

Approved
02-23-2010

**LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
Tuesday, February 9, 2010**

7:30 p.m.

**Conference Room A
L-S Regional High School**

Present: Radha Gargeya, Chair, Nancy Marshall, Patty Mostue, and Jack Ryan

Unable to be present: Mark Collins, Vice Chair, and Berne Webb

Also present: Scott Carpenter, Superintendent/Principal, Judy Belliveau, Director of Finance & Operations, Rami Alwan, Teachers' Association President, David Sackstein, Student Representative, and Mary Whittemore, School Committee Secretary. The visitors listed on the sign-in sheet attached to the approved minutes of this meeting were also present.

Agenda Enclosures/Handouts

Unapproved Minutes of the January 26, 2010 meeting

Notes of the joint meeting of the Lincoln and Sudbury Finance Committees on January 28, 2010 in Lincoln.

Three versions of the Preliminary Apportionment (Assessment) of FY'11 Budget, updated 2/5/2010, for Sudbury 0% Guideline, 2.75% Override and 4.5% override.

PowerPoint presentation of the FY11 No Override Budget presented to the Sudbury Finance Committee on February 2, 2010.

Draft of Vote of the Fiscal Year 2011 School Budget dated February 9, 2010.

Memo from Judy Belliveau dated February 8, 2010 re the White House Pre-School Lease Special Progress Report and cover letter dated February 1, 2010 to the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

I. Call to Order: Radha Gargeya, Chair, called the public meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

II. Public Comment - None

III. Approval of Minutes

Patty Mostue made a motion to approve the minutes of January 26, 2010. Seconded by Nancy Marshall. The motion carried unanimously.

Radha Gargeya confirmed that the notes of the meeting with the Lincoln and Sudbury Finance Committees did not need approval since it was not an official School Committee meeting.

IV. Recognitions

Scott Carpenter paid tribute to the following individuals and groups:

The three L-S teams that competed in the New England Regional Championship of the National Ocean Sciences Bowl. Team A came in first, and Teams B and C came in fourth and fifth respectively. Team A will compete in the National Championship in St. Petersburg, Florida in April. Scott congratulated Science teachers Doug Grant, Caroline Singler and William Pegram for coaching the teams and read the names of the twenty-one students as well.

All sports teams have qualified for postseason competition.

Librarians Leslie Kmiec and Paula Myers and Computer Technicians Dave Walsh and Dennis Phillips who have purchased and installed a new library server. Funding came from The Sudbury Foundation based on a grant written by Leslie and Paula.

Seniors Elizabeth Newman and Felicia Patel who extended their friendship and sympathy to a student, Shannon Mills, from Westford Academy whom they met at a MIAA event in Boston. Westford Academy had recently lost a student to a sudden and violent act. Shannon's mother sent an e-mail praising the L-S girls for their initiative and compassion.

V. Student Report

David Sackstein reported on a range of student activities. There is a boys basketball game tonight against Acton-Boxborough. Students had raised over \$10,000 for relief to Haiti following its earthquake. A variety of anti-stress activities made mid-term exam time tolerable. The Student Senate has developed and disseminated a survey seeking students' input on a variety of topics. Surveys were distributed via a variety of classes. A forum to discuss the results and to have Scott Carpenter update the students on budget issues will be scheduled in March. Radha Gargeya encouraged David to share of summary of the survey results with the Committee.

VI. Teachers' Association Report

Rami Alwan noted that about 200 students who take Psychology are carrying baskets of eggs that they must have with them at all times and care for diligently. He also reported that the

Wellness Department had won a Goldin Award, given by the Goldin Foundation for Excellence in Education for outstanding achievement.

VII. Superintendent's Report

Scott Carpenter reported that he made the decision to close school at 11:00 on February 10th in anticipation of a significant snow storm.

He also reviewed his goals for the year. They include:

Improving communication both internally and within the broader community. This includes the effective, yet efficient, use of technology.

Focusing on improving the curriculum in general and pedagogy in particular. To that end he invited Jon Saphier who spent a day working with teachers on techniques for making the first five minutes of class be dynamic.

Broadening the involvement of all stakeholders in school affairs. This ranges from encouraging parent participation to including more teachers in administrative decisions to working with the Student Senate to channel their recommendations.

Continuing a focus on student safety, health and well-being. Scott remarked that he is pleased with the work that Sarah Greeley of the Wellness Department does, particularly as it relates to drug and alcohol abuse.

Managing L-S on a tight budget. An example is the cost savings garnered by advertising for new staff on "SchoolSpring" rather than in the "Boston Globe".

Scott will continue to meet with Radha and Patty Mostue of the Superintendent/Principal Evaluation Process Sub-Committee. Radha expects to have a draft report at the next meeting.

