

**LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
Tuesday, October 13, 2009**

7:30 p.m.

**Conference Room A
L-S Regional High School**

Present: Radha Gargeya, Chair, Mark Collins, Vice Chair, Nancy Marshall, and Patty Mostue

Unable to be present: Jack Ryan and Berne Webb

Also present: Scott Carpenter, Superintendent/Principal, Judy Belliveau, Director of Finance & Operations, Rami Alwan, Teachers' Association President, David Sackstein, Student Representative, and Mary Whittemore, School Committee Secretary. Also present were other visitors listed on the sign-in sheet attached to the approved copy of these minutes.

Agenda Enclosures/Handouts

- Unapproved Minutes of September 22, 2009 meeting
- Back-to-School Night Survey Summary 2009
- A Conflict of Interest and the Science MCAS by Scott Carpenter
- Science MCAS at Lincoln-Sudbury by Scott Carpenter (same content as above with slight adjustment in the order of paragraphs.)
- Memo dated October 8, 2009 from Judy Belliveau re Enrollment Report, Budget Ratio and Enrollment Projections with Attachments A, B and C
- Memo dated October 8, 2009 from Judy Belliveau re School Choice Participation
- Memo dated October 8, 2009 from Judy Belliveau re Contract Award for Construction of a Press Box
- Memo dated October 8, 2009 from Judy Belliveau re Sudbury's Overlay District
- A "To Whom it May Concern" memo seeking support for girls' gymnastics

I. Call to Order: Radha Gargeya, Chair, called the public meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

II. Public Comment

Three 12th grade gymnasts, Reina Ostar, Amy Bero and JJ Desrochers, made a presentation to the Committee about the ramifications of the budget cut that eliminated gymnastics as a team sport. The girls and their 16 to 20 colleagues are currently a club but are working hard to become a self-funding team. To that end they are seeking donations for an auction to be held on November 1 and they expect to initiate other fund raisers as well. They estimate that it will cost about \$7,000 to become a team with a coach, other officials and incidental supply and transportation expenses. If they raise additional money, they will save it as a start-up fund for next year. Members of the Committee asked questions related to gymnastics and the girls answered them thoroughly. The Chair thanked the girls for their articulate presentation.

Taxpayer Robert Stein expressed disappointment that only 50 parents attended the forum concerning the Metrowest Adolescent Health Survey results. He urged the Committee to send the report to the *Sudbury Town Crier* and to make clear the data regarding unsafe behavior experienced or witnessed at L-S which he listed. Scott Carpenter reported that the report had

been posted on the L-S website the day after the forum, parents have received an e-mail notifying them that it has been posted, and the slide presentation has been sent to the *Sudbury Town Crier*.

Radha Gargeya thanked Mark Collins, Jack Ryan, Scott Carpenter and Judy Belliveau for the presentations that they made at the September 22nd meeting to the Sudbury Finance Committee regarding the new teacher contract.

III Approval of Minutes

Patty Mostue moved that the minutes of September 22, 2009 be approved, including some minor corrections submitted by Nancy Marshall. Seconded by Nancy Marshall. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. Recognitions

Scott Carpenter highlighted the following items:

- The faculty for their role in participating in Back-to-School Night especially since it involved an adjustment to the date.
- The following people have been elected by their peers to the School Council:

Parents: Cathy Rogers, Wendy Casey, Jay Flanagan and Katie Howd. They join existing members Patty Houpt, Chris Morely, Jeff Rimpas, and Elizabeth Hanson.

Staff: Susan Shields, MJ Walsh, Tracie Lopez, Paul Sarapas, Suanne Peterson, Melisa Shen and David Bloom.

Students: David Sackstein and other students to be named.

