

IN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TUESDAY, MAY 18, 1982

Present: Chairman William J. Cossart and Anne W. Donald.

The statutory requirements as to notice having been fulfilled, the meeting was called to order at 7:45 p.m. by Chairman Cossart in the lecture hall of the Curtis Middle School.

Disposition of Loring and Fairbank Schools

Present: D. Bruce Langmuir, Chairman Michael E. Melnick, Eugene M. Bard, Permanent Building Committee; Lynn B. Donaldson, Lincoln-Sudbury Regional School District Committee; John H. Wilson, Director of Administrative Services; and approximately 150 area residents.

Included in Chairman Cossart's opening remarks were: an expression of sympathy on the death of Selectmen Murray's brother and regret that Selectman Murray could not be present for that reason; acknowledgement of a communication, which he read, dated May 17, 1982, from G. Burton Mullen, who could not be present, opposing Lincoln-Sudbury West (the alternative school) at Loring School and recommending the demolition of the building and the retention of the land by the Town; and a chronology to date regarding the disposition of the excessed schools.

Most recent, Chairman Cossart went on to say, were two meetings; one a week ago (May 11) with the Regional School Committee, at the conclusion of which, the Selectmen were convinced that there was a substantial savings to the Town with the Lincoln-Sudbury West alternative school; and one last evening with the Permanent Building Committee (PBC), at their request, to present a proposal for the Fairbank School, which addressed a number of Town needs.

PBC Chairman Michael Melnick read the PBC's report of May 12, 1982, giving the options for the use of the Fairbank School by the Town as a community center (one of the schemes includes the Lincoln-Sudbury West alternative school) ranging in price from approximately \$123,000 to \$200,000. Four schemes were explained and plans were shown for each of the schemes showing the area of the Fairbank School which would be used (the remaining would be demolished) and the purpose of that use. Mr. Melnick referenced a report dated May 10 from Gale Engineering Company, Inc., regarding the roofing system at the Loring School concluding that the roof is in a serviceable condition and may function for three years with proper maintenance procedures.

Following the presentation by the PBC, Chairman Cossart welcomed presentations by the Fairbank and Loring School neighborhoods and/or interested parties, as follows:

- Harold Cutler, 163 Landham Road, referenced the Police Chief's letter of May 4 indicating no problem in the Fairbank School area in conjunction with Lincoln-Sudbury West being located there in terms of vandalism, safety, etc.; stated that he had circulated information regarding facts about the Loring and Fairbank Schools and Lincoln-Sudbury West, which he summarized; and read a letter dated May 18 transmitting two, Town-wide petitions: 1) supporting continued Town ownership of the Loring School land and building; and 2) supporting continued Town ownership of the Loring School land and building and supporting use of the Loring School for the Lincoln-Sudbury West program. Both of these petitions are on file in the Selectmen's office.

- Santa Jean DeSantis, 25 Wright Road, read and submitted a report and submitted a neighborhood petition, containing approximately 130 signatures, opposing the rental of space at Loring School for Lincoln-Sudbury West. Said report and petition are on file in the Selectmen's office.

The Selectmen entertained a question and answer period which brought forth much feeling and sentiment on both sides of the issue before the meeting this evening and there appeared: 1) to be a consensus of strong support for a community center at the Fairbank location by those in attendance; 2) a strong or equal support of both sides of the issue of whether Lincoln-Sudbury West should be located at Loring School; and 3) a consensus that the Fairbank neighborhood had little objection to Lincoln-Sudbury West at Fairbank School and some expressed strong support of it remaining at that location.

At the conclusion of discussion, Chairman Cossart adjourned the meeting at 10:00 p.m.

Attest: _____
Richard E. Thompson
Executive Secretary-Clerk