



Town of Littleton School Committee

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JEN GOLD, Vice Chair
STACY DESMARAIS, Member

JUSTIN MCCARTHY, Chair

BRAD AUSTIN, Clerk
BINAL PATEL, Member

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MINUTES

March 30, 2023

7:00PM

PRESENT: Justin McCarthy
Brad Austin
Jen Gold
Stacy Desmarais
Binal Patel (7:05PM)

ALSO PRESENT: Kelly Clenchy
Steve Mark
Dorothy Mulone
Bettina Corrow

NOT PRESENT:

CALL TO ORDER

Justin McCarthy called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m.

On a motion by Stacy Desmarais and seconded by Jen Gold it was voted to approve the March 16, 2023, agenda as presented. (AYE: Unanimous).

INTERESTED CITIZENS

None

RECOGNITION

1. Student Representative(s) Report: Student Representative, John Feltus, gave an update of the events happening at each school.

PRESENTATIONS

1. **Superintendent's Report:** Superintendent Kelly Clenchy presented a brief update about the district.
 - Winter Sports Season overall was great and the Spring Sports Season has just begun.

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Our mission is to foster a community of learners who strive for excellence and prepare each student to be a successful, contributing citizen in a global society.

- Linewize-Online Safety and Digital Wellness Webinar took place on Tuesday, March 28th, areas of focus included: 8 key online safety risks children face today, practical strategies to reduce these risks, and the ABC approach to setting up your home for online safety, Q&A.
- NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness): Free course for families Join on Tuesdays, starting 4/11 via Zoom for NAMI Basics, a free Weekly, six session courses for parent and family caregivers to children and adolescents with emotional or behavioral issues.
- Indian Hill Building Update - Met with the OPM to determine scope of work and timelines
- Shaker Lane Building Project - Have applied to enter phase 2 of the project-Feasibility Study. We will be attending MSBA's April 26, 2023 Board Meeting
- Superintendent's Evaluation is scheduled for the April 13th School Committee Meeting.
- Partnership with Littleton Police Department. Rhett, the newest member of the Littleton Police Department, is a six-year-old chocolate lab who is working on his certification to become a comfort dog. Rhett is the personal pet of Detective Megan Wodzinski, who is the school resource officer and offered to get him certified for the comfort program. Welcome to Rhett!

2. **Early Literacy Screener Update** - Principal, Michelle Kane provided an update of the winter administration of the Early Literacy Screener.

Fall 2021	Winter 2022	Fall 2022	Winter 2023
Kindergarten & Transitional 16 Hi-risk 24 Moderate risk	Kindergarten & Transitional 14 Hi-risk 28 Moderate risk	Kindergarten & Transitional 33 Hi-risk 32 Moderate risk	Kindergarten & Transitional 17 Hi-risk 19 Moderate risk
Grade 1 12 Hi-risk 14 Moderate risk	Grade 1 10 Hi-risk 16 Moderate risk	Grade 1 21 Hi-risk 9 Moderate risk	Grade 1 11 Hi-risk 14 Moderate risk
Grade 2 6 Hi-risk 9 Moderate risk	Grade 2 4 Hi-risk 10 Moderate risk	Grade 2 12 Hi-risk 14 Moderate risk	Grade 2 3 Hi-risk 7 Moderate risk

Yellow=same cohort
 Green=same cohort
 Orange=single data

What is happening now...

- Reading Data Meetings
 - Students identified for Tier 2 & 3 support.

- Reading Specialists
- Classroom teachers
- Goal setting & progress monitoring
- March check-in

Brad Austin – Well done by staff, students, and families. When we first saw this presentation in the fall it was worrisome, but this is such a great progress. It shows some great growth.

Justin McCarthy – Is this the same assessment from the fall? How are these grade level team meetings covered?

Michelle Kane – Yes, it is the same assessment. We have substitutes coming in to cover classrooms during the grade level team meetings.

Binal Patel – Will you have training for the staff on the new screener tool?

Michelle Kane – Yes, we are having a “train the trainer” day scheduled for May for both Shaker Lane and Russell Street staff members.

3. Bus and Athletic Fees: Business Manager Steve Mark continued the discussion regarding the setting of fee structure for the 2023-2024 school year.

Target = \$100,000 in additional fees to help mitigate the increased bus contract to two tiered routes using 14 buses.

Current Transportation Fees:

Students K-6 over 2 miles - no fee

Grades K-6 under 2 miles to school - Fee

Students Grades 7-12 - Fee.

Bus Fees:

Current: \$225 per student,

Family Cap of \$675 (3 students)

Late registration fee = \$25/student, exempt from cap

Fees are waived for Free and Reduced students.

