcount changes. Need warranties on new equipment.

**Fiske:** Declining enrollment: 1 fewer K class.

**Bowman:** Unchanged staffing. One grade near maximum class size. Principal Steven Flynn said they could go from 1.2 guidance counselors to 1 guidance counselor.

**Bridge:** One additional crossing guard. Grades 1, 3, and 4 will be bursting at the seams.

**Estabrook:** Principal Joni Jay wants more professional staff and fewer tutors.

- VII. Motion to Adjourn to executive session,** not to return to public session, to consider collective bargaining with union employees at 10:45 PM (**Burson, Guttag**) Burson- aye, Cohen – aye, Diaz- aye, Griffiths-aye and Guttag- aye.