

Lexington School Committee
March 27, 2006
Central Office
1557 Massachusetts Avenue
Lexington, MA

Present: Superintendent Paul Ash, School Committee Chair Helen Cohen, and School Committee Members: Tom Diaz, Tom Griffiths, Olga Gutttag and Ravi Sakhuja. Minutes taken by Leora Tec.

The meeting was convened at 6:33pm

I. Call to order and welcome

II. Public comment: none

III. Superintendent's Report:

Paul Ash will meet with Carl Valente tomorrow regarding implementation of potential override questions 3 and 4. Questions to be discussed: Would the money go in the school budget or in a separate account? What happens to funds at the end of the fiscal year? Perhaps the preventive maintenance portion of question 3 should be a separate program budget within the school system's budget.

IV. Members' Reports/Members' Concerns

Tom Diaz: The Article 40 committee will report to Town Meeting on April 5th. Could we put it on the agenda for a future meeting, so the students could come and speak? The Board of Trustees of the library will meet next month and will need a quorum to ratify the nominations of Helen Cohen and Norm Cohen.

Olga Gutttag: EDCO and CASE collaborative lobby day is April 7th. The suburban coalition annual legislative breakfast is on April 10th. April 26th is MASC's "Day on the Hill" followed up by the Stand for Children's "Rally for Education." There is momentum rising for the additional five million dollar increase in METCO funding.

Tom Griffiths: Appropriation Committee meeting: Question 4 kept coming up. The Appropriation Committee approved the \$40K to investigate what to do next in elementary planning, Capital Expenditures has unanimously dis-approved it, Appropriation approved the rest of the capital projects. They voted unanimously in favor of the \$400K for technology and they voted 7-2 for Question 4. Paul Hamburger proposed putting a million dollars in an override question to avoid an override in FY08 and to build a reserve of \$2 million for FY08; some supported it some opposed it. There was no formal vote. Negotiations with the chair of the Capital Expenditures Committee on the \$40K request for elementary planning. He is interested in talking about the \$400K technology budget too.

Helen Cohen: I participated and enjoyed the Estabrook Read Aloud today. Dr. Ash will not take at least 10 days of vacation this year, so according to his contract we will pay him \$6700.

Ravi Sakhuja: Attended the German program at LHS; it was wonderful.

V. Discussion Items

- A. The capital budget, including technology.** In the plan that Dr. Arnoff put together it will take 8 years to get to the point where our oldest computer is 6 years old. Capital expenditures is suggesting \$300K for technology instead of \$400K, Tom Diaz will investigate why. Olga Gutttag brought up the fact that if we eventually go wireless in the schools the whole technology picture will be different.

The Committee agreed that they don't want to give up \$40K for a master plan for next set of buildings.

- B. The Minuteman teacher at Clarke and Diamond:** the position hasn't worked out well in our schools. Eliminating this position will not affect the school budget but needs the School Committee vote so that the Minuteman's budget can be reduced by this amount.

Motion to not accept the Minuteman teacher at Clarke and Diamond (Griffiths, Diaz). The motion passed 5-0.

C. Assignment of people to introduce items at Town Meeting:

Operating Budget: Helen Cohen

Capital budget: Olga Gutttag

White House: Tom Griffiths

Response for Article 15: Tom Diaz

Response for Article 34: Ravi Sakhuja

The Committee agreed to put Articles 6, 15, 35, 21, 22 and the sidewalk portion of Article 28 on the agenda for Wednesday, March 29.

VII. Motion to Adjourn (7:26) (Griffiths, Gutttag). The motion passed 5-0.