

LEXINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
Tuesday, November 29, 2005  
Lexington High School, Library Media Center  
251 Waltham Street  
Present: Paul Ash, Helen Cohen, Olga Gutttag, Tom Diaz, Tom Griffiths and Scott Burson

7:35 pm Call to Order and Welcome:

**Public Comment:** none

**Superintendent's Report:** none

### **Discussion Items:**

**1. Report on 2005 MCAS Results, Dr. Lynne Sarasin**  
(power point presentation available for meeting attendees)

We did very well overall. MCAS is only one component of assessment. We assess using many different methods, including many standardized tests and especially classroom based performance assessments.

We did much better than the state average in overall performance. The state assesses performance using a one hundred point system. We received 95.0 in English Language Arts and 91.7 in math. That is phenomenal.

### **Focus Areas of Strength**

1. Overall very high.
2. District SPED subgroup made a large gain.
3. Significant growth in grade10 mathematics.

### **Opportunities for Growth**

1. Continued monitoring of certain subgroups; certain students need to be looked at and we need to modify their learning plans. (for example, certain SPED students and Asian/Pacific Islanders).
2. Elementary number sense: we do very well in mathematics but we have three schools with four questions below the state average. So we are going back and looking at the questions and asking why.
3. Continued alignment of science curriculum with state frameworks.
4. Long Composition in ELA: standard English conventions.

### **Next Steps**

1. Short-term goals:
  - Data analysis by principals, dept. heads, etc...
  - Item analysis.
  - Question analysis.
  - Individual Student success plans: pulling out student data. What can be implemented to help them be successful?
  - Supplementing curricula.
2. Long-term goals:
  - Program evaluation and curriculum review on a cycle.

Data analysis.  
Continuing alignment of curricula to frameworks.  
Looking at established benchmarks for K-12.  
Updates of resources: supplementary curricula.  
Targeted professional development: the most critical piece.

**Questions and discussion:**

(Discussion included concerns about teaching to the test and the achievement gap regarding children of color. The administration made clear that Lexington teachers do not teach simply to the test, but teach what they believe students need to know. Dr. Sarasin said that as a group, children of color did not do poorly, but there are individual students that should be looked at).

**2. Report on Three- and Ten-Year Enrollment Forecasts, Dr. Paul Ash**

By Dr. Paul Ash  
(power point presentation was available to meeting attendees)

Dr. Ash gave a brief introduction to the methodology of the enrollment report and explained the importance of doing such a report. It is important for hiring and to determine scope of building projects. Dr. Ash explained that he did the enrollment reports for best-case and worst-case scenarios, as well as two scenarios in the middle.

Results show that elementary enrollment peaked in 2000; the decline has begun. The middle school population is peaking now. The high school population has not yet peaked and that peak will appear beyond the times displayed within the current projection.

The three-year, elementary school projections showed Bowman with a large increase in population due to the Avalon Bay project and Fiske with a significant decline in students. The elementary and middle schools will need to be redistricted. Over the next twelve months we need a group of citizens and professionals to form a redistricting committee and do a report. There will clearly be public comment/dialogue and then we need enough time for internal planning. We also need to plan the next phase of K-5 reconstruction. We should request a sum of money from Town Meeting this April to work with an architect.

(Discussion regarding redistricting, the structure of our schools and out of district voluntary redistricting).

(comment from the public)

Dawn McKenna: Last time we did redistricting was when Hastings reopened and we did geocoding. You might want to look at the 10 year projections they did over the past 20 years, they may be helpful, even if inaccurate.

**Action Items:** none

(Discussion regarding capital expenditures policy)

**Members' Reports / Members' Concerns:**

Tom Griffiths: Senior Center Siting Committee. One site considered is the old Harrington, but the problem is it will be swing space for at least ten years! If there was some way to free up old Harrington faster that could possibly solve the senior center site problem. Comment (Griffiths and Guttag) on the capital proposal before the

Financial Review Committee, on which Mr. Griffiths serves as a liaison.

Olga Gutttag: EDCO Policy committee has arranged a presentation about the upcoming Science MCAS on Thursday 12/1. Administrators and SC members are invited to attend.

Scott Burson: Policy subcommittee would like to round out its membership.

Tom Diaz:

- 1). Message to high school students and parents of high schoolers: register to vote.
- 2). Action item for next meeting should be to ratify minutes for executive sessions.

Helen Cohen: Summit tomorrow at 5:00 pm regarding the budget process.  
Division of school/town % for override will be discussed.

(Brief discussion on timeline of policies: first field trip, then fundraising, according to Scott Burson).

Meeting adjourned 10:10 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Leora Tec