

LEXINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, December 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 student representative Gabe Schonfeld. The minutes were taken by Leora Tec.

The meeting was convened at 7:31 p.m.

I. Call to Order and Welcome (Tom Diaz)

II. Superintendent's Announcements

- A. *Les Miserables* at the high school was phenomenal. It trumped all the productions I have seen at LHS. There were phenomenal voices, set design, acting, etc... A huge amount of work went into it and the participants still have to go to school. This was the kind of production you expect of professionals. Kudos to the entire performing arts department.
- B. *Hansel and Gretel with a Twist* was put on by the Bowman faculty. It is unusual for faculty to put on a production. They put on three productions and filled Clarke. It was very endearing and a great community event. They took 60s and 70s songs and changed the words. These are very dedicated teachers who make their school a joyous place.

III. Members' Reports / Members' Concerns

Tom Griffiths: Is the sharing of information with the DA and the police outlined in the memo of understanding in our packets appropriate? My son is a public defender and he gets crabby if schools share information that is not appropriate.

Paul Ash: This is not about helping the police department prosecute.

Margaret Coppe: Are parents informed if information about a student is disseminated?

Paul Ash: I can't answer that. It depends on the case.

Helen Cohen: Is this available to the public?

Paul Ash: We can put it on the website. I will do it.

Gabe Schonfeld: The Lexington debate team is holding its annual tournament during Martin Luther King Day weekend. You are all invited.

Tom Diaz: There will be a youth forum in early February titled "Overstressed and Under Pressure: Surviving Adolescence in Lexington." It will be a panel discussion with representatives from the high school. I will bring more specifics to the next meeting.

Tom Griffiths: Four of us attended the Mass. Association of School Committees in Hyannis and I represented the Committee at the executive meeting.

IV. Discussion Items:

1. Four and Ten-Year Enrollment Forecasts Report: presented by Paul Ash

Staffing, space, and the size of the school budget are all affected by this. We are at the highest enrollment since 1980. We are at about the peak for secondary school. At elementary the peak was in 2000. Dr. Ash went through his ten-year projection and his four-year projection. There are fewer students at Avalon Bay than we had projected.

There were questions and answers from the Committee and the public.

V. Action Items:

1. Vote to Approve FY09 Capital Budget Recommendation

Much of the ensuing discussion revolved around technology.

Motion to approve the capital budget as presented this evening by Mr. Goddard (Cohen, Griffiths). The motion passed 4-0.

2. Vote to Approve Diamond Grade 8 Field Trip to Quebec City, Quebec, Canada

Motion to approve Diamond Grade 8 Field Trip to Quebec City, Quebec, Canada (Cohen, Griffiths) The motion passed 4-0.

3. Vote to Approve LHS Jazz Combo Field Trip to Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Motion to approve LHS Jazz Combo Field Trip to Toronto, Ontario, Canada (Cohen, Griffiths). The motion passed 4-0.

4. Vote to Approve School Committee Minutes of November 6, 2007

Motion to approve School Committee Minutes of November 6, 2007 (Griffiths, Cohen?). The motion passed 4-0 with the following changes: a *scientist* spoke from the Alvin, and the motion passed 4-0 because Helen was not there—she could vote even though she expressed her approval to the chair previously.

5. Vote to Approve School Committee Minutes of November 13, 2007

Motion to approve School Committee Minutes of November 13, 2007 (Cohen, Griffiths). The motion passed 4-0.

VI. Motion to adjourn (Griffiths, Cohen). The motion was approved 4-0.

The next meeting of the School Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, December 18, 2007, at 7:30 p.m. at the Lexington Town Office Building, Selectmen's Meeting Room, 1625 Massachusetts Avenue.