

Lexington School Committee meeting, Tuesday, July 13, 2004

Central Office large conference room, 7:30 p.m.

Present: Superintendent Bill Hurley. Members Tom Griffiths, Tom Díaz, Helen Cohen, Olga Gutttag, and Scott Burson

Agenda

Public Comment - (Written comments to be presented to the School Committee; oral presentations not to exceed three minutes.)

Superintendent's Report

Members' Reports/Members' Concerns:

Discussion items:

July 13

- Access Road to Fiske
- SC Retreat
- MS Athletics

Public Comments

There were no comments.

Superintendent's Comments

Mr. Hurley discussed middle school athletic fees. According to analysis by Ms. Bottan, a shortfall of \$11,382 needed to be made up. After a presentation by Ms. Bottan and discussion, Ms. Cohen made a motion, with a second and a friendly amendment by Mr. Díaz: "I move that we raise the fee for varsity middle school athletics from \$65 to \$90, and that we revisit for the fiscal 2006 year some different funding formula." The motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Hurley also reported on the interviewing committee for the Director of Education position. The committee had come to consensus on a candidate and Mr. Hurley planned another round of discussions with the candidate. He also reported Ms. Miriam Sousa would be serving for the time being as his administrative assistant.

Members' Reports/Members' Concerns

Ms. Gutttag mentioned the MASC joint conference in Worcester, October 27-29. There is a modest budget for reimbursement of expenses. Several members were interested in attending.

Ms. Gutttag and Mr. Díaz asked for information about which past meetings need minutes so he can catch up with the temporary task of writing minutes. Ms. Cohen mentioned an executive session for which she owes minutes. Mr. Griffiths asked that there be a pointer from the town web site to the School Committee agenda.

Ms. Gutttag advocated publicizing, in the fall, “what is going well” in the schools.

Mr. Díaz reminded the public that there will be a special Patriots Day reenactment on July 25. He also welcomed Mr. Hurley to this, the first public meeting of the School Committee since his taking the position.

Mr. Burson reported that the Lexington 20/20 Committee would like to address our August meeting about their plans for the near future.

Ms. Cohen reminded people of the need for a stipended clerk to keep and write up meeting minutes. She reported that the committee to choose a search consultant would meet the morning of Thursday July 15 and that the School Committee would meet later that day to vote on the choice.

Mr. Griffiths mentioned an interesting meeting last night with the Permanent Building Committee. We agreed stakeholder interests would be represented on any kind of change order in which significant cost changes occurred or changes to the educational nature of the buildings occurred. We also agreed that we would publish standards that described fitness for educational occupancy.

Ms. Cohen asked whether any automatic mechanism could be put in place to remind people of warrant deadlines. Ms. Botton agreed to send out a reminder e-mail on Wednesday of the week in question.

Access Road for New Fiske School

Mr. Griffiths reported a letter on this subject received by the School Committee members and invited comment on the subject.

Mr. Peter Honkanen, 6 Porter Lane, spoke concerning the proposed location of the new access road. At his request, Mr. Griffiths read aloud a letter from a second abutter, Frances May Baskin, at 45 Adam Street. Mr. John Austin also addressed the committee on his concerns about the plans. He was the original developer of the Porter Lane development and resides at 7 Porter Lane. Mr. Griffiths said he was interested in hearing more from the Permanent Building Committee.

School Committee “Retreat”

Ms. Cohen reported that a couple of different consultants are under consideration to lead a team-building retreat for the Committee. After discussion the Committee chose August 11 as the date for this meeting. Ms. Cohen and Mr. Griffiths were given the responsibility to finish selecting the consultant and to plan the rest of this meeting.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:30 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Burson, seconded by Mr. Díaz, which passed unanimously.