

More on the Mall

Find out how residents reacted to the RLF's plans.

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Sports

Katalina earns 200th career v



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Financing facilities

Schools seek increase in FY08 capital funds

By Geoff Moore
Correspondent

The school district plans to ask for \$517,000 in capital planning funds — a significant increase over the \$178,100 capital spending agreed to for fiscal 2007 during this year's Town Meeting.

The Lincoln School Committee and administration kicked off preparation of the fiscal 2008 budget at their meeting Sept. 21 with a broad ranging discussion on district goals for 2006 and beyond.

The committee agreed to adopt budget policy guidelines and to submit a fiscal 2008 request to the Capital Planning Committee for \$517,000.

In a detailed proposal, Superintendent Mickey Brandmeyer outlined the various preventative maintenance, repair, improvement, reno-

vation and instructional technology equipment costs that make up the capital request. It was stressed that capital spending will not be negated by the master plan for the Lincoln Schools campus, which is in preparation but was said to be some years away in terms of finalization, submission and state approvals.

Capital requests amounting to \$293,900 include ongoing classroom rehabilitation, improvements to the Hartwell building windows, doors, safety compliance, heating and ventilation, water damage prevention and repair to the Reed Field House and phase one of the Brooks Auditorium renovation.

The remainder of the capital spending of \$224,000 is for phase one of a three-year

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Stay tuned for Public hearing for new cable

By Cheryl Lecesse
Staff Writer

As soon as next month, residents may have a choice of cable television providers to choose from.

The town is holding a final public hearing Tuesday, Oct. 3, during the Board of Selectmen meeting where residents can ask questions about Verizon's cable TV service before selectmen vote on whether to approve a cable license for the

telecommunications company.

Monday night the board heard the terms and conditions of the license, which, if approved, will be in effect for 15 years and will allow Verizon to offer cable television service to residents. Right now, Lincoln's sole cable television provider is Comcast.

"I feel very comfortable with the license as it's negotiated right now," said Assistant Town Administrator Anita Scheipers,

who was negotiating town's committee a

Town Hewigson's similar to the licensing field. License with competitive allowed to



tech support



Courtesy photo

Thon, Technology Support Coordinator John Manyiel, Daniel Mike Tip receive recognition awards from the Sudanese Education and service to their community through the Technology Program left, holds the award for another member of the team, Chol Chol.

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community came to the Western world already behind in terms of their knowledge of technology.

"We're trying to catch up," he said as he explained the benefits of the team-based program. "We need to absorb it and give it to other people."

Abraham Thon, a team member from the Lynn area, said as many Sudanese head to college, they find that having a computer is essential.

The team also showed its gratitude for the anonymous private

donor.

"This person has opened our eyes," said William.

"Our hope is to let people know that we are doing this program not only for ourselves but for the people in the Boston area and in Sudan," Thon said.

And Chol said he hopes the program continues to expand to provide more help, training and support to Sudanese not only in Massachusetts, but also in south Sudan.

"One day we might end up going back to Africa," he said.

Capital funds request upped

Budget, from Page 1
program to acquire, install and operate additional classroom technology equipment. The object of the investment is to provide a base level of workstations to support Microsoft Office, the district's selection of productivity software and educational software identified in curriculum projects. It is also intended to expand computer labs and support technology integration projects.

The total includes \$42,000 to fund technology support staff to set up and maintain the system. Staff costs for subsequent years are likely to roll into the school's operational budget. Phases two and three technology expenditure estimates, although less firm, total a further \$220,000 over the following two years. Whilst recognizing that, as in past years, prioritization and pairing of some costs will be necessary during the capital planning approval process, the School Committee agreed to submit the initial plan as tabled.

In a memo to committee members, Brandmeyer outlined the fiscal 2007 process and recommended its continued use for fiscal 2008. The process creates a budget based on strategic goals contained in a document titled "District Goals 2006 and Beyond" that covers a rolling

three-year period. The document, divides goals into four categories, covering curriculum, teacher excellence, leadership and facilities operations. These provide a structure in which new initiatives, program developments and improvements are planned in advance, allowing budgeting to be more predictable. Brandmeyer said that this process, together with allocation of operational funds on a per pupil basis for future specific use by teachers and principals addressed two key issues.

The first issue is the narrow window for presentation, review, adjustment and approval before presentation to Annual Town Meeting. The second is the challenge of preparing a budget proposal at the start of the school year at a time when teachers', principals' and program directors' attention is on beginning a school year and before the activities for the current year are under way or completed. Brandmeyer tabled 13 guidelines for discussion that ranged from maintaining level services and small class sizes, to carefully monitoring usage of fuel and energy. The committee adopted the guidelines and requested emphasis on analysis of resources necessary for projected enrollment numbers.

2 parcels eyed for boundary expansion

Park, from Page 1

"Our soliciting the inclusion of a property in the boundary does not affect ownership," Nelson said.

The park needs Congressional

a few properties. Once a draft study is completed, it will go out for public comment before it is finalized and submitted to Congress for approval.

"It's going to be a very im-

he said.

Lincoln resident Jim Hogan also urged the park to make sure properties on the opposite side of the park are protected, to save the park from facing a project

Concord to seize arms and ammunition from the townspeople. One of their targeted sites was Col. Barrett's farm, where it was believed that four brass cannons were being stored.