

LINCOLN-SADBURY REVIEW COMMITTEE

MARCH 28, 2007 7:30 PM

CONFERENCE ROOM B

Members Present: Sheila Calkins, Scott Carpenter, Hal Chapel (arrived late), Mark Collins, Claire Daly (alternate), Tom DeNormandie (alternate), Tim Garvin (alternate), Eric Harris, Sarah Cannon Holden, Bill Keller, Ron Nix, John Ollquist, Barbara Pedulla, Dennis Picker, Bill Ray (alternate), Gary Taylor, Karen Thomsen.

Also Present: School Committee members Eileen Glovsky, Patty Mostue, Jack Ryan, and Lauri Wishner; Judy Belliveau, L-S Director of Finance; and David Mandel, legal counsel, Ropes & Gray.

Eleven residents and interested parties were also in attendance.

Eric Harris called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. He advised the committee that he would serve as temporary chair during the meeting until the organization had been determined.

Judy Belliveau distributed new binders, an updated member list, a discipline code in 8.5 x 11 format, additional School Committee policies requested by a member, a copy of a letter from citizens sent previously to the School Committee, a new divider with resource information (published articles), and copies of items previously circulated by email.

Tim Garvin and Bill Keller had not received the emails circulated via safetycom@lsrhs.net . Judy will follow up on this.

Mr. Harris reported on the School Committee's decision to appoint one male and one female student to the Review Committee. The students will be juniors because they will have had enough experience in the school and how the school functions, including the culture. In response to a question from a student in the audience, Mr. Harris said that Dr. Ritchie was going to announce a request for letters of interest and students would be selected before the next meeting.

The School Committee also reviewed the charge it had developed and determined that it was broad enough for the Review Committee to establish the scope of its work.

The offer from Dave Mandel, legal counsel to the School Committee, to respond to any member's questions is important assistance but Eric Harris will serve as the point person for contacting Dave. Members should speak to Eric if they have legal questions that they feel need to be addressed.

1. Committee Organization

There was a brief discussion about the structure for the Review Committee designee. The recommendation for an executive committee given the size of the Review Committee was not acted upon.

Vote: On a motion by Bill Keller, seconded by John Ollquist, the Review Committee voted unanimously to appoint Dennis Picker as chairman of the Review Committee.

Eric Harris turned the meeting over to Dennis Picker, who presented a re-shaped agenda for the remainder of the meeting.

Mr. Picker asked for nominations for a Vice-Chairman. Mr. Harris nominated Ron Nix. Mr. Nix said he would let the Review Committee know at its next meeting if he thought he could do it with respect to his time commitments.

2. Public Input

There was a lengthy discussion about the need to be as transparent as possible in the Review Committee functioning as well as to establish opportunities for public input. In addition to having a specific meeting for the public to give input to the Committee, the Chairman recommended “checking in” with the audience at different points during meetings. Televising the meetings would also increase the visibility of the work of the committee.

3. Goals

The Review Committee reviewed the charge from the School Committee and a draft by the Chairman of how it might translate to what the Review Committee would examine. The Review Committee discussed in detail what “safety” meant and broadened the definition to include psychological and emotional safety, interpersonal aggression, harassment, and other forms of safety beyond those associated with violence. The Chairman will circulate a revised draft of the goals based on the discussion.

In light of the discussion of the goals, the Review Committee talked about its name and the Chairman asked members to email suggestions.

A member of the audience commented that they thought there was a gap between the Review Committee’s words and how the audience is going to be able to participate. Another member suggested that the goals don’t reflect a way of understanding if there are bigger issues at the school than one incident.

4. Schedule

There was consensus that a preliminary report needed to be in place by the end of the school year to then be presented for public comment.

5. Workplan

A list of topics or items for meetings was generated, including but not limited to:

- A public hearing for input from the community
- A presentation by the Administrative team at L-S on all current policies and practices, including how students are accepted into L-S such as METCO, student exchange programs, students coming from other districts. It was suggested that a representative from the Police Department who works with the school be included.
- John Ritchie's state of the school report
- Physical access to the building
- Professional speakers/experts in the field

The Chairman will circulate a draft of the full list prior to the next meeting. He also asked members to send requests to Scott for specific topics or areas that the Administrative team could prepare and respond to at its presentation.

11. Future Meetings

The next meeting will be at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, April 11th to have John Ritchie present his report on the state of the school and to continue planning. The location of the meetings may change, possibly to the Sudbury Town Hall, in order to allow the meetings to be televised.

The Review Committee will also meet on Wednesday, April 18th at a time and location to be determined.

There was a discussion about the length of the meetings and it was agreed that they should not go beyond 9:30 PM.

The Committee also agreed that the Chairman should be the point person to respond to emails submitted to the Review Committee.

Preparation of a press release and discussion of funding and support for the Committee's work will have to be taken up at a future meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 PM.