

**LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
Tuesday, October 27, 2009**

7:30 p.m.

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

Present: Radha Gargeya, Chair, Nancy Marshall, Patty Mostue, and Berne Webb

Unable to be present: Mark Collins, Vice Chair, and Jack Ryan

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. Nancy O'Neil, Athletic Director, was also present as were other visitors listed on the sign-in sheet attached to the approved copy of these minutes.

Agenda Enclosures/Handouts

- Unapproved Minutes of October 13, 2009 meeting
- Trip/Vacation Policy-Athletics
- Selection and Reconsideration Policy for Classroom and Library/Media Materials as Revised Oct. 1, 2009
- FY'11 Sudbury Budget Guideline at 4.5% Increase dated October 15, 2009
- Handout from the Athletic Department on Servant Leadership and Positive Conditioning

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

II. Department Presentation – Athletics

Nancy O'Neil, Athletic Director, provided an overview of two initiatives that the department has been working on in recent years. "Servant Leadership" focuses on the expectation that all team members, no matter their grade or skill level, are expected to share equally in performing all the tasks related to the sport. Those who may be viewed as leaders are expected to be role models by taking the initiative to do those tasks. "Positive Conditioning" focuses on using exercise as a reward and an enhancement to athletic performance and never as a punishment.

Students Annika Nygren and Andrea Butler provided examples of how these principles apply to their field hockey team and the benefits to team spirit. Coach Peter Elenbaas, and students Jackson Rimpas, Dan Sawyer and Jon Lewis provided similar anecdotes for their ice hockey team.

III. Public Comment

Prior to opening the floor for Public Comment, Radha Gargeya read the procedures regarding this portion of the agenda with an emphasis on the locations where the agenda is posted in advance and the expected etiquette of public participation.

Parent Robert Stein had two questions. His first inquiry related to record keeping on disciplinary actions and, if such records are kept, are they open for public viewing. Scott Carpenter responded that behavior infractions and the resulting disciplinary actions are recorded for each student in the IPass system and that they are not open for public viewing. At the end of each quarter, a summary is prepared of the number of infractions by type, but not by individual name and that quarterly summary would be available to those who ask for it. Patty Mostue also noted that a report on numbers of disciplinary actions is sent to the state annually.

Mr. Stein also inquired if an out-of-district student gets expelled, is Lincoln-Sudbury required to complete that student's education? Scott Carpenter responded that an expulsion from L-S is an expulsion from all public schools in Massachusetts. If a student is considered "excluded" from L-S, the student's home district would be required to take him/her back. Lastly, if a student is on an Individual Educational Plan (IEP), then L-S is obligated to that student until age 22. Later in the meeting, Judy Belliveau explained that such an obligation would be accounted for in the Special Education budget.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Patty Mostue moved that the minutes of October 13, 2009 be approved, including some minor corrections submitted by Nancy Marshall and Radha Gargeya. Seconded by Nancy Marshall. The motion carried unanimously.

V. Recognitions

Scott Carpenter highlighted the following people for their good work on behalf of L-S:

- Rory Sanford and the L-S All Sports Boosters for netting about \$8,000 in their used equipment sale and for conducting their annual fund drive by phone.
- Mel Gonsalves, Kelly Mazza, Chris Belmont, Shawn Miller, Susan Shields and Karen Thomsen for their organization of and presentations to the 9th grade "Acknowledge, Care and Talk" (A.C.T.) assembly last week and follow-up presentations in Wellness classes.
- Paul Sarapas, FATA Department Coordinator, for his exhibit of his art and photos in Somerville on October 17th.
- Teachers Scott Prince, Joan Campbell, Julia Moskowicz and Ann Kramer for organizing "Rocktoberfest" sponsored by the L-S Robotics Team and Invisible Children.
- Senior Class advisors Nancy Childress, Tom Danko, Ned Banta and Iain Ryrrie for organizing a Boston Harbor boat cruise attended by 150 students.
- John Flynn, Counseling Department Coordinator, for organizing an evening meeting for parents to learn about financing higher education. The event includes a guest speaker from the Massachusetts Education Financing Authority.
- Jo Crawford, MLK Coordinator, for giving leadership to the Jimmy Mack March in which L-S students participated to raise money for AIDS research.

VI. Student Report

David Sackstein introduced Liz McDermott, Vice President of the Student Senate, who might substitute as Student Representative occasionally. He reported that 17 students had participated in a walk to raise money for charity work in Uganda. The Breaking Barriers Club had organized a celebration of a Hindu holiday. Senior Dress-up Day is Friday, October 30th.

David also reported that he is a member of the School Council which has met twice. In answer to David's inquiry about policy formulation, Radha Gargeya suggested that the route to

policy adoption was from the Student Senate to the School Council which would then ultimately make recommendations to the School Committee. Patty Mostue also suggested that the case for policy adoption or change could be enhanced with back-up information such as the number of students who want the change and the views of other stakeholders in the issue. Perhaps a survey of the students on issues of importance would provide useful data.

VII. Teachers' Association Report

Rami Alwan noted the fine job that Nancy Errico has been doing in enhancing the software capability for each department. He also thanked LSPO for their presentation to the Teachers' Association about volunteer opportunities within the school. The TA had met today to discuss ways in which parents can be further integrated into the school. He also announced that Baba (Brykman) will do a performance on November 12th honoring the 200th anniversary year of Charles Darwin's birth as well as a presentation to the Early English/Medieval Literature³ classes on Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*. Nancy Marshall has helped to make these arrangements.

