

LEXINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, November 6, 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 Ravi Sakhuja and student representative Gabe Schonfeld. The minutes were taken by Leora Tec.

I. Call to Order and Welcome (Tom Diaz)

II. Superintendent's Announcements:

1. Astronaut Visit to Clarke: LEF funded Carolyn Shield's voyage on the Atlantis and the submersible the Alvin. While in the Alvin a scientist spoke to the astronaut Sunita Williams. Ms. Williams came to visit Jonas Clarke Middle School and spoke to all the students about her experiences on the space shuttle. It was an unforgettable experience for the students.
2. Paul Ash turned the microphone over to Mary Ann Stewart who reported on the Korean PTA at Harrington. Mary Ann was interviewed for an article about the organization which recently appeared in the National PTA magazine *Our Children*.

III. Members' Reports / Members' Concerns

Tom Diaz: I attended a meeting where we were told that METCO is not affected by June 28, 2007 Supreme Court decision. There is also a legislative initiative to increase the reimbursement to \$5K per child.

IV. Discussion Items:

1. FY07 Budget Summary

Presented by Mary Ellen Dunn. \$464K (\$271K in SPED costs) was returned to the town at the end of the year. We had committed to returning funds to the town if there were a balance in SPED budget. There were questions and answers from the Committee.

Motion to ratify the final 2007 budget summary as representing the will of the School Committee (Griffiths, Cohen). The motion passed 5-0.

2. FY08 Budget Update

Presented by Mary Ellen Dunn. The Committee and the public posed questions and received answers.

3. 2007 MCAS Report

The report was given by Lynne Sarasin. There were questions from the Committee and the audience.

4. Special Education Transportation Pilot with LABBB Collaborative

Paul Ash: Jerry Mazor, Director of LABBB coordinated transportation with Burlington, Lexington and Arlington to 53 schools. We saved \$7,695. Burlington saved \$44,530. Arlington saved \$22,258.

V. Action Items:

1. Vote to Approve Recommended December School Committee Meeting Dates – December 4 and December 18

December 4th and December 18th were approved as the dates for the next meetings of the School Committee.

2. Vote to Approve School Committee Minutes of March 6, 2007
3. Vote to Approve School Committee Minutes of March 13, 2007
4. Vote to Approve School Committee Minutes of April 4, 2007
5. Vote to Approve School Committee Executive Session Minutes of September 25, 2007

Motion to approve School Committee minutes of March 6, 2007; March 13, 2007; April 4, 2007 and Executive Session Minutes of September 25, 2007 (Griffiths, Coppe). The motion passed 4-0. (Helen Cohen departed the meeting early.)

VI. Motion to adjourn (Griffiths, Coppe). The motion passed 4-0.

The next meeting of the School Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, November 13, 2007, at 4:00 p.m. at the Lexington Town Office Building, Selectmen's Meeting Room, 1625 Massachusetts Avenue.