

NAME OF BOARD/COMM: Luther Conant School Council

FILED BY: Tricia O'Reilly

DATE OF MEETING: February 1, 2024

TIME OF MEETING: 4:00 p.m.

PLACE OF MEETING: Conant School Conference Room

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Mary Tsacoyeanes, Loretta Crumlish, Tricia O'Reilly, Priya Prabakar, and Michelle Laflamme.

4:00 1. Public comment

None

4:05 2. Review and Approval of Minutes from 1.4.24 meeting

Minutes were approved.

4:10 3. Budget Update

The Acton Leadership Group (ALG), the consensus body representing the School Committee, the Acton Select Board, and the Acton Finance Committee, agreed to support an override number large enough to fund the district's "A" budget presented on January 18th.

The school committee is in the process of refining the "A" budget as there is still a lengthy process that involves feedback from the public before the school committee votes on a final FY25 budget on March 21st. They will also be discussing possible structural changes that could address budget gaps in the future.

It's important to address and correct misinformation that may be spreading online and on social media, and point people in the direction of accurate information sources such as the school committee website.

There needs to be outreach to educate community members about the budget, the school needs, and the override process.

4:15 4. MTSS Presentation

The state requires students meet certain academic benchmarks. A multi-tiered system of support (MTSS) is a framework for how schools can monitor and collect data that represents academic progress and identifies needs for each student. Tiered levels represent the amount of support that students need across multiple domains. Data is collected in a schoolwide, systematic way so that a team of educators can identify students who need additional support.

Data (ELA, reading, and math) is collected three times a year through the following assessment tools:

- Universal Screener for Number Sense (primarily for grade K, but can be used for all grades)
- DIBELS (lower elementary)
- iReady (upper elementary)

The state requires that a letter be sent home when a student (in grades K-3) does not meet reading benchmarks. A parent teacher conference discusses interventions being implemented. Conant has a reading interventionist and a math interventionist. These are specialists in an academic area who provide tier 2 instruction for students who need additional support. Every grade has a flex block four times a week where small-group instruction takes place.

School council members asked how MTSS would be impacted should the budget override not pass. Budget B does not provide the personnel needed that would support MTSS so the state requirement would not be funded.

4:35            4. Questions/Open Discussion

No questions or open discussion

4:50            5. Identify agenda items for next meeting

March: Discuss the Student Opportunity Act survey which addresses chronic student absenteeism

April: Discuss social emotional learning

5:00            6. Adjournment