

**Lexington Public Schools  
School Committee Meeting – Central Office  
February 25, 2005**

Members present were Tom Griffiths, Olga Gutttag, Scott Burson, Helen Cohen, Tom Diaz, and Interim Superintendent William Hurley.

Tom Griffiths called the meeting to order at 8:38 a.m.

**Members' Reports/Members' Concerns**

Olga Gutttag sent out the capital project assessment. The School Committee should contemplate withdrawing the request for the security system but we should still make our request for the rest of our needs at town meeting. She feels we need the cleaning equipment and thinks it is a responsible way to spend money.

Scott Burson would like the School Committee to start thinking about the Community Preservation Act. They will be asked to vote on it at town meeting. We had been through it once before and came to a conclusion that it was not in the school department's best interest. Tom Diaz requested that we put this on the agenda for next Tuesday's meeting for discussion

**Discussion Items**

**Superintendent Contract**

Scott Burson reported that he completed negotiations with Dr. Paul Ash and is recommending that the School Committee accept the prepared agreement. Mr. Burson said this has been a satisfactory experience with Dr. Ash. He said he is very straightforward and is looking forward to him coming to Lexington.

A motion was made that the School Committee accept the agreement between the School Committee and Dr. Paul Ash and that we appoint Dr. Ash as the next superintendent of Lexington Public Schools. (Burson – Diaz; 5-0 unanimous)

Tom Griffiths thanked Helen Cohen and Tom Diaz for leading the superintendent search.

**Lexington Center Collaborative**

Tom Griffiths noted the Permanent Building Committee is trying to draw together all of the people who are interested in the development of this center. They will have a meeting on February 28<sup>th</sup> at the Carey Memorial Library meeting room from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. The School Committee is not involved in this meeting but Carl Oldenberg is concerned that since the white house is not in good shape and is located in the center of town, he wondered if the School Committee wanted to participate. It is the School Committee's

intention to go before town meeting to get funds to proceed with the renovation of the white house. He thinks the School Committee should have a representative or two at that meeting. Tom Griffiths and Olga Gutttag volunteered to attend.

Elaine Sterzin suggested inviting the youth of Lexington to this meeting.

Tom Griffiths wanted to put warrant article discussion on the March 1<sup>st</sup> School Committee meeting agenda.

Tom Griffiths brought up the requested \$250,000 for the security system but would rather discuss the cleaning equipment. Bill Hurley feels the security system is wise if it is economical to do. Olga Gutttag feels we are too conservative on how we allocate capital funds. We initially asked for \$400,000 for the white house study and architect drawings. They have cut it to \$300,000. The capital item that Dana Ham is requesting for cleaning equipment is critical. Mr. Hurley agreed. Ms. Gutttag feels the security system makes sense and feels the School Committee should meet with capital expenditures and the selectmen to see if we can make a case for getting more money to address all capital needs. Tom Diaz would like to have one more meeting with the School Committee and with a representative from the capital expenditures committee present to discuss this.

Tom Griffiths noted the \$26 million is by and large excluded debt. This does not recycle into cash capital money and does not go into the operating budget. In regard to the white house design, the PBC said a study would be in order for about \$300,000 but they needed financing for 75% of that figure. Added to that was \$75,000 for repairs to the building. Tom feels comfortable with the \$300,000. Mr. Hurley was at the PBC meeting when the initial discussion was for \$400,000 and was surprised to see the final vote of \$300,000 and is concerned with that figure.

A motion was made at 9:12 a.m. to go into Executive Session for the purpose of contract negotiations and personnel issues not returning to public session. (Burson – Diaz; 5-0 roll call vote unanimous)

Submitted by,

Lisa McGuire

cc: William Hurley  
Tom Griffiths  
Olga Gutttag  
Scott Burson  
Helen Cohen  
Olga Gutttag