

April 9, 2018

### Lunenburg PTO Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Paul Lawn, Marlene Hoaglund, Scott Hoaglund, Heidi Champagne, Brian Spadafino, Tim Santry, Jill Blaisdell, Maribeth Ford, Carrie Millier, Rhonda Lisio, Susanna Jewell, Meredith Weiss, Lisa Harrison, Alix Lind, Andrea Moore, Karen C. Chow, Sarah Coronella, Hannah Anderson, Heather LeClair, Katey Adams, Superintendent Loxi Calmes, Police Chief Marino, Mari Braithwaite, Laura Brzozoski, Jess Frank, Carolyn Finch, Ami Powers, Allison Melvin

#### I. Safety with Police Chief Marino:

Chief Marino stated that the LPD is having difficulty keeping up with the rise in population. The call volume and needs of the town surpasses the amount of officers on staff. Typically there is only two officers on duty each shift. Chief has proposed to the Finance Committee a 10 year plan funded with growth money to catch up with the population growth. This plan would be to hire on one new Patrolman each year. If this gets passed through Town Hall in May a new officer can be hired. Chief encourages people to keep the narrative going and support this proposed plan. He is sympathetic to the fact that many departments in town are seeking more money to enhance their own departments, and because of this has proposed a long term solution.

#### Q & A:

Q1: What is the role of Resource Officer Zrate:

A1: This role is to provide security to the schools. It places an armed officer onsite. Officer Zrate is primarily at LMHS, but does visit the other schools throughout the school year. He is there to support and work with the administration as situations arise such as bullying/cyber bullying. While working together to determine the best solution.

Q2: Are all school camera's working?

A2: Yes, all cameras are working properly. LPD has remote access too. They can log in and view activity.

Q3: Do all extended day staff members have ALICE training?

A3: Yes, they all have ALICE training. The doors are locked and parents need to be buzzed into the office. Children are called from classroom to be dismissed from the office.

Q4: What is the cost to hire one new Patrolman?

A4: The base cost of a brand new hire including training, vacation, insurance etc is \$77,000/year

Q5: In a similar sized town in Massachusetts what is the average size Police Department and what is the suggested size Police Department? How many members are in the Lunenburg P.D?

A5: A staff of 19-22 is average and a staff of 26 is suggested. Lunenburg has 15.

LMHS ALICE questions....

Q6: There is not always cell phone service in classrooms at LMHS?

A6: All classrooms have landlines with immediate 911 access.

Q7: Classroom doors swing open, how can you barricade the room?

A7: All classroom doors lock from the inside without a key. A barricade is a deterrent to the intruder. So even with the door swinging open stacking items in the doorway will deter the intruder from taking time to move items.

Q8: What should a student do if they are in the hallway or bathroom when a situation arises?

A8: Three suggestions are given to the students 1) run to the closest classroom. 2) go into a unisex bathroom, they lock. 3) go into a bathroom stall and sit quietly.

Suggestion: Annual ALICE informational meetings for parents and community members.

Side note: LPD uses LMHS for their active shooter drills. LPD is familiar with the layout of the school and takes time to view plans and visit all the other schools in town too.

Health and Wellness:

Carolyn Finch with the Wellness Advisory came with updates that this council has been working on. They meet six times a year. The main focus to this year was mental health. With a rise in mental health issues a program called 'Interface referral services' was put into place. It is a program to help people navigate the health insurance system. Helping them find a mental health provider in their network. This is not a crisis hotline, it is a referral service.

-All the schools have been working together to streamline their re-entry procedures. Now all schools have the same steps in place for the student to have a successful re-entry.

-Girls on the Run program are being offered at THES and LMS!

-Food Service Update: Through Powerschool/Powerlunch the cafeteria staff is alerted to a child's allergy as they come through the lunch line. This also enhances the confidentiality of the child.

Q1: What is protocol for when a staff member notices signs of a mental health concern of a student?

A1: First off, support staff will have contact home with said concern. Next the student will meet with a school guidance counselor. The last step would be to coordinate a wrap-around team. Together this group would come up with a suggested plan of action for the student to receive appropriate services.

Q2: Why are parents not notified when lice is first in the classroom?

A2: Parents are notified once there are two confirmed cases of lice in the room simultaneously. Data suggests that lice are not generally transmitted in the classroom.

Q3: LMS, why is PE only offered in quarters not part of the six day rotation?

A3: It is done this way more so for teachers of other area specials, such as Foreign Language or Guidance. The special teachers have many students that they meet per school year. It is helpful to have a more frequent and compact time period to get to know and teach the students.

Q4: Is there any talk of adding more physical activity into the school day?

A4: LPS and THES have built in recess times in place. LMS gives the students an option to go outside after they are finished with their lunches during any remaining time. Beyond P.E. and recess there are currently no specific plans in place to add more physical activity to the school day.

-Superintendent Loxi Calmes explained that budget adjustments are being made around lack of Title 1 funds that were given. Due to this there is currently a hiring freeze, except for certain positions.

-The incoming Kindergarten class is expected to be quite large. Plans are being put in place of a 6<sup>th</sup> classroom if needed for next year.

-Karen Chow made a motion to approve March's meeting minutes, Jess Fran seconded the motion. All approved.

**Next Meeting May 7, 2018**

