

JOINT MEETING

**Lincoln Board of Education
Lincoln City Council
Mayor Coleen Seng
Lancaster County Board**

**Monday, August 4, 2003
7:30 a.m.**

**County-City Building
555 S. 10th Street, Room 113**

AGENDA

- 1. Approval of Minutes from May 13, 2003**
- 2. Discussion on Location of Schools in Residential Areas v. Arterial Streets - Jon Camp, Lincoln City Council**
- 3. Update on Proposed Multi-Unit Dwellings that Impact the Traffic Patterns and Safety of Schools - Kathy Danek, LPS Board Member**
- 4. Update on Community Learning Centers - Cathie Petsch, CLC Coordinator**
- 5. Continuing Business**
- 6. New Business**
- 7. Future Meeting Date**

MINUTES
JOINT MEETING OF THE
LINCOLN BOARD OF EDUCATION
LINCOLN CITY COUNCIL/MAYOR
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD
Monday, August 4, 2003 - 7:30 a.m.
County-City Building - Room 113

Board of Education Members Present: Kathy Danek, Don Mayhew, Keith Prettyman and Ed Zimmer **Absent:** Doug Evans, Jim Garver and Lillie Larsen

City Council Members Present: Jon Camp, Glenn Friendt, Annette McRoy, Patte Newman and Terry Werner **Absent:** Jonathan Cook and Ken Svoboda

County Commissioners Present: Deb Schorr, Ray Stevens and Bob Workman **Absent:** Bernie Heier and Larry Hudkins

Others Present: Mayor Coleen Seng; Dennis Van Horn, Virgil Horne, Dave Myers, Scott Wieskamp, Cathie Petsch, James Gessford and Phil Schoo, Lincoln Public Schools; Steve Hubka, City Budget Director; Steve Henrichsen, Marvin Krout and Kent Morgan, Planning Department; Allan Abbott, Randy Hoskins and Larry Worth, Public Works & Utilities; Carol Connor, John Dale, Julie Simpson, Pat Leach and Myrna Tewes, Lincoln Public Libraries; Lynda Anderson and Shirley Maly, Library Board; Bonnie Coffey, Women's Commission; Kerry Eagan and Gwen Thorpe, County Board Office; Corrie Kielty, Mayor's Office; Darrell Podany, City Council Staff; Marian Price, State Senator; and Cori Beattie, County Board Secretary

Ray Stevens, Vice Chairman of the Lancaster County Board, called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m. Self-introductions were made by those in attendance.

Minutes

In reference to the May 13, 2003 meeting minutes, Stevens asked the record to reflect that the County Board was in attendance. There being no other corrections, the minutes were approved as distributed.

Location of Schools in Residential Areas v. Arterial Streets

Camp said this has been an ongoing point of discussion between himself and many neighborhoods. The situation at Lux Middle School is of particular interest. He asked LPS for its philosophy pertaining to the location of schools. Mayhew said LPS goes out of its way to build off arterials for safety purposes. In addition, an attempt has been made to educate parents about ways to relieve traffic near schools. One option was not dropping kids off in front of the door, but rather a block or two away. Prettyman added LPS has even exchanged properties located on arterials in order to get schools inside neighborhood areas.

Camp said there may be different reasons for locating elementary schools versus middle or high schools in neighborhoods. He felt the reasons just mentioned to not build schools on arterials are the very ones to actually locate them there. For example, arterials provide more distinct crossings. Camp added the City knows in advance where arterial streets will be located in new developments and these streets would work best for future higher level schools.

Zimmer noted high schools have primarily been built on bigger streets, including Southwest and North Star. Middle and elementary schools still have a lot of foot traffic.

Camp said he has received calls from constituents regarding traffic congestion this summer near Park Middle School (located on S. 8th Street). Neighbors would like summer school programs to be held at a different location. Zimmer stated administration is looking at options. He suggested future inquiries on the issue be directed to LPS.

Seng complimented LPS on the location of the last two schools (Southwest and North Star) whereby there was not encroachment into the residential area. She felt it is vital to locate elementary schools in residential areas as a way of keeping neighborhoods and families together. She was not in favor of locating elementary or middle schools on an arterial.

