

LINDEN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Work Session Meeting
Linden High School
7201 W. Silver Lake Road
Linden, Michigan 48451
(810) 591-0410
June 1, 2011
7:00 p.m.

Members Present Pam Snyder, Mike Murphy, Steve Murphy, Rick Kursik, Scott Maker, Rob Rossow

Members Absent Laura Starrs

Vice President Pam Snyder asked the minutes reflect that Mrs. Starrs is at her son's college orientation.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA
149-10
(P)
Moved by Maker, supported by M. Murphy to adopt the agenda as presented.
All yea votes. Motion carried 6-0.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

Superintendent Koldeo shared the end of the year activities.

Mr. Koledo stated there were a number of Public Comments at the May 18th board meeting regarding similar topics, e.g. 22% pay cut to teacher, changes in insurance. Mr. Koledo shared what the Board's offer was to the teaching staff. It consists of a 10% wage cut, 12% insurance cap. If teachers take the new insurance it would be half the price and there would be no cost to the employees. The only change in the new insurance is it will not cover massages. Mr. Koledo said not to confuse the value of any staff member, they are supported but we have to maintain a financially sound district.

Superintendent Koledo provided the history of what the Board has done in the past and the Board has done its best to do business in public.

Mr. Koledo responded to a comment on custodial outsourcing and their value to the district. He stated this is purely financially driven and it is not about the work our people do.

STUDENT BOARD REPORTS

Student board representatives Sydney Elmer and Alyssa Logie shared the highlights of happenings at the high school.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Clint Lawhorne, high school teacher, spoke about the teacher evaluation process and merit pay. Mr. Lawhorne indicated dissension is starting to develop with departments. He feels it is unfair to evaluate teachers on numbers and test scores of students. Teachers who have seniors in their class are at a disadvantage as towards the end of their school year, most of their grades tend to drop. Why should his job be in jeopardy because his class is seniors?

Janalee Graham, parent, is deeply concerned that AP Physics and AP Chemistry are not being offered next year.

Meg Walton, LEA president, resident and taxpayer, asked if the Board has heard the thoughts and feelings of the teaching staff. Mrs. Walton stated she has always viewed negotiations as a collaborative effort, but we don't get that feeling. Teachers recognize the concerns with the budget. Linden teachers are special and we need to work together to keep this an A-1 school district.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Highlights of High School France Trip Sonia Quinlan, high school French teacher, gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the high school France Trip which took place April 1-10, 2011. Mrs. Quinlan stated only three students went on the trip and all had a wonderful, fast paced trip. The students visited three different regions of France in ten days.

Highlights of Spain and Andalusia Trip Morgan Maker, high school student, shared the experiences students enjoyed on their trip to April 2-11, 2011. Ms. Maker highlighted five topics of the trip: Literature, History, Architecture, Culture and Religion. A slideshow of pictures taken by the students was also shown.

DIRECTOR/BUILDING PRINCIPAL REPORTS

None.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

High School Trip Request to Rome, Italy and Athens, Greece Matt Schartow, high school Spanish teacher, requested permission to allow high school students to travel to Rome, Italy and Athens, Greece around April 2-11, 2012. This item will be placed on the June 15, 2011 Consent Agenda for approval.

Public Comments:

.None

First Reading of Student Handbooks The first reading of the elementary, middle school, high school and LAA student handbooks was conducted. Approval of these handbooks will be placed on the June 15, 2011 agenda under Old Business.

Public Comments:

None.

Motion to Take Motion Off Table 150-11 (P) Moved by Maker, supported by Kursik to take from the table the motion to contract with DM Burr to provide cleaning services for all district owned facilities effective July 1, 2011 at a cost not to exceed \$474,867.98 per year for 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14. All yea votes. Motion carried 7-0.

Original Motion Approve Bid for Custodial Services 151-11 (P) Moved by Kursik, supported by Snyder to contract with DM Burr to provide cleaning services for all district owned facilities effective July 1, 2011 at a cost not to exceed \$474,867.98 per year for 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14. Board members shared the pros and cons of outsourcing with some of the concerns that were discussed at previous meetings. S. Murphy still would like to wait until June 29th Special Meeting to act on this issue and again table the motion. Steve Murphy asked to table the motion again, but the motion could not be reconsidered. Roll call vote taken. Yea votes: Snyder, M. Murphy, Kursik, Maker, Rossow
Nay votes: S. Murphy
Motion carried 6-1.

Public Comments:

Joanne Erway, custodian, stated the group came up with a savings plan and did not know why the Board did not get the information.