- A Senior Assembly was held recently and preparations made for Senior Dress-Up Day with an emphasis on reminding seniors that their costumes should model the school's motto of "Think for yourself, but think of others".
- Muriel Stern Riseman of PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) who did training for staff with the hopes that it will empower staff to curtail bullying both inside and outside the classroom.
- The fine work done by Emily Phillips, Clinical Counselor, who analyzed and summarized the data this summer from the Metrowest Adolescent Health Survey (MAHS) and the 5 students who did a commendable job of putting that data into their own words and presenting the results to parents and the community at large on October 7th.
- The school spirit displayed at recent football games is a reminder that most L-S students are doing the right thing at the right time, an observation that also is clear in the MAHS results.

Radha Gargeya and Patty Mostue also complimented the students and staff on the MAHS presentation. Scott noted that he had had lunch with members of Sudbury's clergy group to alert them to the survey and its results as well.

V. Student Report

David Sackstein noted that there are a number of issues facing the Student Senate some of which are causing frustration. While L-S continues to be a great school, there are negative ramifications due to the budget cuts. The elimination of the girls' gymnastics team sport is an example. He also reported that the Student Senate voted unanimously that students should be able to get a varsity letter for club sports and competitive activities, such as robotics. David noted that this action did not receive endorsement from the Athletic Director. On behalf of the

Student Senate, David inquired about his next course of action. While he might bring a written proposal to the Committee, Patty Mostue noted that only the School Committee can make policy and that the Student Senate, as with other stakeholder groups, acts in an advisory capacity only. David was most concerned that the voice of the students be heard.

VI. Teachers' Association Report

Rami Alwan noted the fine job that Mike Clark and Muriel Stern Riseman had done at the PFLAG training. He reported that teachers felt empowered to extend the safety and respect measures that they practice in the classroom into the hallways as well. Ninth graders will participate in the A.C.T. program soon. "Acknowledge, Care and Talk" is designed to empower students to come forward when they see or hear of action that they perceive could be dangerous. Rami also reported on a conversation that he had had with a new English teacher who is awed and feeling the weight of the importance of the college application essays that he/she has been asked to review in advance.

VII. Superintendent's Report

- Scott handed out the Back-to-School Night Survey Summary 2009 and reviewed the results briefly.
- The "e-blast" system for communicating with parents is now usable after being out of commission during which time Scott used the LSPO system to reach parents.
- Flu vaccination clinics are imminent. L-S students will start with the H1N1 vaccination first and that will then work its way down into the K-8 grades. The seasonal flu vaccine will start in the lower grades and then come to L-S later as there needs to be a 28 day gap between the two vaccine administrations. Only students whose parent has signed a consent form will get a vaccination. To date there are over 600 consent forms on file for each vaccine.
- The state budget forecast on reduced tax revenues suggests that there will be a cut in local aid during this current year. Scott hopes that we can ride through such cuts because we did not immediately restore positions that had been reduced or shifted to the ARRA grant, so we have some Contingency funds that will help to buffer the impact.
- Scott reviewed the highlights of the Metrowest Adolescent Health Survey noting that most students are doing well. L-S scored comparatively well on issues related to safety, happiness and connectedness. He noted that drug and alcohol use increases as students reach driving age as well as when stress is intensified with the college selection and admission process. The data shows that messages at home impact significantly on adolescent behavior.
- The first meeting of the School Council is on October 16th. Scott has shared samples of five improvement plans from other schools with Council members.

VIII. Information and Discussion

• MCAS Testing

Scott Carpenter distributed his report titled "Science MCAS at Lincoln-Sudbury". He will prepare a shorter version for the *Sudbury Town Crier*. The report states that L-S students are required to take one year of physical science and one year of life science, but 97% of L-S graduates take four years of science. Students must also pass one of the Science and Technology/Engineering MCAS tests in order to graduate, but MCAS scores are not relevant in college admissions. L-S students have been taking the Technology/Engineering MCAS test at the end of 9th grade with 97% receiving passing grades. By identifying the 3% who failed in 9th grade, the school is able to focus attention on those 12 or so students to prepare them to pass another science MCAS test later on. Scott expressed the concern that people would interpret

MCAS score results as an indicator for changing the curriculum. It is more important for L-S to focus on assuring that students have a well-rounded science education than to focus on raising the percentages of students who achieve at the “Advanced” or “Proficient” level on MCAS tests especially when L-S students already outperform the State averages.