Camp compared Scott and Lux Middle Schools. Scott is close to Pine Lake and people like the fact that it is set back from the road but yet has easy access. Lux is buried deeply into a neighborhood. He said he would appreciate LPS using Scott Middle School as a model for future schools. Danek noted sometimes the school sites are designated before the neighborhood is built. Thus, people purchasing real estate near a future school should be cognizant of the fact that it will draw more traffic to the area.

With regard to summer school, Friendt asked how the City may be more involved in the decision-making process as it is impacting neighborhoods and the community. Prettyman said everything LPS does impacts the community and asked if the City's intent is to have a voice in all LPS issues. Friendt said he was sure the City already had a voice in everything, but in this particular case he would like the City to know the process so they can participate. Zimmer indicated LPS could update the City well ahead of next year's summer schedule.

Camp stated the reason for these joint meetings is to increase dialogue as, essentially, the same constituency is served by all. It was his hope the bodies could work together to achieve the best balance for the community.

Update on Proposed Multi-Unit Dwellings that Impact the Traffic Patterns and Safety of Schools

Danek said she attended a City Council meeting several weeks ago where a proposed development of multi-unit or multi-family dwellings near Campbell Elementary was discussed. Concerns with access and traffic were voiced. She received many calls from constituents and felt it would be helpful if the LPS Board received information in advance on future issues of mutual interest. McRoy stated she attended a follow-up meeting last week whereby office space was now being proposed for that location. Options continue to be discussed.

Stevens asked if the Comprehensive Plan defines where multi-unit dwellings can be located. Newman indicated the property by Campbell Elementary was zoned R-2, then changed to R03

to accommodate a proposed elderly housing development. The plan ended up not going through so the developer wanted to build multi-family housing. The theory was this would create more traffic. She said it is hard to deny the request when proper zoning is in tact.

Werner said the Planning Department works closely with LPS and perhaps they could alert each other as to what is going on. Zimmer noted good communication already exists.

Stevens questioned notification requirements when zoning is changed. Zimmer said ordinances require formal notification depending on proximity but a lot of communication is done at the staff level between Planning and LPS which goes well beyond the legal requirements.

Update on Community Learning Centers (CLCs)

Cathie Petsch distributed the following handouts:

1. "The ABCs of CLCs" (**See Exhibit A, pgs. 1-12**) and
2. "Results of Teacher Survey" (**See Exhibit B, pgs. 1-2**).

She also provided a copy of the Lincoln Community Learning Center Initiative Strategic Plan for the record. (Copies of the Plan can be obtained from Ms. Petsch at LPS.)

Petsch noted a lot has happened in the last year. She gave a brief overview on CLCs. The goal of CLCs is to create collaborative partnerships, which provide support services and opportunities that lead to a) improved student learning and development; b) stronger families; and c) healthier neighborhoods.

CLCs are delivery systems that use local schools as a hub of service. These centers provide safe, integrated and inclusive programs through community-wide collaborative partnerships. Research shows that after school activities increase student achievement, parental involvement and reduce crime rates and drug/alcohol use. Currently, 88% of Lincoln families have at least one parent in the workforce. The Lincoln CLC initiative is presently serving 12 elementary and 3 middle schools. A blended funding stream supports nine site supervisors who are actual employees of the following lead agencies: YMCA, Family Services, Cedars Youth Services, Lincoln Parks & Recreation and Lincoln Public Schools Title I.

CLC partners believe learning is a shared responsibility - the schools cannot do it alone. This initiative is designed to link communities, schools and people of all ages. The core value is that education is a community-wide responsibility.

Petsch stated the response rate on the teacher survey was 95%. Of the ten items listed, there was significant improvement in all during the year.

CLCs received additional funding from the Lincoln Community Foundation, the Woods Charitable Fund, the Public Education Network and the State's 21st Century Grant, as well as program support dollars from United Way and the Community Health Endowment. Petsch added the CLCs delivery system has great potential to bring other grant monies to Lincoln.

Workman asked what the annual cost to the community would be when the federal grant money runs out. Petsch said a sustainability plan is being developed. It will depend on how many CLCs are in operation. The grant ends in June of 2004. At that time, an application can

be made to the State for additional funding. In response to Workman's inquiry, Petsch said the annual cost per CLC site is around \$150,000.

Danek asked for an update on legislation pertaining to a reduction in federal funding due to a lack of significant improvement in the classroom. Petsch said President Bush wanted to reduce funding 40%. The House and Senate have proposals which would keep funding at the same level. She stressed the data does show there can be school improvement and is encouraged funding will continue.

