

**LYNN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Administrative Offices
90 Commercial Street
Lynn, MA 01905**

**Committee of the Whole Meeting of the School
Committee
Thursday, September 22, 2011 at 5:35 p.m.**

Members present: Ms. Capano, Ms. Coppola, Ms. Carrasco, Mr. Ford
Mr. Spirito, Mr. Starbard, Mayor Kennedy

In Attendance: Dr. Latham, Superintendent
Dr. Warry, Deputy Superintendent
Mr. McHugh, School Business Administrator
Mr. Iarrobino, Secretary of the School Committee
Attorney Mihos

Mayor Kennedy presided.

The Mayor opened the meeting with a salute to the flag and a moment of silence.

NECROLOGY

1. Ronald W. Nichols—teacher and Guidance Counselor at English High School on September 12, 2011.

SOCIAL NETWORKING POLICY

The Mayor stated that the purpose of this meeting was to discuss a proposed Social Networking Policy. She asked for input from Committee members, Mr. Brant Duncan, President, Lynn Teachers Union and Ms. Mary Chalmers, Executive Assistant to the Mayor.

Mr. Starbard discussed the ramifications of faculty having contact with students through a WEB site such as Facebook. He recommended staff members be advised not to Friend students on their personal page.

Ms. Capano suggested the Committee look at all social networking sites in order to review both the negative and positive aspects of using these sites. It was noted that coaches use the internet to contact their players. Ms. Capano suggested reviewing Social Networking policies of the

Massachusetts Association of School Committees—2010, Sharon Public Schools, Somerville Public Schools and Randolph Public Schools

Ms. Capano suggested the following be added to Lynn's proposed Social Networking Policy:

“All other policies of the district, including, but not limited to Equal Employment Practices, Confidentiality, Bullying and Harassment, and the Employee Code of Conduct, apply to online conduct, including engagement in social media. Employees are required to uphold the principles of respect for the individual, dignity, honesty, professionalism, concern for and protection of children, security of intellectual property, accuracy, and safety in all interactions, in person or on-line. Violations may result in discipline, up to and including termination of employment”

Mr. Starbard suggested combining the Lynn Public Schools' Internet Usage Policy and the Superintendent's recommended policy and the need for Paragraph 5 which states,

“Teachers are encouraged to communicate with students and parents on educational matters only, and through school-based resources, such as school-provided email or web portal accounts. Use of one's personal email account or social networking account to discuss school business with students and parents is discouraged. It should be noted that, just because a teacher uses his/her personal email as opposed to a school email account, this does not shield such email from the provisions of the public records law or from discovery in litigation. It only prevents the archiving of such messages through the school district's automatic email archiving system. We again remind teachers that information sent or received by them, even through personal email or social network accounts, that are related to their capacity as a school employee, are still subject to public records retention, exemption and disclosure requirements.”

Dr. Warry spoke about the need for training staff to be aware of the pitfalls of using social media sites.

Mayor Kennedy recommended referring this to the Policy Sub-Committee.

Mr. Ford requested permission to bring a point of information before the Committee. Mayor Kennedy granted this request.

Mr. Ford indicated that new football helmets have been purchased for both English and Classical. He requested the old helmets be donated to East Lynn Pop Warner Football team and West Lynn Pop Warner Football Team. He asked this be put on the agenda of the next School Committee meeting.

A motion from the floor was made to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. Seconded.
Motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

THOMAS P. IARROBINO
Secretary of the School Committee

Nab

ADOPTED S.C. – 10-27-11