

LEXINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, April 28, 2009
Lexington Town Office Building, Selectmen's Meeting Room
1625 Massachusetts Avenue

Present: Superintendent Paul Ash, School Committee Chair Margaret Coppe, School Committee Members Rod Cole, Tom Diaz, Jessie Steigerwald and Mary Ann Stewart. The minutes were taken by Leora Tec.

The meeting was convened at 7:35 p.m.

I. Call to Order and Welcome (Margaret Coppe)

II. Superintendent's Announcements

1. Appointment of Heidi Zimmerman Seiger as PreK-12 Student Services Financial and Operations Manager, Effective 5/4/09. This position will save money and increase efficiency. She is an expert on Massachusetts procurement laws. She has a finance background, a J.D. and a Master's degree in elementary education.
2. The LHS National Ocean Science Bowl Team placed second nationally. Congratulations to the students and their faculty coaches.
3. I just sent a letter to parents at Bridge and Fiske regarding the redistricting of children from Fiske to Bridge. This will be an item on next week's agenda. The purpose of the meeting is to present and discuss options. No vote will be taken until May 19, 2009.

III. Members' Reports / Members' Concerns

Tom Diaz: During Town Meeting one member of the Appropriation Committee said he wished the School Department would consolidate positions to make fewer part-time positions. So could the superintendent give an update at an upcoming meeting about personnel changes?

Jessie Steigerwald:

- (1). Thank you to the Town's Celebration Committee for a fantastic Patriot's Day.
- (2). I had some concern regarding the Senior Center when one Selectman said he was waiting for something regarding the Senior Center from the School Committee.

Tom Diaz responded that we have had such discussions in the past but right now our plan is to remain indefinitely in the Old Harrington.

- (3). Mary Ann and I attended a training session for new School Committee members. The open meeting law is very important. When you are new you have to jump in running but we are bound to have questions.

- (4). We receive emails from the public when they have a concern. I would like to communicate with the public and let them know how the process works.

Mary Ann Stewart: Several parents came to my first public coffee hour. I will bring up the items as they come up.

IV. Action Items

1. Vote to Approve Lexington High School Field Trip to Antony, France; February 4 through February 20, 2010
2. Vote to Approve Lexington High School Field Trip to Italy (Venice, Florence, Rome); February 12 through February 20, 2010
3. Vote to Approve Lexington High School Field Trip to Zhejiang, China; April 10 through April 24, 2010

Dr. Ash recommended approval of these trips. The staff that came to request approval also expressed their gratitude for the approval of the trips last year. Safety was discussed and Dr. Ash emphasized that students would not be sent anywhere where a risk was perceived. There were questions and comments from the Committee.

Motion to approve Lexington High School field trip to Antony, France; February 4 through February 20, 2010. (Diaz, Cole). **The motion passed 5-0.**

Dawn McKenna (Chairman of the Tourism Committee): Said a few words about the relationship between Lexington and Antony and the rededication of the Place de Lexington in Antony. She also spoke of her two children's different experiences on LHS foreign exchange programs.

Motion to approve Lexington High School field trip to Italy (Venice, Florence, Rome); February 12 through February 20, 2010 (Stewart, Cole). **The motion passed 5-0.**

Motion to approve Lexington High School field trip to Zhejiang, China; April 10 through April 24, 2010 (Diaz, Steigerwald). **The motion passed 5-0.**

4. Vote to Approve School Committee Minutes of March 25, 2009
5. Vote to Approve School Committee Minutes of March 30, 2009
6. Vote to Approve School Committee Minutes of April 6, 2009

Motion to approve School Committee minutes of March 25, 2009 (Cole, Diaz). **The motion passed 5-0.**

Motion to approve School Committee minutes of March 30 and April 6 (Diaz, Stewart). **The motion passed 5-0.**

Approval of the above minutes is subject to the following amendment: The School Committee adjourned at the adjournment of Town Meeting.

V. Discussion Items

1. PreK-12 Facilities Master Plan. The topic was introduced by Paul Ash. Work on the Central Office should be put on the bottom of the list. The work there should either be done using operating funds or recurring capital funds.

The overview of where we go from here regarding the Master Plan was presented by Patrick Goddard, Director of Public Facilities.

Paul Ash suggested an ad-hoc committee of experts to look at the scope and details of David Finney's recommendation. The make-up of such a committee was discussed. Pat Goddard will approach the PBC to ask what their opinion is regarding the make-up of such a committee and their involvement therein.

There were questions and comments from the Committee.
There were comments from the audience.

Patrick Goddard will give a tour of LHS to interested members on Saturday at 7:30.

2. FY09 Budget Update. We do not have to ask for a supplemental appropriation from Town Meeting.

VI. Motion to go into exec session for the purpose of discussing negotiations not to return to public session (Diaz, Stewart). Cole-aye; Coppe-aye; Diaz-aye; Steigerwald-aye; Stewart-aye.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 PM.