Lynn Brothers, custodian, listed the things the custodians have done to save the district money. She feels the group has done more than any other group in the district.

Discussion to
Conduct Board
Elections in
November

Discussion took place on the pros of moving Board elections to November of even years. This would also entail extending the terms of board members to six years. Conducting elections in November of even years would save money for the district. Mr. Koledo will contact Thrun Law Firm to work out the details of the resolution. The Board agreed to place the resolution on the June 15th agenda under Old Business for further discussion and possibly table until December.

Public Comments:

None

Discussion on
Borrowing Funds
to Meet Cash
for 2011-12

Mike Engelter presented information on the estimated need for borrowing cash for the 2011-12 school year. Mr. Engelter stated that if we did not borrow any money the greatest deficit would occur in May. Discussion took place on how you determine what is borrowed for set asides and Flow non-set asides. Mr. Engelter stated you need to keep playing with the numbers to make it work. Mr. Engelter stated interest costs to borrow the funds could be as much as \$84,000.00. S. Murphy asked what a 3% fund balance or 5% fund balance would look like in relation to borrowing funds. Mr. Engelter stated he didn't have an answer at this time as to what the fund balance would look like. M. Murphy asked if the winter/summer taxes figure into the equation. Mr. Engelter stated they do and moving all to summer tax collection would ease the amount to borrow, but not eliminate it. Mr. Engelter stated he estimates borrowing \$4.5 million.

Public Comments:

None.

Budget Update

Superintendent Koledo presented numbers with a 3% fund equity and a 5% fund equity. Mr. Koledo indicated that if we maintain a 3% fund balance, class sizes would stay the same and there would be no teacher lay-offs. If the Board chooses to maintain a 5% fund balance, class sizes would increase to maximum numbers and there would be an increase in teacher lay-offs. Mr. Kursik's biggest concern would be to lose control of the district. He stated the need to keep fund equity as low as possible but with enough cushion to keep the district solvent. He emphasized that he does not want an Emergency Financial Manager to come to Linden and wreck what we have worked for over the years. Mr. Kursik asked if it was doable or realistic to have contingency plans, if the district went with a 3% fund balance. Mr. Koledo stated even with a 5% we would still be at risk. Mr. Kursik asked if there was the possibility of a contingency plan waiting in the wings. Mrs. Snyder agreed with Mr. Kursik. S. Murphy stated by dropping to 3% would be the start of a rebuilding process - identify the need and put into process to rebuilding.

Public Comments:

Meg Walton responded to the information presented. She stated that Linden teachers are in the 78% salary scale in the county, which is already cost effective. Huron Valley teachers were paid more than Linden teachers so that is not a fair comparison, as are Lapeer teachers. Mrs. Walton stated districts in Genesee County are passing bonds. The Board may need to

look into a technology bond for the future technology needs in the district. She stressed the LEA will work toward the passage of such a bond.

Discussion took place on the fact we don't have the ability to generate revenue, number of students we would lose if we didn't offer AP classes, and possibly advertising our district.

Erin Graham, student, addressed the board on the loss of programs at school. We need to offer what is best for our students. If we put ourselves out there, the students will come.

POLICY REVIEW

None.

BOARD REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rick Kursik publicly recognized Alpine Food Market and The State Bank for their donations for scoreboards on the varsity baseball and varsity softball fields, respectively. As a school and community, we need to remember what they have done for us. Thank you.

Rob Rossow sat in on Senior Exit Interviews and finds it is very rewarding. Mr. Rossow also attended the Linden Elementary Science Fair. He was very impressed with the things students came up with.

Mike Murphy attended the Memorial Day events in Linden. He enjoyed the parade, ceremony at the cemetery and the fly over.

Scott Maker had an opportunity to be at the track that got switched from Kearsley to Linden with short notice. There was a good showing of people. Thank you to Cathy North for making it happen. Congratulations to all spring sports athletes/teams.

Steve Murphy thanked Mr. Maker, Mr. Koledo and all the other veterans and families for their service to our country.

Pam Snyder reminded Board members the superintendent evaluations are due to her ASAP so she can compile them.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

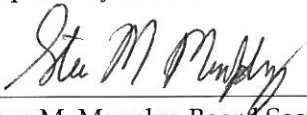
152-10
(P) Moved by Maker, supported by S. Murphy to adjourn to Executive Session per Section 8(c), Collective Bargaining Strategy, Contract Negotiations, of the Open Meetings Act at 10:10 p.m.

Reconvened to Open Session at 11:12 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

President Starrs adjourned the meeting at 11:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Steve M. Murphy, Board Secretary