Increase Proposal Bus Fees

Approx 500 students pay the fee, grade K-12

Approx 650 are not required to pay fee, K-12

Total riders on buses = approx. 1,150 and fluctuates annually based on students' needs

Increase Fee Proposal for Athletics

Approx 678 students participate during the 21-22 school year.

Current Fee Structure - Athletics

\$200/student per sport

Family Cap = \$550/Family (excludes coop other fees, hockey, skiing, crew, etc.)

Alternative Fee Increase Proposal

\$50,000 Effective FY 2024 (September 2023)

Summary of Fee Increases to reach target of \$50,000 in additional fee revenue:

Fee Increase Additional Revenues

Bus fees increase from \$225 to \$250 = \$12,500

Elimination of Athletic Family Cap \$19,250
Increase of Athletic Fee from \$200 to \$225 = \$16,950

Total Estimated

Additional Revenues \$48,700

(If Athletic Family cap is not eliminated, then it should be in some x multiple of the athletic fee, i.e. 3,4,5, etc.)

Summary of Fee Increase Options

(Assumes elimination of Athletic Family cap)

	\$50,000 option	\$75,000 Option	\$100,000 option
Bus Fees (Family cap =3)	\$250/student	\$275/student	\$325/student

Athletic Fees	\$225/sport	\$250/sport	\$250/Sport
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Jen Gold – Did Mike Lynn recommend the increase and to remove the family cap?

Steve Mark – Yes, he did.

Binal Patel – You mentioned this money is to run the athletic program? Is this increase not for busing?

Steve Mark – At this point in time the increase will go towards busing.

Stacey Desmarais – Do we offer a waiver for families who cannot afford to pay? Have we thought about the individual cost of each sport?

Steve Mark – We offer waivers for any families with financial burden. Years ago, we investigated this. The School Committee Board decided then it was not worth splitting the cost out per sport. The Athletic program in Littleton costs around \$400,000 a year to run.

Brad Austin – How many years since we raised these fees? I am not sure I'm comfortable giving that big increase all at once to families, since some of us have had the same fee throughout our children's entire schooling.

Steve Mark- It has been more than 17 years since the last increase.

Jen Gold – Raising the fee for bus and athletics does not bother me. We haven't raised them in 17 years. I do not feel it is right to remove the family cap all at once.

Brad Austin – I do not feel we can raise the fees that much all at once. But rather build in an increase every other year. Increase the bus fee per student by \$50 as well as increase the athletic fee by \$50.

Justin McCarthy – I do think it is important to raise the bus fees. The Athletic fees at \$200 is a great deal. I think it should be \$250 per sport but the family cap should be closer to \$1,000-\$1,250.

Stacey Desmarais – I think \$50 for the bus fee is a good number.

Steve Mark – Brad's suggestion is to increase bus fee by \$50 to \$275 per student and athletic fee should be \$250 per student/sport.

Binal Patel – I think it would be better with a bus fee at \$300 and not an increase every two years but maybe keep this for 5 years.

Jen Gold – I think we should have an increase for the bus fee to \$300 and athletic fee to \$250.

On a motion by Brad Austin and seconded by Stacey Desmarais it was voted to approve the increase of busing fee to \$275 and athletic fee at \$250 with a family cap for both at 3-times as presented. (1 AYE: 4 NAYE). Motion failed.

On a motion by Justin McCarthy and seconded by Stacey Desmarais it was voted to approve the increase of busing fee to \$300 per rider with a family cap of \$900 and increase the athletic fee to \$250 per student with a family cap at \$1,250. (4 AYE & 1 NAYE) Motion passed.

INTERESTED CITIZENS

Sherri Turner – Is it possible to send the data report to parents once they are done instead of once a year?

Michelle Kane – Those reports can be requested at any time. It is not a mandate at this time but upon request we can send them out.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **PMBC:** Shaker Lane Building meeting is on April 11. The contract has been awarded.
2. **Budget Subcommittee:** Nothing new since our last meeting
3. **SEPAC:** Informative and productive meeting last Monday. Parent-Student bowling night scheduled for next Thursday.
4. **Policy:** We have met and we are starting to look at the policy of holidays and holydays.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Jen Gold and seconded by Binal Patel it was voted to adjourn at 8:17PM to go into Executive Session for the purpose of contract negotiation discussion with no intention to return to Open Session. Roll Call Vote: Brad Austin, AYE; Justin McCarthy, AYE; Jen Gold, AYE; Binal Patel, AYE; and Stacy Desmarais, AYE.

NEXT MEETING DATE

April 13, 2023

7:00PM

DOCUMENTS AS PART OF MEETING

Superintendent report

Early Literacy Screener Update

Bus & Athletic fee proposed increase.