

**Approved
12/22/2009**

**LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
Wednesday, December 9, 2009**

7:30 p.m.

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

Present: Radha Gargeya, Chair, Nancy Marshall, Patty Mostue, Jack Ryan

Unable to be present: Mark Collins, Vice Chair, and Berne Webb

Also present: Scott Carpenter, Superintendent/Principal, Judy Belliveau, Director of Finance & Operations, Rami Alwan, Teachers' Association President, and Mary Whittemore, School Committee Secretary. The visitors listed on the sign-in sheet attached to the approved minutes of this meeting were also present.

Agenda Enclosures/Handouts

- Unapproved Minutes of November 24th meeting
- "December's LSPO Musing" by Scott Carpenter
- Letter dated December 4, 2009 to White House Parents from Scott Carpenter
- PowerPoint slide printout of the FY11 Preliminary Budget
- L-S 5-Year Capital Plan dated 12/0/09
- FY10 Budget Final Adjustments

I. Call to Order: Radha Gargeya, Chair, called the public meeting to order at 7:45 p.m.

II. Presentation of Superintendent's Awards for Academic Excellence

Scott Carpenter explained that Lincoln-Sudbury, due to its size, is eligible to designate two Awards for Academic Excellence from the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents. Selected students must have a GPA that puts them in the top 5% of the class. While the award is at the discretion of the Superintendent, at L-S the Housemasters and Guidance Counselors contribute to the decision-making process.

The first honoree was Maura McGrath. She has a 3.91 GPA. Maura was described as conscientious, motivated, and adventuresome. Her favorite subject is English and she has served on the hiring committee for new English teachers. Maura has taken a leadership role in her volunteer work which includes Breaking Barriers, an interfaith social action club promoting diversity, and the Invisible Children club which helps to increase awareness of the plight of child soldiers in Uganda.

The other honoree was Liz McDermott. She has a 3.90 GPA. Described as motivated and enthusiastic, Liz is a natural and effective leader. A committed volunteer, Liz is a leader on the L-S Student Senate. She also is on the Youth Advisory Board for the Mass Bay chapter of the American Red Cross and has done community service projects in Mississippi and Honduras. Scott calculated that Liz has logged over 664 hours of community service.

Both girls were presented with a certificate of their Award for Academic Excellence.

III. Public Comment

The Chair reminded visitors that the protocol for public comment was that each person had three minutes to make their comment and that a total of ten minutes was set aside for this portion of the agenda.

Rick Johnson inquired as to what budget information is available to the Committee and to the public so that each group can determine if an override is necessary. Scott Carpenter noted that a summary would be presented later at this meeting and that he welcomed feedback if more clarity is needed. Radha Gargeya responded that he had a statement on that topic after the public comment section of the agenda was over.

There were no other public comments.

Radha Gargeya then read a statement [full text attached] related to the budget. Summarized highlights are:

- The budget material that is presented to Town Meetings is submitted by each town's Finance Committee, not any of the cost centers, including Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School, Sudbury Public Schools or the Town.
- Last year, the Sudbury Finance Committee consolidated the School's 119 page budget document into two pages for Town Meeting.
- The full budget is in each Town's library
- The FY10 budget was presented in two ways: one is by program and the other is by category of expense.
- Copious information is available from the budget book submitted to the Finance Committees and the public libraries.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Patty Mostue moved that the minutes of November 24, 2009 be approved with the addition of Radha Gargeya's statement that he read following the Public Comment period. Seconded by Nancy Marshall. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Recognitions

Scott Carpenter paid tribute to the following individuals and groups:

- Parents, students, staff and especially the B&G crew for their patience and hard work during today's snow storm;
- The nurses, front office staff and LSPO members who helped with the H1N1 flu clinic today that served 500 students;
- Patch Adams, who is both a physician and a clown, for his presentations today to the students and this evening to parents and the community. Reingard Nathanson, parent of an L-S graduate, helped to organize his visit.

VI. Student Report – none

VII. Teachers' Association Report

Rami Alwan noted that staff members from the Holliston High School Wellness Department will be coming to visit L-S's Wellness Department staff to learn from them. He considers that a tribute to our department.

Teachers are commenting on how polite students are being. Simple "thank you's" at the end of a class show that the students are appreciative of their teachers and it has made an impression.

Multi-cultural training, provided by Visions, Inc., was administered recently to second year teachers. Rami noted that teachers commented that they had learned a lot.

