

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

**Fifth Regular Meeting of the School Committee
Thursday, March 8, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.**

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

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

Mayor Kennedy presided.

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

NECROLOGY

1. Edward Ray – retired Principal in January 2012
2. Mary Guarente – Lunch Aide on January 11, 2012
3. Loretta Ford – Lunch Aide on January 26, 2012
4. Ruth M. Egan – Elementary teacher on January 29, 2012
5. Mary E. Lopez – Lunch Aide on February 9, 2012

MINUTES

1. Personnel Sub-Committee on February 9, 2012

Mr. Starbard made a motion to adopt the above-listed minutes. Seconded.
Motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

2. Third Regular Meeting on February 9, 2012

Ms. Capano made a motion to adopt the above-listed minutes. Seconded.
Motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Governor Patrick's Project 351 Student Ambassadors Selected

Krystal Veras – Breed Middle School
Alondra Peral – Marshall Middle School
Ashley Blake – Pickering Middle School (absent for presentation)

Dr. Latham explained that Project 351 is a non-profit organization and was established by Governor Patrick and Lt. Governor Murray. Project 351 is dedicated to celebrating youth leadership and inspiring the ethic of service.

Mayor Kennedy and Superintendent Latham presented a certificate of recognition.

2. Joseph Picano, on March 1, 2012 received the prestigious Massachusetts Music Educators Association Award in Boston through Berklee College of Music – six awards to alumni were presented locally and nationally.

Dr. Latham noted that Mr. Picano received the Berklee College of Music Exemplary Music Educators Career Award - 2012.

Mr. Picano, Director of Fine Arts thanked the Mayor, Administration and School Committee for all their support this past year. He noted that he could not have received this award without the help of the administration which allowed him to do his job.

3. Marilyn Mahoney – regarding Pre-K sign-up process/procedure

Ms. Mahoney provided the Committee with an overview of the efforts being made to reach out to parents to notify them of the sign-up procedures.

Stage I: Child Find Process

This process will reach out to parents, child-care providers, family child-care providers, doctors and health care centers. In addition, information will go out through flyers, School Department WEB site and cable TV to find children who maybe at risk with developmental concerns. The Special Education Law requires that the School Department look for students who are at risk. A Week-Long Screening at the Gregg House is planned and referrals will be made to the Special Education Department for testing and evaluation.

Stage 2: Sign-Up Procedures

Applications can be found on the School Department WEB site, main office of every school and the Lynn Public Library. If needed, applications will be translated into five languages (English, Spanish, Khmer, French, and French Creole.) Additional language translations can be done at the new American Center.

The lottery selection process will be done by computer. All applications will be in a computer-generated process which will select the students for the Pre-K program.

4. Drewicz School

Mr. Michael Donovan, Commissioner of Inspectional Services Department (ISD), presented an overview of the work being done at the Drewicz School. He noted that the Drewicz was built around 1923. Due to severe weather recently, drainage has been a problem. The basement lavatories were affected when the street manhole backed up. During the cleaning process mold was discovered in the cafeteria. Additionally, the lavatories have backed up due to items being flushed which caused sewage flooding. This issue is being addressed by the principal. Mr. Donovan provided the Committee with a copy of a plan prepared by an engineer to address this problem. He noted that Ward 6 always has flooding issues. When the City Council provides funding, this project will begin.

5. Bullying Awareness Campaign

Dr. Latham introduced Mr. Alan Melanson who presented an overview of an Anti-Bullying Awareness Campaign.

Mr. Melanson spoke about the issue of bullying. This information will supplement the current program in the Lynn schools. His goal is to find a sponsor and obtain permission from the Lynn School Committee to place a poster in every classroom throughout the city and provide all students in grades K - 3 a coloring book.

Ms. Capano spoke in support of this effort to address bullying and requested a copy of the posters and coloring book.

Ms. Capano made a motion to provide Committee members with a copy of the posters and coloring book which will be placed in the schools and include Mr. Melanson in discussions. Seconded.

Roll Call

Member	Vote
Ms. Capano	Yes
Ms. Carrasco	Yes
Ms. Coppola	Yes
Mr. Ford	Yes
Mr. Gallo	Yes
Mr. Starbard	Yes
Mayor Kennedy	Yes

Motion passed.

