

# School Committee Update

Lincoln Public School District

School Committee Bulletin #2 Fall 2019

## Seeds to crops: teaching for the future

Seeds of change have been sprouting across our school district for years. We are excited by the vision Superintendent Becky McFall has set to align our schools with high-quality education for the 21st century.

“Sprouts are growing... that is great! And, we need - not just sprouts - but crops and forests,” Becky said.

How do we turn our seedlings into crops and forests? Each year the School Committee approves a District Strategic Plan that sets priorities for administration and budget. Recent years have emphasized initiatives that have faculty collaborating more and sharing ideas, resources and even students as they work to provide engaging curriculum and instruction that reaches students at their individual levels of learning.

This year’s focus is to identify and consistently apply strong instructional techniques in every classroom. Using Ron Berger’s book Leaders of Their Own Learning, faculty professional development days will center on instructional practices, setting expectations for students, engaging them in their learning, and assessing that they have acquired the appropriate skills, knowledge and abilities at each grade level.

We are excited to see the soil enriched, providing the best conditions for the seedlings to spread and grow!

— your Lincoln School Committee



**Adam Hogue, Laurel Wironen, Trintje Gnazzo, Kim Mack, Peter Borden, Susan Taylor, Tara Mitchell (chair)**

Lincoln School Committee consists of 5 voting members elected by the Town of Lincoln and liaisons from Hanscom Air Force Base and METCO families. The committee hires and evaluates the superintendent, sets policies and priorities, and proposes budgets for Lincoln Town Meeting and the U.S. Department of Defense. Email: [SchoolComm@lincnet.org](mailto:SchoolComm@lincnet.org)

## “Change is in the air, opportunities abound”

Newly designed schools, schedules incorporating support services and extension opportunities, small class sizes, planning and collaborative time, supportive communities, high per pupil expenditures — the resources and structures needed are in place to “turn our incredible potential into the best possible educational outcomes for our students,” Superintendent Dr. Becky McFall said to faculty this fall.

“We are on the precipice of greatness,” she added.

The building projects in Lincoln and Hanscom provide the platform for high-quality instructional practices, including interdisciplinary, project-based, collaborative, and differentiated learning - all needed to

provide students the knowledge and skills to succeed in a rapidly evolving future.

“We must be agile in the ways we adjust to our changing world and the changing needs of our students,” Dr. McFall said. Her goal is “to create schools that every family wants their children to attend and that every child can’t wait to get to each morning...”

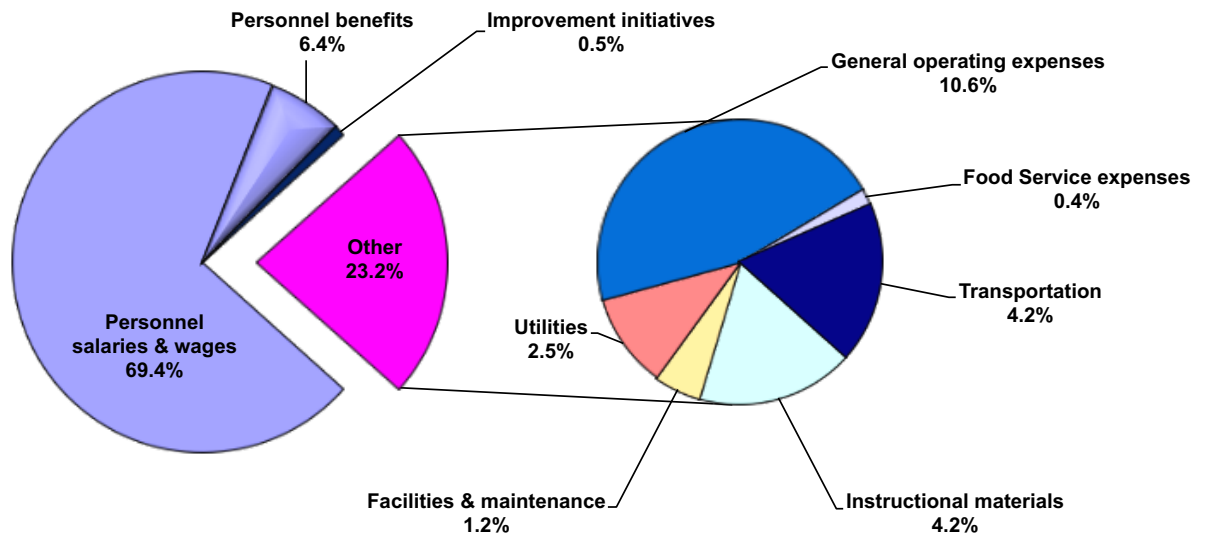
“There is no room to say we can’t or we won’t, because we must.”