VIII. Superintendent's Report

Scott shared his "December's LSPO Musing" document. It highlights some of the major numerical changes that have occurred in the last decade to the student and staff population with a view to educating LSPO members about the possible benefits of a budget override vote. For example, in 2000 L-S had 1,250 students; today it has 1,614. In the meantime, the administrative staff has been cut by one Housemaster and one Assistant to the Principal. Teacher loads have increased simultaneously. While the 4.5% FY11 budget guideline developed by the Sudbury Finance Committee will accommodate the new teacher contract, that 4.5% guideline requires an override. Scott also noted that he is scheduled to meet with community members on December 10th to discuss the FY11 budget outlook.

Scott also shared his letter to White House Pre-School parents. It outlines the plan for providing space at the high school while White House is being renovated beginning February 1st. The letter also states that there must be 15 children enrolled at all times in order for the program to continue. The two current teachers will run the program during this transitional phase.

Scott announced that he and Rami Alwan will attend a Department of Education meeting to learn about what Massachusetts might propose in the national competition for a "Race to the Top" educational reform grant. There is a tight schedule on application deadlines. Scott will bring an update to the next School Committee meeting.

Radha Gargeya mentioned that there is a meeting on December 10th at 10:00 a.m. in Marlboro to discuss legislation related to education that is pending at the state level.

IX. Information & Discussion

Presentation and Discussion of Preliminary FY11 Budget request and 5-year Capital Plan

Prior to the presentation, Jack Ryan noted the difference between the budget highlights, which is limited to a reasonable number of pages being shared tonight, versus the full budget book which has over 100 pages of detail. The full budget book will also show the actual expenses for FY09, the current budget for FY10 and the proposed budget for FY11. The full budget book will be available in the Lincoln and Sudbury town libraries. He observed that regional school district budgets are by nature different from K-8 budgets so that the two cannot easily be compared side-by-side, but the details are all there.

Judy Belliveau reviewed in some detail her PowerPoint slides which are attached to these minutes. The budget guidelines proposed by each town are -0.5% for Lincoln (no override) and 4.5% for Sudbury (with an override). The summary of all the budget components at 4.5% is:

FY11 Budget at 4.5%	\$24,767,085
Less: Fixed Costs	<u>-23,496,167</u>
Balance	\$1,270,918
Less: Department Requests	-1,073,847
Less: Contingency	<u>-30,000</u>
Balance Available	\$167,071

Scott Carpenter then reviewed the preliminary budget priorities which focus on restoring some recent cuts:

Restore House <u>or</u> .50 Administrator	\$54,000- 165,917	0.50 - 2.00 FTE
Teachers	120,832	2.00 FTE
Guidance Counselor	60,416	1.00 FTE
Library	20,569	0.17 FTE
Nursing Services	10,026	0.20 FTE
Peer Mediation	15,104	0.25 FTE
Peer Leader/Tutor	15,104	0.25 FTE
Tech. Integration Specialist	<u>30,208</u>	<u>0.50 FTE</u>
Grand Total	\$326,759 – 438,176	4.87 – 6.37 FTE

Given that the budget priorities are larger than the projected Balance Available, Scott will be working with his Administrative Team and his budget group to reach consensus on what the final priorities might be.

The Committee then reviewed the Five Year Capital Plan. The discussion focused on possible opportunities for collaborative purchases with either the K-8 systems or the Towns. It was also noted that fund raising might be a resource for funding since people like to donate for specific items. Judy will reissue the document at the next meeting given that there is a duplication of Equipment costs on the summary page.

X. Action Items

Patty Mostue moved that the Committee send the FY11 Preliminary Budget Request dated December 9, 2009 to the Lincoln and Sudbury Finance Committees. Seconded by Nancy Marshall. The motion carried unanimously.

Jack Ryan moved to approve the final adjustments to the FY10 Budget as listed in the FY10 Budget Final Adjustments document dated December 8, 2009. Seconded by Nancy Marshall. The motion carried unanimously.

XI. Bill Schedules - none

XII. Calendar of School Events

December 22, 2009	Regular School Committee Meeting
December 11, 2009	4.5% Budget Numbers to Sudbury
December 31, 2009	Superintendent Letter for the Budget
January 12, 2010	L-S Presents Budget to Lincoln FinCom
January 15, 2010	Full Budget Book to Sudbury (tentative)

XIII. Adjourn

Jack Ryan moved that the meeting be adjourned at 9:40 Seconded by Nancy Marshall The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Whittemore
Secretary