Mr. Ford made a motion to allow Mr. Melanson to place the posters in every classroom. Seconded.

Roll Call

Member	Vote
Ms. Capano	Yes
Ms. Carrasco	Yes
Ms. Coppola	Yes
Mr. Ford	Yes
Mr. Gallo	Yes
Mr. Starbard	Yes
Mayor Kennedy	Yes

Motion passed.

6. Title I Overview - Dr. Warry

Dr. Warry, Deputy Superintendent of Schools presented a PowerPoint presentation of the history of Title I and the benefits of this federal program.

Dr. Warry noted that Title I began in 1965 as a way to increase achievement in students living in circumstances of poverty. The intent of this law had been to target only students living in poverty. Title I funds could only be used for materials and supplies to help these students. Title I has been rewritten many times since its inception. In 2001 the No Child Left Behind Act law brought additional accountability to local districts. Census data determines the amount of federal Title I funds allocated to the states. These funds pass through the state educational agency. Federal regulations are interpreted and acted upon by the Massachusetts Department of Education (DOE). The amount of funding received by the cities is determined by the poverty levels of the county. Lynn is apart of Essex County. Dr. Warry explained how these laws mandate how the funds are used to improve instructions. Dr. Warry answered questions from the Committee.

ELECTIONS/APPOINTMENTS

1. Claudia Carmody, Burlington, School Psychologist-Bilingual – effective February 13, 2012
2. Lauren Phelps, Lynn, Guidance Counselor, Breed Middle School – effective March 12, 2012

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Canning Policy (tabled from SC January 26, 2012)

Mr. Starbard, Chairman of the Policy Sub-Committee made a motion to approve the following changes to the Canning Policy as recommended by the Policy Sub-Committee:

- All students under the age of 14 must be accompanied by an adult.
- No one under the aged of 18 is allowed off the sidewalk.
- No student should be alone.
- All students should be dressed appropriately.
- Students must have a valid school identification badge visible.
- All cans/collection devices must be sealed tight and used once.
- All cans/collection devices must be labeled and identify the school/club or team.
- Other collection devices must be made tamper proof.
- The organizations must have a canning permit and must comply with all requirements of the Lynn City Council Licensing Committee.

Seconded.

Discussion ensued regarding the last line of the current policy.

Mr. Starbard amended his motion to include the following:

“Strike the last line of the current policy.”

Vote on amendment:

Roll Call

Member	Vote
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Ms. Capano	Yes
Ms. Carrasco	Yes
Ms. Coppola	Yes
Mr. Ford	Yes
Mr. Gallo	Yes
Mr. Starbard	Yes
Mayor Kennedy	Yes

Motion passed.

Vote on the Main Motion;

Roll Call

Member	Vote
Ms. Capano	Yes
Ms. Carrasco	Yes
Ms. Coppola	Yes
Mr. Ford	Yes
Mr. Gallo	Yes
Mr. Starbard	Yes
Mayor Kennedy	Yes

Motion passed.

2. HighSchoolSports.com - Atty. Mihos (tabled from SC January 26, 2012)

Attorney Mihos indicated that he held discussion with Mr. White, City Purchasing Department and the City Solicitor regarding this agreement. They recommended approval of this agreement and stated that this agreement should be limited to the three public high schools.

Ms. Capano made a motion to request Attorney Mihos to prepare a draft of the agreement. Seconded.

Motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

3. Food Project re: Soil Testing Report – Ingalls School

Mr. Harrison, The Food Project, noted that April 28, 2011 the Committee renewed the lease on the condition that leaf tissue testing be conducted to ensure that food being grown is safe. The University of Massachusetts could not do the testing due to an overload of requests. Mr. Allan, a chemist at the University of Massachusetts recommended The Food Project use the Pennsylvania State Lab. The samples were sent to the lab and the soil was found to be safe.

Ms. Coppola made a motion to suspend the rules and allow Mrs. Puleo to speak. Seconded.

Roll Call

Member	Vote
Ms. Capano	No
Ms. Carrasco	Yes
Ms. Coppola	Yes
Mr. Ford	No
Mr. Gallo	Yes
Mr. Starbard	Yes
Mayor Kennedy	No

Motion passed.

