

**Lexington School Committee Meeting
Lexington High School - Library Media Center
November 2, 2004**

Members present were Tom Griffiths, Scott Burson, Helen Cohen, Olga Guttag, Tom Diaz, Student Representative Janette Ekanem, and Interim Superintendent William Hurley.

Welcome and call to order by Tom Griffiths at 8:41 p.m.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Superintendent's Report

Lexington High School – Welcome from Principal Michael Jones

Mr. Hurley introduces Michael Jones, Principal of Lexington High School. Mr. Jones addressed the School Committee and welcomed all to Lexington High School. He reported it has been a good opening two months at the high school. The spirit and morale of the students and faculty is very high. They just finished spirit week. The Halloween costumes were great, and the chemistry and science departments put on displays that were amazing. He is very proud of the work that students are doing. Mr. Jones informed that the debate team is active and the music group gave a concert last week. Enrollments are increasing year by year and one of the challenges over the next few years will be dealing with increasing enrollments.

Members' Reports/Members' Concerns

Olga Guttag said she has been receiving unhappy emails about Harrington technology in regard to slowing down this process. This will be discussed at the November 16th School Committee meeting. She hopes members of the community attend that meeting. She has been appointed to the town manager search committee that was formed yesterday by the Board of Selectmen. She also attended an Edco meeting this week.

Tom Diaz wanted members of the community to know that Thursday night the Lexington Education Foundation is having their annual Trivia Bee.

Helen Cohen attended the Massachusetts Association of School Committee Members last Friday. She enjoyed the annual visit to Boston at the October 26th School Committee meeting.

Scott Burson reminded that Sunday, November 14th, is the day of recognition, acknowledgement and the formal dedication of the Carey Library.

Tom Griffiths attended the Massachusetts Association of School Committee Members conference this week. He also participated in two workshops; one was on budget foundation and how it is set; the other was on value added testing in schools.

Discussion Items

Superintendent's Search Subcommittee Update

Helen Cohen reported on the search subcommittee. One group of the subcommittee will meet to review resumes. The other met last week with Dick Warren, our consultant, to create the leadership profile that will go out to the candidates. The Search Committee will be looking over the profile this week and will be looking at resumes in November.

Lexington Reads

Kay Tiffany, a Lexington resident, spoke to the School Committee regarding a program that is being developed in Lexington, "Lexington Reads". It is a town-wide reading project. The goal of "Lexington Reads" is to have people who live, work or go to school in Lexington read the same book at the same time to create a town-wide book club.

The book that has been chosen is "The Future of Life". Follow up events will include discussion groups at the Carey Library as well as other book clubs in town will be reading this book. The goal is to create a community building of the town and to raise critical issues that face us in next century.

Bookstores in town have offered to discount the book by 35%. "Lexington Reads" will be supplying copies of this book into teachers' professional libraries as well as school libraries. They also have permission to copy chapters in the book if teachers want to photocopy particular chapters for students or to use in classes. "Lexington Reads" would like to send a letter to teachers describing their program and is asking permission from the School Committee to do this and use the school mail system to get the letter out.

Tom Diaz highly endorses this and congratulated them for getting this program off the ground. It is a fabulously written book. It is also a digital book as well and can be obtained from www.audible.com.

Helen Cohen extended congratulations for starting this program. She is glad Lexington is doing this and recommends using the school mail system to get information out.

Ms. Tiffany would like the School Committee to ask the teachers to support this and use the book as a resource.

Olga Gutttag said the idea of intergenerational work would be fabulous for Lexington. She saw it as Fiske a few years back and thought it was very useful in educating students.

Mr. Hurley said for Ms. Tiffany to email him the letter she would like to send out to the teachers and he will get it out to the schools.

A motion was made that the School Committee enthusiastically endorses the Lexington Reads program and encourages teachers to find ways to incorporate this into their program. (Burson – Cohen; 5-0)

Action Items

Olga Gutttag sent the School Committee members extensive revisions to the October 12th minutes. She asked members to take a look at the revisions and send their comments to be incorporated into the minutes. Approval will be put off until the next meeting.

The next School Committee meeting is scheduled for November 16th at 7:30 p.m. at Harrington. One of the issues that will be discussed is Harrington technology. Mr. Hurley will be ready to make a recommendation at that time.

A motion was made to adjourn at 9:10 p.m. (Cohen – Gutttag; 5-0)

Submitted by:

Lisa McGuire

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