Dr. Becky McFall

# Budget Basics

## Lincoln Public School District Operating Expenses



- Education is Lincoln's biggest investment - about 45% of the Town's operating budget is dedicated to running our schools. Capital projects are funded separately.
- Salaries are more than two-thirds of school expenses and are set by contract. The School Committee and the Lincoln Teachers Association will negotiate a new 3-year contract this year.
- Small class sizes (set by the School Committee) and a declining school-aged population influence our per pupil expenditure of about \$23,000 - among the highest in the state.
- Costs of central administration and shared services are split between Lincoln and Hanscom schools based on enrollment — recently about evenly — which lowers per pupil costs for each campus.
- Special education costs can vary greatly from year to year depending on the needs of individual students.
- Open dialog and strong stewardship of school finances have developed trust between District and Town administrations which allows closer financial planning. The District has returned money to the Town's Free Cash for the past several years.

\*based on Lincoln School District FY20 data

Preliminary School Budget Presentation  
Thursday November 21 7PM  
Hartwell Bldg, Lincoln School Campus

# Hanscom school opens creative learning spaces

Science/engineering labs connected to art rooms, common areas for grade level projects, break-out rooms for small groups, a “maker-space” for hands-on learning in design thinking, and outdoor classrooms are among the creative spaces at Hanscom Primary School, opened this fall.

Lincoln administers the PreK-8 schools on Hanscom Air Force Base under a contract with the U.S. Department of Defense. Discussions have begun toward renewing the contract in 2020. Both communities benefit from sharing costs of administration, special services, and faculty professional development.

The new primary school, built with federal funds, connects to the three-year-old Hanscom Middle School through a shared cafeteria, yet has its own performance space and gymnasium. The Hanscom Primary School also houses five pre-school classrooms.

Lincoln School renovation designs also include innovative learning spaces, a central cafeteria, performance spaces, and dedicated pre-school classrooms to be completed in fall 2022.



Hub space for grade-level and collaborative teaching



Reusing temporary classroom units from Hanscom saved money for Lincoln’s school renovation project. The mobile units are installed on the school’s Center Field and will be used for classes during construction from fall 2020 through spring 2022.

The Lincoln School Building Committee will continue to meet through all phases of the project. Info: [www.LincolnSBC.org](http://www.LincolnSBC.org)

## New activities, new leadership of Lincoln METCO



Lincoln’s new METCO director, Marika Hamilton, is already engaging students and parents from both Lincoln and Boston. A METCO alum herself and a former Associate Dean/Registrar at Bunker Hill Community College, she’s launched both a FIRST Lego League (FLL) Club and a social entrepreneurship program where children learn to sew attire for American Girl dolls and winter hats for sale at the Nov. 15 & 16 estate sale in Lincoln to benefit scholarships to Lincoln Summer Camp.

New METCO program coordinator, Devon Burroughs (also a METCO alum), is a Lincoln/LSRHS graduate and former paraprofessional at Hanscom schools. Parents from Boston and Lincoln also have new leadership roles:

- Kim Mack represents METCO families on the School Committee
- Preditta Cedeno of Boston and Pilar Doughty of Lincoln co-chair the PTO
- Michelle Barnes heads the Lincoln METCO Coordinating Committee

METCO is a state program that enrolls Boston students of color in predominately white school districts, creating the opportunity for students in those districts to experience the advantages of learning and working in a racially and ethnically diverse setting. Lincoln has 90 Boston students currently enrolled K-8. For 50 years, the Lincoln School Committee has voted each year to participate in the METCO program.

# Teachers study *Deeper Learning* with Jal Mehta

How can discoveries about the nature of deep and powerful learning impact instructional practice in our classrooms? Our teachers are exploring the possibilities this fall with Dr. Jal Mehta, a professor at the Harvard Graduate School of Education and a Lincoln School parent.

Sponsored by a grant from the Lincoln School Foundation, more than 30 faculty are participating in the 7-week course. After exploring the research, they will design or redesign a teaching unit using their new understanding of how people learn through projects, problem-solving, design thinking and other modes of deep learning.

Learn more:

Book: *In Search of Deeper Learning* by Jal Mehta and Sarah Fine.

Podcast: <https://www.gettingsmart.com/2019/06/podcast-jal-mehta-on-provoking-deeper-learning-in-high-school/>



Find more school district information at [www.lincnet.org](http://www.lincnet.org)

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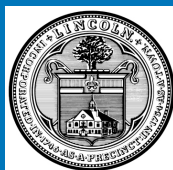
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