Mrs. Puleo, neighbor of the Ingalls Schools Garden spoke to the Committee about the soil testing process. She stated that 25 samples should have been tested. She voiced opposition to the testing procedure. Mr. Ford stated that he spoke with Ms. O'Connor, City Health Department, who told him the garden was safe.

Mr. Starbard made a motion to request Mr. Donovan, Inspectional Services Department, to recommend a professional to test the soil at the Ingalls Garden and come before the Committee with the test results. The cost of this test is not to exceed \$1,000. Seconded.

Discussion ensued regarding how this testing will be funded. Mr. McHugh indicated that the School Committee has a line in the budget that could be used.

Roll Call

Member	Vote
Ms. Capano	Yes
Ms. Carrasco	Yes
Ms. Coppola	Yes
Mr. Ford	Yes
Mr. Gallo	Yes
Mr. Starbard	Yes
Mayor Kennedy	Yes

Motion passed.

4. Request for Executive Session – Contract negotiations with non-union personnel: Superintendent, Deputy Superintendents and Confidential Secretaries.

Mayor Kennedy passed the gavel to the Vice Chair.

Mayor Kennedy made a motion to Table the Executive Session. Seconded.

Roll Call

Member	Vote
Ms. Capano	Yes
Ms. Carrasco	Yes
Ms. Coppola	Yes
Mr. Ford	Yes
Mr. Gallo	Yes
Mr. Starbard	Yes
Mayor Kennedy	Yes

Motion passed.

The Vice Chair returned the gavel to Mayor Kennedy.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion.
 - a. Hiring of Nurses.

Ms. Capano spoke about the process used to fill the position of school nurse. She indicated that currently the Committee conducts interviews with the Nursing Supervisor asking the questions. Ms. Capano noted that this is a complicated process with the Committee ultimately asking for a recommendation from the Nurse Supervisor and Superintendent.

Ms. Capano asked Attorney Mihos if this interview process could be given to someone else.

Attorney Mihos indicated that the School Committee can delegate the interview process.

Ms. Capano made a motion to allow the Superintendent and the Nurse Supervisor to conduct interviews and provide the Committee with their recommendation. Ms. Capano also would require all resumes be provided to Committee members. The ultimate hiring decision will remain the responsibility of the School Committee. Seconded.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Starbard supported this motion and indicated that any Committee member could sit in on any interview. Ms. Coppola noted that the Education Reform Act stated that hiring of the Nurses is the responsibility of the School Committee. Mr. Ford supported the motion.

Roll Call

Member	Vote
Ms. Capano	Yes
Ms. Carrasco	Yes

Ms. Coppola	No
Mr. Ford	Yes
Mr. Gallo	Yes
Mr. Starbard	Yes
Mayor Kennedy	Yes

Motion passed.

b. Student Appearance section of School Discipline Code.

Mayor Kennedy passed the gavel to the Vice Chair

Copy of a letter written by a student at Lynn English High School was provided to Committee members. The student stated in her letter that she was suspended from school for not covering up a shirt that the Vice Principal thought was offensive. The Mayor noted that the current Dress Code does not allow the wearing of shirts which display weapons, drugs and alcohol. Mayor Kennedy stated that she researched this issue and found the student to be within her rights to continue to wear the shirt.

Mayor Kennedy made a motion to amend the Dress Code policy: “That any time a school administrator questions the appropriateness of a particular item of clothing, they are required to call the Central Administration for an opinion before taking any action in regard to that student.”

Seconded.

Discussion.

Ms. Capano made a motion to amend the original motion and let the principal of the school be the deciding authority. Seconded.

Vote on Amendment

Roll Call

Member	Vote
Ms. Capano	Yes
Ms. Carrasco	No
Ms. Coppola	No
Mr. Ford	Yes
Mr. Gallo	No
Mr. Starbard	No
Mayor Kennedy	No

Motion failed.

Vote on original motion:

Roll Call

Member	Vote
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Ms. Capano	No
Ms. Carrasco	Yes
Ms. Coppola	Yes
Mr. Ford	No
Mr. Gallo	Yes
Mr. Starbard	Yes
Mayor Kennedy	Yes

Motion passed.

