

**LEXINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Tuesday, September 25, 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.**

**The Meeting was convened at 7: 38 p.m.**

- I. Call to Order and Welcome** (Tom Diaz): Last night at the Selectman's meeting Bill Hadley announced the DPW will not seek to use facilities at the Harrington school. The DPW has a new proposal. This is now the Selectman's plan as well.

**Tom Griffiths:** Does this include personnel as well?

**Tom Diaz:** Yes but we'll keep the door open over next two years.

**II. Public Comment**

**Deb Manuelian** (Harrington and Clarke parent, Whipple Rd): I have a safety concern for kids walking to Harrington. The crossing guard at Lowell/Fairlawn was eliminated. A recommendation was made to walk on the other side until the traffic light but the light changes before you finish crossing, also there are people making a right on red. We would like to have the crossing guard back so they can walk with their friends.

**Tom Griffiths:** Is the light completely switched off?

**Deb Manuelian:** It is blinking, but if they have to wait for a car it will be off by the time they get across. It will be more unsafe on a rainy or snowy day.

**Judy Crocker:** Thank you for listening to the Harrington community on the safety and environmental issues. You have an open invitation to come to Big Backyard.

**Tom Diaz:** Mr. Hadley was wise to conclude that the safety issues were not surmountable. Harrington is a large building and will have a use in the future; we will have to address issues of traffic flow.

**Patrick Mehr:** I'd like to speak to the results of contract negotiations. The increase in salaries was higher because the override passed than if it had failed, but the public was not told that part of the money gained from the override would go to salaries.

**Paul Ash:** The raise was .25% greater. The funds came from the difference in salaries paid to new teachers that tend to be lower than those paid to leaving teachers. We don't discuss collective bargaining while it is going on, that's why it was not on a ballot question. The funds come from two places. The first comes from the additional positions that were created. With approximately 110 teachers being hired the quarter percentage was made up. We did not need to cut services to make that up.

**Patrick Mehr:** I am not satisfied with that response.

**Paul Ash:** There were multiple places where the funds could be obtained.

**Patrick Mehr:** I have a problem with voters not knowing that a contract will be more favorable to the unions.

**Iang Jeon:** Regarding school buses. Are you actually making money on the buses? The numbers don't seem to work.

**Mary Ellen Dunn:** There will be a detailed review of that coming up. It will be available online.

### **III. Superintendent's Announcements:**

A. I appreciate the patience of parents and others regarding the buses. We had 300 additional riders that signed up after June 15<sup>th</sup>. We paid for additional buses with money for those riders. We redistributed the riders. It is substantially better than it was.

B. Last week I visited Bridge, Harrington and Bowman for their curriculum nights. Kudos to the new principals.

There was a brief discussion about the bus situation. Mary Ellen Dunn reminded the Committee and the public that any money left over in the fund for the buses must go to offset what fee payers pay the following year.

### **IV. Members' Reports / Members' Concerns:**

**Helen Cohen:** I will miss the Health Pac meeting on Monday Oct 15<sup>th</sup>. Can someone represent us? I will be out of town.

Margaret Coppe will fill in.

**Margaret Coppe:** I went to the 20/20 meeting. They are working on setting up the demographic study of the town.

**Gabe Schoenfeld:** The driver's ed contractor was switched and 80 students' records were lost.

**Paul Ash:** The School Dept. no longer offers driver's ed. The registry allowed Cam's to pick up where we left off. Parents will receive a letter and students can get the whole course if they finish by June 1.

### **V. Discussion Items:**

A. Report on New and Expanded Grade 6-12 Special Education Services

Paul Ash introduced Linda Chase, Director of Special Services. The programs that the School Committee voted on November 28, 2006 have kept children in-house and saved money. We have spent \$511K to avoid spending \$1.3 million. We also kept some children in-district with no additional spending. (Chris Greeley, Assistant Director of Special Services, was also in attendance).

Ms. Chase's presentation was in two parts: the financial part and the programmatic part. The discussion that followed included, *inter alia*, transportation costs, the need for secretarial help, MCAS for SPED students and where to go in the future.

B. Meeting with Burlington Officials to Discuss Funding Special Education Costs

The Committee discussed Burlington's treatment of out-of-district SPED tuition, LABBB tuition and SPED transportation costs as shared expenses. They discussed the differences and similarities between Burlington and Lexington.

**Motion to support adoption of the Burlington plan in a manner appropriate to Lexington** (Griffiths, Cohen). **The motion passed 5-0.** Committee must discuss the details with the Selectmen.

VI. **Action Items:**

1. Vote to Approve 2007-2008 System Goals

**Motion to Approve 2007-2008 System Goals** (Cohen, Griffiths). **The motion passed 5-0 with the following amendment:**

- D. Foster a more diverse workforce in keeping with Lexington's goals to embrace diversity
  - To enhance hiring practices leading to a more diverse workforce.
2. Vote to Change the Title "Assistant to the Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction" to "Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction."

**Motion to Change the Title "Assistant to the Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction" to "Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction."** (Griffiths, Cohen). **The motion passed 5-0.**

3. Vote to Appoint Voting Delegate to MASC Annual Business Meeting

**Motion to Appoint Ravi Sakhujia as Voting Delegate to MASC Annual Business Meeting** (Griffiths, Cohen). **The motion passed 5-0.**

4. Vote to Approve School Committee Minutes of December 13, 2006
5. Vote to Approve School Committee Minutes of December 19, 2006
6. Vote to Approve School Committee Minutes of January 4, 2007
7. Vote to Approve School Committee Minutes of March 15, 2007
8. Vote to Approve School Committee Minutes of March 17, 2007
9. Vote to Approve School Committee Minutes of March 19, 2007

10. Vote to Approve School Committee Minutes of March 20, 2007
11. Vote to Approve School Committee Minutes of March 26, 2007
12. Vote to Approve School Committee Minutes of April 7, 2007
13. Vote to Approve School Committee Minutes of April 9, 2007
14. Vote to Approve School Committee Minutes of April 11, 2007
15. Vote to Approve School Committee Minutes of April 23, 2007
16. Vote to Approve School Committee Minutes of April 24, 2007
17. Vote to Approve School Committee Minutes of April 25, 2007
18. Vote to Approve School Committee Minutes of April 30, 2007
19. Vote to Approve School Committee Minutes of May 8, 2007
20. Vote to Approve School Committee Minutes of May 22, 2007
21. Vote to Approve School Committee Minutes of June 12, 2007
22. Vote to Approve School Committee Minutes of June 19, 2007
23. Vote to Approve School Committee Minutes of September 4, 2007
24. Vote to Approve School Committee Minutes of September 12, 2007

**Motion to approve the above School Committee minutes except #s 21, 22 and 24** (Griffiths, Coppe). The motion **passed 5-0**.

**Motion to approve minutes of June 12, 2007 as amended** (Coppe, Cohen). The motion **passed 5-0**.

**Motion to approve minutes of June 19, 2007 as amended** (Coppe, Cohen). The motion **passed 5-0**.

**Motion to approve minutes of September 12, 2007 as amended** (Coppe, Cohen). The motion **passed 5-0**.

**VII. Motion to go into executive session for the purpose of collective bargaining not to return to public session** (Griffiths, Cohen). **Cohen-aye; Coppe-aye; Diaz-aye; Griffiths-aye; and Sakhuja-aye.**

**(11:30 p.m.)**

The next meeting of the School Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, October 3, 2007, at 7:30 p.m. at Cary Hall Auditorium, 1605 Massachusetts Avenue.