

Lenox Public Schools
School Committee
Selectman's Room Second Floor Town Hall AND Via Remote Access
April 25, 2022 @ 6:30pm

To attend remotely: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83615350785>

Webinar ID: 836 1535 0785

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert Vaughan, Meghan Kirby, Christine Mauro, Robert Munch, Oren Cass. Veronica Fenton and David Rimmner, via Zoom.

ALSO PRESENT: Marc J. Gosselin Jr., Melissa Falkowski

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. HEARING OF VISITORS

- Public Comment. Francie Sorrentino expressed concern re: the new website, and inquired about the Lenox logo, and the Town Seal. John Barry spoke re: his concerns regarding DEI and SEL.

III. CORRESPONDENCE. RV received a letter from Jim Brooke, parent of K student. He hoped we would be moving slowly in regards to DEI.

IV. BOARD REPORT

- School Committee Meeting minutes – [April 11, 2022](#)

MOTION by MK and seconded by OC to approve the School Committee Minutes of April 11, 2022.

DR: abstain, VF: aye, OC: aye, RM: aye, CM: aye, MK: aye, RV: aye. Approved 6-0.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Highlights/Recognitions.
 - Cautiously optimistic re: new COVID cases after break. 4 students at LMMHS, 2 staff and 1 student at Morris.
 - Two donations recently received; Dettinger Lumber donated lumber for our theatrical production.
 - Correspondence from Mickey Natoli, whose father, Bart Natoli, was a wood shop teacher, recently passed, and left a \$5000 donation for the wood shop program.
 - Upcoming events: May 4, 5:00 - 7:00 pm Books Before Bed at Morris; May 10 at LMMHS 7:00 - 9:00, a symposium on the pandemic's effect on education, and Grade 6 will start a six week program working with the Botanical Garden re: the library pollinator garden.
- 2022-2023 School Year [Draft Calendar](#). MG requested tabling this discussion to enable incorporating changes to conference and professional development. RM requested adding August 22 as the first day for fall sports.
- [Superintendent Evaluation Executive Summary](#). MG outlined the 4 goals included in the Superintendent Evaluation; New Superintendent Induction Program, Effective Entry and Direction Setting, Maintaining Momentum during Transition, Safely Reopen and Maintain Schools. Provided details of the components and status thereof. Also addressed Standards from the *End-of-Cycle Summative Evaluation Report: Superintendent*.
- Pathways Grant Approval for Lenox Public Schools. Final designation for participation in the Pathways program. Five year performance contract. OC: What

are next steps? MG: Hire staff to teach, or determine which current staff will teach these courses.

- MIAA and MA Attorney General DEI Policy. All Superintendents requested to attend a webinar where the [Addressing Hate and Bias in School Athletics.pdf](#) program was introduced. Committee members and MG discussed details of the program.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- RV reminded members and viewers that the High School Musical, *Into the Woods* will be performed this Friday, April 29 at 7:00pm and Saturday, April 30 at 1:00 and 7:00pm.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- [Statement of Interest](#) for MA School Building Authority. RV highlighted areas of the engineering report from DRA. Mr. Carl Franceschi from DRA is here with us to answer any questions. CF gave a brief summary of the process and also answered questions from SC members regarding the study, findings, and the SOI.

MOTION BY CM and seconded by OC to submit the SOI to the MSBA as follows:

Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on April 25, 2022, prior to the SOI submission closing date, the SCHOOL COMMITTEE of LENOX in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated APRIL 29, 2022 for the LENOX MEMORIAL MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL located at 197 EAST STREET, LENOX, MA 01240 which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future:

Priority 1: Replacement or renovation of a building which is structurally unsound or otherwise in a condition seriously jeopardizing the health and safety of school children, where no alternative exists (movement in walls and floor; exterior walls filled with vermiculite infiltrating into building, et. al.), Priority 3: Prevention of loss of accreditation (science classrooms last renovated in 1966, not ADA-compliant, do not meet 2018 MSBA specifications for science classrooms, et. al.), Priority 5: Replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy-related costs in a school facility (25-year-old roof, windows in 1966 wing, plumbing, et. al.), and Priority 7: Replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements (science classrooms, locker rooms, floor cracking/separation, 20% of teaching faculty do not have their own teaching space, et. al.);

and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the LENOX SCHOOL DISTRICT to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

VF: aye, DR: aye, OC: aye, RM: aye, CM: aye, MK: aye, RV: aye. Approved 7-0.

- DEI priorities, timeline and funding. OC: TLC subcommittee was identifying potential DEI consultants, surprised as we had not discussed at retreat. Not budgeted for in FY 22 or FY 23. Shocked at the costs of the proposals. \$75,000 for one year;

\$175,00 for three year program. RV: Cost is prohibitive. Agree we should discuss at a SC retreat, have the TLC committee proceed with their research. Members discussed the need for, and potential scope of, any DEI programs.

- Distribution of [Superintendent Evaluation](#) Form

VIII. SUBCOMMITTEES/STRATEGIC PLAN SECTIONS

- **Governance and Leadership:** Leadership
- **Human Resources:** Leadership; Diversity, Equity & Inclusion; Professional Development. Continues to meet with LEA.
- **Teaching, Learning and Culture:** Curriculum & Instruction; Diversity, Equity & Inclusion; Professional Development; Technology; Social Emotional Learning; Leadership, Facilities. Meeting scheduled for May 4 may need to be postponed
- **Finance:** Finance; Technology; Facilities. Meeting May 2. OC: Both the Town Finance Committee and Select Board have voted against the School Department budget.
- **School Building:** Facilities

MOTION by OC and seconded by RM to adjourn the meeting.

VF: aye, OC: aye, RM: aye, CM: aye, MK: aye, RV: aye.

Approved 6-0.

Meeting adjourned 8:25pm.

Submitted by *Amy Noble Novitsky*.