

March 7th, 2024

Lynn— The Lynn School Committee held a policy Sub-Committee Meeting and a Committee of the Whole Meeting at 6:30 p.m. last Thursday to discuss new business including A lease agreement between Lynn Public Schools and the City of Lynn parks commissions. starting in July. Interim Administrator of special education, Dr. Christina Colella vouched for approval for the lease which would allow relocation of the teams program that is currently housed at Lynn Tech to the pond view facility at 25 Scarborough Road after renovations are completed. There is no cost to the agreement Dr. Member Castiano pointed out concerns about non-verbal students being surrounded by a body of water. Colella assured the committee that the new area has been thoroughly inspected and is safe for special education students. “We intend to go even beyond what is recommended for very high fencing,” Colella said in a statement to the committee. There was no cost associated with the agreement. In this new setting, students would be within a two-to-one student-to-teacher ratio.

A motion to accept a lease for the Pond View Location for renovations was unanimous. Students will be able to engage in designated movement time which is not currently available to them at Lynn Tech. Colella and her special Ed team have been working hard to provide special education students with an environment that supports movement based learning and meets safety standards. A motion to accept from all members of the committee was provided for the Leasing agreement. Net School spending for the fiscal year was also on the agenda. Projecting that Net school spending based on the previous school year, Lynn public schools are projected to be under by 3.2 million dollars. The committee said in a statement that they are committed to net school spending and a conversation is happening between city teams and the school committee.

#### Sidebar:

Paul Mello, a teacher at Lynn English who has taught for 31 years, spoke at the open mic session to express concerns about a lack of breaks for staff throughout the school day. “The entire faculty, from all the people that I talked to, are excited that I'm here tonight, we are your employees of the city of Lynn, and I understand contracts, however it's a grind on the majority of the staff” he said about constant cafeteria and bathroom duties. In my personal experiences two days this year and three days last year I was with students with the exception of my 30 minute half hour lunch but since there's no passing time in the school day I spent part of my lunch getting children to move along in the hallways, I don't think that's fair and its mentally exhausting” so some people say well you have an admin that day let me just give you a couple of examples of some of the more high intensity and is like it up to anything and monitor the bathroom at the same it's just a grind and we did that three times a week, we have 90 minutes on top of the rest of the day that you're in class”.

Mello remarked on issues with ancillary staff showing up on time, explaining that his “social worker sidekick” has been a no-show at work recently. “Your schedule is grinding us to

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dust, if you can please find some way to incorporate some sort of a break during the day where the teachers can take a breath, maybe use the facilities and at the end of the day maybe have some energy to run their extracurricular programs". Mello left the meeting abruptly to attend parent-teacher conference night at the high school.

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