- FY 10 Enrollment Report and Enrollment Projections

Judy Belliveau reviewed the contents of her memo and its attachments on 2009 enrollment and projections for FY11 enrollment. The actual attendance on October 1, 2009 was 1,614 total students vs a projected 1,640. Judy recommends that budget estimates for FY11 be based on the 10 year average enrollment of 1,645 students rather than the 5 year average of 1,652. Judy’s report also notes that the net withdrawal of students who would normally be expected to enroll at L-S has jumped from 7 in 2007 to a loss of 24 in 2008 and a loss of 28 in 2009. Anecdotal evidence suggests that parents may be choosing private schools because of 1) smaller class sizes and/or 2) apprehension about continued state budget cuts. The losses also may be attributed to normal transitions of families moving out of Lincoln or Sudbury.

The budget ratio is calculated on a 3-year rolling enrollment average. In FY11 the ratios will be 15.64% for Lincoln and 84.36% for Sudbury. This is the third year that the ratio increases for Lincoln and decreases for Sudbury. The shift is 0.15%. The budget ratio determines the proportion of the total budget, including the revenues and debt service, that each community will be assessed to pay.

- FY11 Budget Guidelines

Judy also reported that Sudbury has notified the school to plan on a 4.5% growth guideline for the FY11 budget. While Sudbury requested that just the expense side be developed by December with the income side to come in January, both Lincoln and Sudbury have different guidelines and she will need to include a projection of revenues. Judy expects to use a 10% reduction in state aid as a place to start on that topic.

- Hearing on School Choice for FY11 School Year

The Chair invited public comment or comment from Committee members on the subject of School Choice participation which provides for schools to enroll non-resident students unless there is a vote to the contrary. There were no questions or comments from either group.

IX. Action Items

- Vote on School Choice for FY11 School Year

Patty Mostue moved that the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional School District withdraw from participating in School Choice for the 2010-2011 school year, as provided in Section 12B of Chapter 76 of the General Laws, because of financial considerations. Seconded by Nancy Marshall. The motion carried unanimously.

- Vote to award the contract for the Press Box

Judy reported that a check had been received from the Boosters Club to augment the funds needed to pay the contractor’s costs. She also noted that the Boosters are committed to raising up to \$8,000 to cover supplies and a portion of the contingency fund.

Mark Collins moved that the School Committee vote to award the contract for the construction of the press box to Dagle Electrical Construction Corp. in the amount of \$142,685. Seconded by Nancy Marshall. The motion carried unanimously.

- Vote to be included in Sudbury’s Overlay District

Sudbury is developing an article for the 2010 Town Meeting that would allow cellular carriers to lease land designated by the Town as an “overlay district” for transmitter space. If this article is adopted and if cellular carriers should make a lease proposal, the L-S School Committee would still have the ability to accept or not accept such a proposal.

Nancy Marshall moved that the School Committee vote to have Lincoln-Sudbury Regional School District included in the town of Sudbury’s Overlay District for the future possibility of becoming a site to lease transmitter space to cellular carriers. Seconded by Patty Mostue. The motion carried unanimously.

X. Other Business – none

XI. Bill Schedules – The October 15th warrants were signed by the Committee members following adjournment.

XII. Calendar of School Events

The next meeting will be on October 27th. The agenda will include:

- A presentation by the Athletic Department
- A discussion of fees
- An opportunity for community input on the budget process

XIII. Adjourn

Nancy Marshall moved that the meeting be adjourned at 10:00 p.m. Seconded by Patty Mostue. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Whittlemore
Secretary