

## MINUTES

### JOINT MEETING LINCOLN BOARD OF EDUCATION/ LANCASTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

March 5, 1987 - 7:30 a.m.

Public Schools Administration Building Board Room

**MEMBERS PRESENT** Cathie Petsch - President, Marceil Dreier, Jim Garver, Dave Myers, Marian Price, Jim Wickless - Board of Education; Jan Gauger - Chairperson, Kathy Campbell, Stephanie Johanns, Marcia Malone, Leo Scherer - County Commissioners

**OTHERS PRESENT** Philip H. Schoo, Superintendent of Schools; Ed Perry, Attorney for the Board of Education; Daisy Arredondo, Associate Superintendent for Instruction; James Gallagher; Associate Superintendent for Business Affairs; Meg Lauerman, Assistant to the Superintendent for Communication Services - Lincoln Public Schools; Wayne Hart, Administrative Assistant - Lancaster County Board; News Media

Board President Petsch called the meeting to order and introductions were made. Board members and commissioners noted mutual concerns, other than the boundaries and facilities update, such as contract services for the County Superintendent; properties (e.g., Saratoga Elementary and Lancaster Manor sites); school consolidation; and school district's use of county roads.

Dr. Schoo gave a brief history and update of the boundaries and facilities study and noted that projections indicate continued growth in the number of students. Specific staff recommendations and timelines concerning boundaries, facilities and the middle school options will be discussed at a board work session on Saturday, March 7. Public hearings are scheduled on March 25 and March 31 and the board hopes to make decisions by the end of April. Any required changes will be phased in.

Property taxes were discussed and both boards explained ways they have been able to maintain a near level tax rate in spite of increasing costs and federal funding losses.

In response to a question from Mrs. Johanns, Mrs. Petsch stated that the school district and the State School Board Association are supporting the current legislation for vocational education funding.

Members of the school board explained some of the facilities needs of the district and Mrs. Petsch noted that the district has always been frugal; however, the challenge now is to find ways to continue the high level of service at a reasonable cost. The cost and history behind the John Prash Activities Center were discussed. Dr. Wickless explained that the district only undertakes a construction project in response to very real needs. He also talked about the current size problems with the Northeast gymnasium; however, due to higher priorities in the district, no action has been

taken on this. Two important figures provided the commissioners were: 1) the cost to construct the Prasch Activities Center was \$5.2 million; and 2) the average cost to educate a student in Lincoln is \$3,200 per year.

Dr. Gallagher gave an overview of the space requirements at Saratoga Elementary. Ideally, the school district would like to purchase land to the north of the school, now owned by the county (Lancaster Manor) for additional playground space. Mrs. Gauger stated that the board will make a decision on this property by July 1, and Mrs. Petsch reiterated that the school district has a real need and interest in this property.

Mrs. Gauger gave a brief background of the contracted services of the County Superintendent and thanked Terry Workman for his performance in this position. Mr. Workman discussed his job as the County Superintendent, the schools involved and the student population in the county. He invited the commissioners to contact his office with any questions regarding the county schools.

In regard to questions about how the school district uses county roads, Mrs. Malone stated that she has a copy of the district's busing policies and will share this with the other commissioners. Dr. Gallagher thanked the county board for their cooperation on the county roads.

Mrs. Petsch thanked the commissioners for their time and indicated the school board would like to be their guests at a similar meeting in four to six months.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:26 a.m.