VIII. Chairman's Report

Radha Gargeya reported on the joint meeting of the Sudbury Finance Committee and the Sudbury Selectmen at which representatives from the Town cost centers were also present. The Finance Committee recommended, and the Selectmen agreed unanimously, that an override option in the amount of \$1,753,625 be presented to Sudbury voters. That amount is based on a 2.75% increase in operating budgets which assumes a revenue shortfall and a 7.5% reduction in state aid. The discussion confirmed that if the reduction in state aid is greater than 7.5%, as our legislators predicted, then the 2.75% would be reduced as well. The Selectmen are considering using Town Meeting as the venue for educating the citizenry with the override vote to follow later.

Scott Carpenter noted that the later the vote, the greater the negative consequences on the School. Teachers need to be notified by May 15th if they are not going to be rehired. Even the threat of potential non-renewal may drive some young, talented teachers to seek employment elsewhere. If an override passes and those positions can be refilled, they may have to be filled

with newcomers at a higher rate. In addition, scheduling over 1,600 students will be delayed and students and parents may not know what courses they are assigned to until after school is adjourned for the summer. It would also involve a cost to have staff work during the summer who don't otherwise, in order to produce the schedules.

IX. Subcommittee Reports

Radha reported that he and Patty Mostue, as members of the Superintendent/Principal Evaluation Process Subcommittee, expect to bring a report at the next Committee meeting.

Radha also reported that substantial progress has been made on updating the Committee's website. Financial information has been added as well as all agendas, minutes and videos.

X. Information and Discussion

Continued Discussion of FY11 Override and No Override Budgets

Judy Belliveau reviewed the basic facts about the No Override and 2.75% Override budgets. The No Override budget of \$23,700,560 results in the reduction of 10.03 FTE staff, eliminates all funding for equipment purchases and relies on the use of revolving funds which cannot be replaced. The 2.75% Override budget would be \$651,765 more than the current budget. It would provide for level staffing and level funding of all supplies, materials, equipment and services, although there will be an increase in student enrollment. Both budgets assume a 7.5% reduction in state aid. The 4.5% growth budget provides for \$1.1 million increase which would accommodate the addition of 2.78FTE professional staff.

In response to a question from Nancy Marshall about capital needs and the Capital Plan, Judy confirmed that the Stabilization fund can be used for capital items, or the capital items could be included with the towns' as part of a warrant article at Town Meetings to get a capital debt exclusion.

XI. Action Items

Vote on FY'11 School Budget

With the knowledge that the Committee votes the highest budget that is possible because it can always be lowered, but never raised, Patty Mostue moved that the Lincoln-Sudbury School Committee approve and hereby adopt the FY '11 Operating Budget of \$20,990,583; the FY'11 Pensions & Insurance budget of \$3,776,502; an appropriation to Excess and Deficiency of \$10,000; and the Debt Service budget of \$2,717,700 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2010, and approve a total Assessment of \$24,554,801.97 such amount to be apportioned to the member towns in accordance with the calculation specified in the Regional Agreement. Seconded by Nancy Marshall. The motion carried unanimously.

Patty Mostue also moved that the Lincoln-Sudbury School Committee hereby direct the District Treasurer to certify the apportionment of the above figures in accordance with the Regional Agreement and notify the member towns of their respective shares of such apportionments. Seconded by Jack Ryan. The motion carried unanimously.

Vote to award lease of the White House Pre-School Building

Judy Belliveau summarized the major points in her memo concerning the results of the RFP for the White House facility. She and Scott found the proposal by Orchard Hill Learning Center for Children (OHLCC) to be thorough and that it met all the stipulations of the RFP. Scott Carpenter noted that OHLCC wants to be consulted before renovations begin so that their needs might be accommodated. There is even the possibility that OHLCC might bear some of the renovation costs.

Jack Ryan moved that the School Committee award the lease of the former White House Pre-School building, including the adjacent fenced in play area, to Orchard Hill Learning Center for Children, LLC in accordance with the terms of the Request for Proposal, subject to successful negotiation of the of the lease agreement and further that the School Committee authorize Radha Gargeya as Chair of the School Committee to sign the lease agreement on behalf of the Lincoln-Sudbury School Committee. Seconded by Patty Mostue. The motion carried unanimously.

Visitor Larry Mariasis suggested that the Committee consider seeking advance rent, perhaps as much as 6 month's worth, to be held in escrow, as a protective measure.

XII. Other Business – None

XIII. Bill Schedules

The School Committee signed the accounts payable warrants.

XIV. Calendar of School Events

February 12, 2010	All Warrant Materials to Sudbury Town Manager
February 15-19,	2010 School Vacation Week
February 23, 2010	School Committee Meeting
March 27, 2010	Lincoln Town Meeting
March 29, 2010	Town-wide Elections
April 5, 2010	First Evening of Sudbury Town Meeting

XV. Adjourn

Jack Ryan moved that the meeting be adjourned at 9:05 p.m.. Seconded by Nancy Marshall. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Whitemore
Secretary

PAGE 2