

Lincoln School Board Budget Informational Meeting Minutes  
February 17, 2010  
Lincoln Community School Gym

Present: David Venman, Donnie Sargent, Marian Bouchard, Tim Brokaw, Henry Wilmer

Others Present: Principal Tory Riley, Business Manager Greg Burdick, Superintendent Evelyn Howard

1. David Venman called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.
2. D. Venman described the directions given to the administration from the board to prepare a 0% increase in the budget. In deciding to delay a bond vote to address all the building needs, the Board decided on placing an additional \$90,000 in the budget for repairs (labor, an architect, furnace work) to keep the building functional for the year.

The Budget will be presented in two parts, the bulk of the budget, and then \$30,000, representing the required second vote under Act 82.

Questions and comments from the audience included the following:

- Budget for professional staff increases? Support staff?
- Support staff health insurance was improved
- Health buyouts offered actually save the school money
- Intent of the administration to work within the budget
- Explanation of projected enrollment and equalized pupils
- Limits of fixed incomes to afford annual increases
- Need for evidence that there is a long term strategy to get things under control
- Need for long term view of maintaining costs—people need to know what is coming
- Discussion re: teacher-to-student ratio
- Discussion re: sending students to Bristol will not address the building's needs
- Education taxes are rising and new town-wide appraisal results are due in April
- Support for a level-funded school in these economic times
- \$90,000 would need to be cut to accomplish level funding
- Planning for 20 years in the facility should include building in a capital reserve and an inflationary factor
- Construction project must require bonding
- State and local municipalities facing significant loss of revenues
- An education plan must project staffing and enrollment for years in the future
- Need for more information about the # of children in classrooms; # of special education students
- Alternative formats for the budget
- Timeliness of audit completion is a concern
- Description of work done for facility analysis
- When new facility is presented there is a need to distinguish between what is

maintenance and what is an enhancement  
Possible cost savings in combining school and town library needs  
Possibility of sharing services with the town (facility management)

**The public discussion with the Board adjourned at 7:40 p.m.**

Minutes submitted by  
Evelyn Howard