

SCHOOL COMMITTEE GOALS
2016-2017

1. Academic Excellence – provide support for enriching opportunities for every student

- A. Collaborate with Superintendent to develop and adopt a revised homework policy, with input from all stakeholders, by June 2017
 - Participate in the Superintendent’s Homework Policy Task Force
 - Review feedback from 2014-15 Homework Policy hearings; gather feedback on a revised homework policy, including input from staff, students, and families
- B. Support, through providing resources, professional learning to align with district goals. Monitor and review administrative reports on:
 - Staff access to professional learning
 - Staff use of tuition reimbursement funds
 - Total expenditures for professional learning
- C. Allocate, through the budget, provision of materials to support every student’s learning needs
- D. Study and develop programs that comply with pending new legislation on dyslexia, and continue to develop and support programs for special needs
- E. Review alternative no/low-cost options for introducing World Language at elementary schools; options to be presented by Superintendent based on further study

2. Promote Social and Emotional Wellness

- A. Participate in the Lexington Community Coalition – Youth Initiative to help strengthen collaboration among schools, town government, community organizations, and families to address the Coalition’s identified goals for our youth:
 - Reduce alcohol and substance use
 - Reduce the atmosphere of academic competition
 - Decrease experiences of loneliness, depression and suicidal thoughts
- B. Support efforts within LPS to reduce unhealthy stress, foster social/emotional wellbeing, and improve school climate
 - Engage in staff and community discussions about stress, e.g. book/film *Beyond Measure*
 - Review recommendations from Ad Hoc Committee for Youth at Risk 2014 report
 - Receive Superintendent’s report on staff feedback regarding school culture and any recommendations to reduce staff stress
 - Request annual report on compliance with opioid screening laws
 - Explore the possibility of a change in school start times and its operational impact

3. Improve Student and Staff Safety

- A. Building Safety
 - Receive first and third quarter updates on safety training, including ALICE training
 - Review Superintendent’s recommendations to improve building safety at LHS
- B. Traffic Mitigation Issues
 - Receive first and third quarter updates on traffic mitigation issues, bus captain position
 - Work with Town Manager to find a sustainable home for Safe Routes to School program

4. Ensure Infrastructure that Supports School and District Needs

- A. Further develop 5 Year Capital Plan
 - Continue to work collaboratively with Board of Selectmen and the Permanent Building, Appropriations, and Capital Expenditures Committees to address rising enrollment issues and capital needs
- B. Monitor construction at Diamond and Clarke, installation of elementary school modulars, and use of debt exclusion funding for Hastings
- C. Identify a location for Lexington Children's Place and develop plans for additional elementary school space
- D. Consider implementation of Buffer Zones
 - Develop and adopt a Buffer Zone policy, following public hearings
 - Review and approve proposed attendance area map that delineates buffer zone areas
- E. Support resources for creating a Central Registration process

5. Evaluate Financial Outlook in Anticipation of Increasing Operational Expenses due to Growing Enrollment

- A. Develop a 3-year plan for operational needs
 - Study enrollment projections and the impact of enrollment growth on operating budget
 - Prepare and plan for operating expenses that aim to provide level services while meeting the needs of growing enrollment
- B. Pass a FY2017 budget that is aligned with our Budget Guidelines
- C. Work with Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance to review warrant approval procedures for the School Committee
- D. Create a charge for the School Committee Finance Subcommittee

6. Promote Communication, Transparency and Process

- A. Engage in collaborative communication with town boards and committees
- B. Initiate and develop an instrument and process for School Committee self-evaluation
- C. Establish a timeline for retreats with the Superintendent aimed at maintaining strong and effective working relationships with the Superintendent and among School Committee members
- D. Continue work with MASC School Governance Project
 - Meet with MASC Director to review best practices for operating norms, minutes
 - Review best practices for archiving School Committee minutes to preserve a historical record; ascertain cost of making past minutes accessible online to members and the public
- E. Establish a timeline for setting School Committee goals so that input can be offered when the Board of Selectmen engage in their goal-setting