Werner said Petsch mentioned application for future funding may go through the State. He wondered if the State could choose to reallocate those funds elsewhere. Petsch said the money has to be spent on 21st Century Programs, although, the State is much more narrow in its interpretation of how dollars can be spent. Werner asked if rural areas might lobby for some funding when the grant is administered at the State level. Petsch said the original grant was divided by congressional districts. She assumed it would be the same in the future.

In response to Werner's inquiry, Petsch said the statistic on the number of working families in Lincoln (88%) includes one or two parent families. Friendt was interested in knowing how many of these families have two parents in the workforce. Petsch said she would follow up.

Continuing Business

Werner suggested televising joint meetings of LPS, the City of Lincoln and Lancaster County as a means of promoting open government and communication. Prettyman said the only difficulty would be shooting at off-site locations. Seng agreed these meetings are very helpful and encouraged them to be televised as often as possible. After more discussion, it was decided meetings held away from the County-City Building or the LPS District Offices should not be televised due to the additional expense.

Werner moved that, to the degree additional costs are not incurred due to meeting at a remote location, future joint meetings of the Lincoln Public School Board of Education, the City of Lincoln and Lancaster County be televised at a shared expense; seconded by Workman. By a show of hands, the motion was passed unanimously.

New Business

Camp questioned if the School Board has a homecoming attendance policy. Danek said attending as a date is permissible; crashing the event is not. Schoo added this is a site-based issue and if there is a concern, the high school principal should be contacted.

Camp asked if LPS is planning a bond issue for next May. Zimmer said the School Board is thinking about it. Seng said she would like to discuss the timing of future bond issues as the City is reviewing the possibility of one this fall. She knew LPS is also considering a bond issue at some time in the near future and noted the importance of including Parks & Recreation and the Library. She stated she did not want the City to do anything to jeopardize LPS's bond issue. Prettyman indicated until recently, LPS had not been thinking about a bond issue any sooner than May, 2004. Some have suggested that both bond issues be on the same ballot. He noted LPS has critical needs which need to be served very quickly so the sooner the better,

although, he did have concerns about a fall bond issue as the ground work has not been fulfilled. Mayhew added LPS is keeping its options open at this time.

Werner asked how the School Board felt about the City doing a fall bond issue. Zimmer noted cost is a factor with a special election. He feels the issues are very similar - how to maintain existing things while growing in new areas. A spring bond issue seems more likely for LPS. Prettyman added LPS can only control so much, for example, the amount and level of education provided to the public on what LPS would include in its bond issue. Obviously the impacts to LPS by a City bond issue this fall are unknown, thus, he didn't see any reason for either body to change its plans. Prettyman noted another thing LPS has to contemplate is Dr. Schoo's retirement and whether or not this would have any impact on a bond issue.

Friendt felt placing the two bond issues together would be detrimental. Camp said prioritization is essential so the electorate will better understand the need for the bonds. Danek stated citizens are seeking more cooperation between the City and LPS for such things as recreation facilities added to schools. The two entities must be on the same page with regard to future planning. Although he didn't feel like the City was rushing ahead with things, Zimmer encouraged the City to back up and coordinate its priorities with LPS.

Camp mentioned this year's property tax increase will have a big impact on citizens. It seemed voters sent a message regarding more taxes with the recent denial of the sidewalk and fire department bonds. Zimmer said he wasn't sure what the City was going to propose, but the impact from the LPS bond issue would not be that great.

Seng said she appreciates this discussion as it is so important to communicate on such issues. She noted infrastructure financing for the community needs to be addressed, thus, the City's bond issue should move forward, followed by the LPS bond issue (including the piece with Parks & Recreation and the Library).

Schoo said regardless of when the City and LPS place bond issues on the ballot, everyone needs to work together for their passage. He encouraged both bodies to think creatively with regard to future projects of mutual benefit.

Future Meeting Date

The next joint meeting will be on Tuesday, November 4, 2003 at 7:30 a.m., at the County-City Building, Room 113. It will be hosted by the City.

Mayor Seng announced that Jim Garver's mother passed away, thus, the reason for his absence today. Stevens thanked Senator Price for her attendance.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:46 a.m.

Submitted by,



Cori R. Beattie
County Board Secretary