

Lincoln-Sudbury Safety Review Committee
Meeting Minutes of June 20, 2007
Meeting held in Conference Room B, L-S

Members present: Sarah Cannon Holden, Scott Carpenter, Hal Chapel, Eric Harris, Ron Nix – Vice Chair, John Ollquist, Barbara Pedulla, Dennis Picker – Chair, Gary Taylor, Karen Thomsen.

Alternates present: Tom DeNormandie, Tim Garvin.

Absent: Sheila Calkins, Mark Collins, Claire Daly, Bill Keller, Tucker Krone, Bill Ray, and Alexandra Sliwowski.

1 member of the public and 3 members of the School Committee were present.

Dennis Picker called the meeting to order at 7:20 pm. and opened the meeting for public comment. No comments were made.

Discussion of drafts for preliminary report:

As an order of business, Tim Garvin will vote in place of Sheila Calkins.

The group agreed with a suggestion made by Dennis Picker regarding capturing vote counts when making decisions regarding sections of the preliminary report. To fulfill a request made at a previous meeting by a School Committee member, the number of votes for, against and abstaining will be recorded for each section of the preliminary report. In addition, for sections that contain recommendations, each of those recommendations will be voted separately, and the vote counts on those recommendations will also be recorded.

The group agreed to focus discussion and edits on content, and not worry at this time about edits to weave the various sections into a uniform writing style. The group decided to sequence its work by starting with the “Introduction and Summary” section, The group would then proceed to the drafts of sections on “outsiders on campus,” the “staff/student ratio,” and “campus supervision” because members agreed that those sections might be edited and then adopted with less discussion than the other sections. A discussion of the “weapons policy” section will follow if time allows at this evening. The other sections would be taken up at the next meeting. It was emphasized that this order of work did not imply anything about the importance of any section.

The group proceeded to discuss the draft of the “Introduction and Summary” section, authored by Hal Chapel. Each draft was authored by a single member of the Committee to whom that task was delegated during the meeting on 6/6/07. The drafts were sent to the members via email, and some members sent comments on those drafts back to the Committee, for the authors to consider.

Introduction and Summary: Hal Chapel handed out copies of his most recent draft and he explained the changes he had made to the first draft which was handed out to the Committee at the 6/13/07 meeting. He said that he had read the comments he received from some members and considered those in writing the current draft. The group discussed the draft and agreed upon various minor edits.

Dennis Picker made a **motion** that the committee adopt a recommendation which would be reflected by inserting the following sentence in the summary: “The committee recommends that the SC facilitate the formation of a separate committee composed of representatives of all stakeholder groups including public safety officials, school administration/faculty/staff, parents, citizens at large and students to address the problems of drug and alcohol distribution and use directly.” Ron Nix seconded the motion. The motion was **approved 10 for, 0 against, 1 abstain**.

After further discussion and edits were made, Dennis Picker made a **motion** that the committee approve the current draft of the introduction and summary section subject to minor editorial changes made by Hal outside the meeting. The motion was seconded by Scott Carpenter. The motion was **approved 10 for, 1 against, 0 abstain**. The member voting against stated that he voted this way only because he felt it was important that the Committee see the actual wording of the additional edits that Hal was asked to make.

Campus Supervision: John Ollquist explained the latest draft of this section, and discussed changes he had made to address feedback offered by some members. Dennis Picker projected this draft on the screen and hard copies were passed around. The group discussed the draft and agreed upon various edits to it. Tom DeNormandie offered a suggestion which related to the fact that there were many tools available to a school to improve safety and the ways in which the selection of tools appropriate to a particular context might be made. The group asked Tom to draft some specific wording that it felt could be very appropriate to include in a conclusion section of the preliminary report.

A **motion** was made by Barbara Pedulla that we accept this current version of the “campus supervision” section with the edits that had been made tonight. The motion was seconded by Ron Nix. The motion was **Approved 11 for, 0 against, 0 abstain**.

Staff/Student Ratio: Bill Ray had provided a second draft to the Committee via email which addressed feedback he had received from some members since the last meeting. The group discussed this draft and the modifications to the draft that it felt would be useful. Since Bill Ray had indicated to the group that he would not be able to attend the next meeting, and since he was not present for tonight’s discussion, Dennis Picker volunteered to create another revision of this section and circulate it to the Committee prior to the next meeting.