Ms. Coppola made a motion to have the Administrators in the Secondary Schools be educated regarding the laws about student expression and their legal rights. Seconded.

Roll Call

Member	Vote
Ms. Capano	Yes
Ms. Carrasco	Yes
Ms. Coppola	Yes
Mr. Ford	Yes
Mr. Gallo	Yes
Mr. Starbard	Yes
Mayor Kennedy	Yes

Motion passed.

The Vice Chair returned the gavel to Mayor Kennedy.

- c. Request Lynn Youth Street Outreach Advocacy Program (LYSOA) – Antonio Gutierrez to speak in our schools on the topic: “Going Straight”

Mr. Starbard introduced Mr. Antonio Gutierrez who has worked as a Street Outreach worker. He recently formed LYSOA which is involved in speaking at schools in Revere, Swampscott, Salem and Beverly on anti-violence. Mr. Gutierrez spoke about the need to reach out to the students of Lynn regarding the decisions they make. He spoke about his passion for his outreach work.

Mr. Starbard made a motion to direct the Superintendent to work with Mr. Gutierrez and form a committee to develop an appropriate program for the Lynn Public Schools. Seconded.

Discussion ensued with Superintendent Latham indicating that Officer Ferrari will be invited to join this effort.

Roll Call

Member	Vote
Ms. Capano	Yes
Ms. Carrasco	Yes
Ms. Coppola	Yes
Mr. Ford	Yes
Mr. Gallo	Yes
Mr. Starbard	Yes
Mayor Kennedy	Yes

Motion passed.

Mayor Kennedy passed the gavel to the Vice Chair.

d. "Open Mike" Guidelines.

Ms. Coppola questioned using the word guidelines instead of policy. Attorney Mihos indicated that the Committee may change this at any time when it is on the agenda. A majority of the School Committee may change policy and guidelines.

Ms. Coppola made a motion to adopt the Guidelines to be a Policy of the School Committee. Seconded.

Discussion. Ms. Capano suggested changing the section of the Open Mike Guidelines: "All speakers must be residents of the City of Lynn" and suggest we omit this piece. Mr. Starbard preferred to leave the language as is and the Committee can make a decision on a case-by-case basis.

Mayor Kennedy made an amendment to the original motion to delete "All speakers be residents of Lynn." and add anyone over the age of 18 would be allowed to speak at Open Mike. Seconded.

Vote on the Amendment:

Roll Call

Member	Vote
Ms. Capano	Yes
Ms. Carrasco	No

Ms. Coppola	No
Mr. Ford	Yes
Mr. Gallo	Yes
Mr. Starbard	No
Mayor Kennedy	Yes

Motion passed.

Vote on the Main Motion

Roll Call

Member	Vote
Ms. Capano	Yes
Ms. Carrasco	Yes
Ms. Coppola	No
Mr. Ford	Yes
Mr. Gallo	Yes
Mr. Starbard	Yes
Mayor Kennedy	Yes

Motion passed.

The Vice Chair returned the gavel to Mayor Kennedy.

2. Live Webcast/Internet Archiving of School Committee Meetings

Mr. Gallo made a motion to archive on the Lynn Public School WEBSITE all Lynn School Committee meetings to begin with the next meeting and to live WEBcast/Internet also on the School WEBSITE when practicable. Seconded.

Mr. McManus, Director of Technology, indicated that this could be done.

Roll Call

Member	Vote
Ms. Capano	Yes
Ms. Carrasco	Yes
Ms. Coppola	Yes
Mr. Ford	Yes
Mr. Gallo	Yes
Mr. Starbard	Yes

Mayor Kennedy Yes

Motion passed.

3. Students Unauthorized Extended Vacations

Ms. Coppola spoke about the need to look into the issue of extended vacation/unauthorized absence of students.

Ms. Maura Shearer, Data Center, spoke about this issue and provided the committee with statistics.

Ms. Coppola made a motion to refer this to the Policy Sub-Committee. Seconded.

Motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

4. Request to have LynnCam increase its broadcast time in order to telecast live Sub-Committee meetings and Open Mike.

Mr. Starbard made a motion to allow LynnCam to broadcast and re-broadcast all Sub-Committee meetings and Open Mike sessions. Seconded.

Motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

5. Field Trip Request

- a. Classical High School to Mashpee, on March 30, 31 & April 1, 2012 for 6 scrimmages.

Ms. Capano made a motion to approve the Classical High School field trip to Mashpee. Seconded. Motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

- b. Lincoln-Thomson School to Canobie Lake Park, on June 11, 2012
(Rain Date: June 12, 2012)

Ms. Capano made a motion to approve the Lincoln-Thomson School field trip to Canobie Lake Park. Seconded. Motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

- c. English High School to Rome, Italy on April 12 – 18, 2013

Ms. Capano made a motion to approve the English High School field trip to Rome, Italy. Seconded. Motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

6. Ratification of votes taken in Grants Sub-Committee meeting – Study of Private and Public Grant Investigation and Writing

Mr. Gallo made a motion to have the administration prepare a study of three urban and three suburban districts regarding private and public grant investigation and writing process. Seconded. Motion passed on unanimous voice vote.

7. Contracts for signature

a. The Forsyth Institute contract

Atty. Mihos presented the dental contract with The Forsyth Institute. This is a request for a 3-year contract.

Superintendent Latham indicated that another organization is interested in offering their services to the middle school students.

Mayor Kennedy passed the gavel to the Vice Chair.

Mayor Kennedy made a motion to table. Seconded.

Roll Call

Member	Vote
Ms. Capano	Yes
Ms. Carrasco	Yes
Ms. Coppola	Yes
Mr. Ford	Yes
Mr. Gallo	Yes
Mr. Starbard	Yes
Mayor Kennedy	Yes

Motion passed.

b. Lease Agreement Between Lynn Housing Authority & Neighborhood Development and the Lynn School Department for the Early Childhood program at Curwin Terrace.

Ms. Capano made a motion to approve the lease agreement between Lynn Housing Authority & Neighborhood Development and the Lynn School Department for the Early Childhood program at Curwin Terrace. Seconded.

Roll Call

Member	Vote
Ms. Capano	Yes
Ms. Carrasco	Yes
Ms. Coppola	Yes
Mr. Ford	Yes
Mr. Gallo	Yes
Mr. Starbard	Yes
Mayor Kennedy	Yes

Motion passed.

Committee members signed the lease agreement.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Ingalls Principal – Thank you to Treadwell’s Ice Cream for purchasing t-shirts for boys’ and girls’ basketball teams.

Mr. Ford made a motion to accept for the files the communication from the Ingalls School Principal. Seconded. Motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Mayor Kennedy passed the gavel to the Vice Chair and left the meeting at 10:15 p.m. and did not return.

INFORMATION

1. Enrollment Report – March 1, 2012
2. Superintendent’s Report

State of the Schools Report

Received a \$10,000 Planning Grant for the Innovation School

Twenty-Five LVTI students will be taking the Advanced Placement Test

Update Priorities—Standards Based Instruction

Superintendent’s Goals

1. Emphasize and support standards-based instruction for all grades and all content areas.
2. Emphasize and support data-driven decision-making
3. Enhance education through technology
4. Reduce drop-out and support students and their families
5. Support full inclusion for special education students
6. Improve vocational/technical education
7. Assist, support and improve lower performing schools
8. Attract, retain, and support highly qualified teachers
9. Explore innovative programs to support improved student achievement
10. Maintain safe and drug-free schools

Superintendent Latham informed the Committee that this report will be on the School Department’s WEB site.

Superintendent Latham introduced Mr. Barry McCaul, teacher of the auto collision class at LVTI. Mr. McCaul provided an update on the Fallon Heros Project which started in October 2011. This project took on the job of refinishing a 1988 Ford Mustang GT which had belonged to U.S. Army Special Forces Major Jeffrey R. Calero who was killed in action in southern Afghanistan in 2007. Upon completion of this project the car will be delivered to Maj. Calero’s family. Mr. McCaul recognized the efforts of a former LVTI student, Ms. Fani Rosa, Chair, Auto Collision Technology Program

Advisory Committee , who did all the graphic work on the car. The project will be finished in about two weeks.

Ms. Capano made a motion to adjourn at 10:40 p.m. Seconded.
Motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

THOMAS P. IARROBINO
Secretary of the School Committee

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ADOPTED S.C. - 4-12-12