

NAME OF BOARD/COMM: Luther Conant School Council

FILED BY: Tricia O'Reilly

DATE OF MEETING: January 4, 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, Katelyn Norsworthy, Priya Prabakar, and Michelle Laflamme

4:00 1. Public comment

None

4:05 2. Review and Approval of Minutes from 12.7.23 meeting

Some corrections do need to be made. Otherwise, minutes were approved.

4:10 3. Update Budget situation

Update on Budget:

Closing Conant Elementary School would only save the district \$1.2 million (not \$2.5 million as previously reported).

The district has not yet received an override amount from the town presenting a challenge to the district in developing a budget that meets an override amount.

The school committee has asked for a budget that shows \$2 million in cuts. People asked for a budget that shows \$6 million in cuts, but the school committee pushed back on this.

For an override not to pass, something like 100 positions would be cut along with needed programs. There is concern that the district will lose teachers before the override vote in May.

As for cuts to teachers or positions, professional status and licensure are

contractual factors considered in how some teachers get moved around the district and teachers who get cut.

Some of the structural issues presenting problems to the budget are things like health insurance (a changeover that requires time), increase in out-of-district special education costs, school choice (mostly transportation), and town revenue streams that have not yet been developed.

Superintendent Peter Light will be attending the PTO meeting on Friday January, 12th (after the PTO breakfast). He has asked to be put on the PTO meeting agenda. School council attendees suggested the PTO meeting be recorded for those who cannot attend.

4:30

4. Open Discussion

Aside from the budget, transportation *safety* is a real concern—believed to be caused by the length of the bus rides (exacerbated by school choice). Many in the community are questioning school choice and whether it's worth it, though some are responding that school choice is a reason families move to Acton/Boxborough.

4:50

5. Identify agenda items for next meeting

- Update on budget
- Discuss MTSS

5:00

6. Adjournment