Outsiders on Campus: The group decided that there was not enough remaining time to engage in a discussion of the draft of “Outsiders on campus” authored by Ron Nix.

Weapons: Eric Harris, the author of the original draft of the section on weapons policy, said that he recommends that the Committee base its discussion at the next meeting of this section on the revision to his original draft that had been submitted by Ron Nix. The Committee agreed to this.

To simplify members' preparation for the next meeting, it was agreed that Dennis Picker will email the most current version of each of the remaining drafts to all committee members. Barbara Pedulla requested that members sending comments back to the group use "track changes" to make any suggested edits readily visible to all.

The sections of the preliminary report remaining to be discussed and acted upon are:

- Outsiders on campus (Ron Nix)
- Weapons policy (Eric Harris -> Ron Nix)
- The staff/student ratio (Bill Ray->Dennis Picker)
- A section deals with data collection/Ipas and what was learned from the "Threat Assessment..." report that combines the drafts from Scott Carpenter, Barbara Pedulla and Gary Taylor
- A section that addresses CASE (Sheila Calkins)

Discuss June 26 presentation to the L-S School Committee:

Dennis Picker briefly projected an outline of his proposed presentation to the School Committee on the screen. He will briefly present a summary of what the Committee has done- covering the meetings it has held, the sources of input it has used, and the ways in which it publicized its work and provided outreach to the community. He said that the School Committee will receive copies of the two sections of the preliminary report that were adopted tonight so that they could read them prior to the 6/26 meeting. He said that he would not try to summarize the "Introduction and Summary" section that was adopted tonight. The School Committee would then be encouraged to ask questions about those sections and the committee's work in general of any of the members attending the School Committee meeting. The committee agreed with this approach to the School Committee meeting.

The group discussed the fact that the discussion at the School Committee meeting was likely to touch on "what happens next." The committee discussed whether it would be able to complete its preliminary report during the meeting on 6/27, and discussion focused on what to do about this. Various options were explored, and the group felt that it was extremely important to find a way to complete the planned sections of the preliminary report prior to the end of June. The committee decided to schedule two additional meetings for next week and to move up the start time of its already scheduled meeting. It felt that this approach would give the group the time it needed to discuss, edit, and adopt the remaining planned sections of the report.

Next meetings:

June 26 – 6PM to 7:30 PM, prior to the 7:30 start of the School Committee meeting
June 27 – 6PM to 10PM
June 28 – 6PM to 10PM (if work on the preliminary report is completed on 6/27, then this meeting will be cancelled)

Dennis Picker will confirm availability of conference room B for these meetings, and will get them posted and notify the Committee of the confirmed locations. If the Committee adopts any additional sections of the preliminary report at its 6/26 meeting, it will bring copies of those sections to the School Committee meeting.

Minutes:

Ron Nix made a **motion** to accept the minutes of June 6 as amended by Barbara Pedulla. Karen Thomsen seconded the motion. Dennis Picker proposed an edit, adding back a sentence that had been mistakenly removed. The motion passed; the minutes were **approved**.

The minutes of June 13 were briefly discussed and edited. Since some members had additional changes they wanted considered, the committee agreed to postpone action on these minutes to the next meeting.

Dennis Picker suggested that the minutes for the 3 meetings next week be kept very brief and that the group approve minutes of all those meetings prior to adjourning the last meeting in June. The group agreed.

New Business: Barbara Pedulla suggested that the TV recording of Dr. Pollack's presentation at the 6/13 meeting be rebroadcast in Lincoln and Sudbury over the summer to give people more opportunities to see and hear this important presentation and discussion. The group agreed that this would be valuable. Dennis Picker agreed to arrange this with the two town's community access channels and to publicize this via notices to the Lincoln Journal, the Sudbury Town Crier and LSPO parent forum email list.

The committee discussed providing a thank you note to Dr. Pollack beyond the oral thanks given on 6/13. Sarah Cannon Holden agreed to send a letter to him on behalf of the committee.

Adjourn: Sarah Cannon Holden made a **motion** to adjourn. Ron Nix seconded the motion. The motion was **approved**. The meeting adjourned at 10:15 pm.