VIII. Superintendent's Report

- Scott reported that the School Council has met twice. The group has brainstormed what L-S does well and what L-S could do better. Their future deliberations will focus on possible improvements in the areas of academics, school culture, school operations and the school's role in the community.
- Scott described in detail the measures that were taken, with Lincoln and Sudbury police assistance, in response to the report that a written threat to an L-S teacher had been discovered on the walls in a boy's bathroom stall on Friday, October 13th. Scott also consulted with the L-S Safety Advisory Team prior to sending an e-mail over the weekend to staff and parents. That e-mail included the message that he planned to give students on Monday morning as well as a confirmation that there would be a police presence in the building for at least several days to assure safety and to further ensure that students and staff feel safe.
- Scott also reported that two students have been suspended, pending expulsion, for allegedly passing marijuana between the two of them in the parking lot. Police were notified and one student has been charged with possession and the other charged with distribution and a school zone violation. One expulsion hearing has been held, but a judgment on that will not be rendered until the other expulsion hearing is complete. Scott noted that the incident was first observed by a staff member who reported it to the Housemaster who then intervened. He also reminded the Committee and the visitors that 1,600 students made good decisions that day; it was only two who did not.

IX. Information and Discussion

- Policies Related to Athletics/Academics/Field Trips
Nancy O'Neil was asked to summarize the Athletic Department's Trip/Vacation policy which states that L-S athletes who have DCL contests scheduled during school vacation weeks are expected to attend all scheduled practices and contests during that week. The policy also outlines the consequences for students, primarily varsity team players, who miss a practice or a game. The DCL builds in some flexibility related to April school vacation schedules.

Parent Michelle McDonald stated that because this document is identified as a “policy” she believes that it falls under the purview of the School Committee, not the Administration. She further requested that the Committee review this “policy” in light of the conflict that arises when students might like to attend an academic field trip that conflicts with scheduled athletic competitions.

Carol Zais noted that students may be forced to decide about participating in an academic field trip before they even know if they are on a varsity team.

Parent Victoria Kemp suggested that perhaps the policy could be amended to allow a student one excused absence for an academic field trip during their tenure on a varsity or junior varsity team.

Rami Alwan noted that he had satisfactorily collaborated with the track team coach about the scheduling of his trip to Belize knowing that there were track athletes who wanted to go on that trip. Nancy O’Neil pointed out that the track schedule is not as busy as other sports and that similar collaboration on future trips might not be as easy.

- Fitness Center Operation and Fees

Through a series of questions primarily by Committee members and answers given by Nancy O’Neil, the following facts emerged about the Fitness Center:

~ The Center has an adult component that is run by the Adult Ed Program and the Athletics Department is not involved in that.

~ The after school hours during which many non-athletes took advantage of the Fitness Center had been eliminated under the FY10 budget. A proposal had been made to the Administration in the Spring to staff the Fitness Center during those hours and allow students to participate on a fee basis. Currently fees are not pro-rated for later enrollment as full fees were needed to assure that the Center could open and cover the costs.

~ About 80 students have joined and there is enough money to fund a supervisor. L-S has been fortunate to have professional staff with training in fitness and the equipment and not a volunteer.

~ Currently the Center is open during the day for general use from 3:00 to 4:15 after which time team athletes may use the Center.

- Follow-up on Gymnastics Team Request

Scott Carpenter reported that he had consulted with Nancy O’Neill about the status of the Girls’ Gymnastic Team. They had concluded that the gymnasts need to continue as a club this year and that he hoped that the FY11 budget could allow for reinstatement as a team next year. In the meantime he complimented the girls on their fund raising efforts this year and acknowledged the hope that they could preserve some funds for next year.

One gymnast noted that being a club instead of a team impacts negatively on their activity participation on their college applications.

The topic led to an open discussion about fund raising on behalf of athletics. There is the perception that there are inconsistencies in fund raising practices and that the appeals have become prolific. Some think that fund raising is a good skill for students to experience. Parent Robert Sackstein suggested that the school hire someone to oversee fund raising and to assess some percentage of the funds raised to pay for this overhead cost. This is the typical arrangement for fundraising done by non-profits on behalf of a particular department.

- Selection and Reconsideration Policy for Classroom & Library/Media Materials

Scott briefly reviewed the policy and its accompanying “Statement of Concern about Resources” form. To the best of Scott’s knowledge, there is no state law relevant to this topic. Radha requested that the policy statement be edited to clarify the roles and decision-making responsibilities of the general librarians vs. the Head Librarian. Once the policy is adopted by the Committee, it will be added to the Committee’s policy manual which will be posted on the Committee’s website, which is in the process of renovation.

- Community Input to the Budget Process

Judy Belliveau summarized the FY’11 Budget Guideline from Sudbury, which requested a 4.5% override budget submission. Following this guideline and factoring in the same staffing level, fixed costs, and best estimates for expenses, the result would be a balance of \$149,080 for “discretionary” items – restoring staff, new initiatives, technology, etc. There were no comments from the public on either priorities for this balance or other suggestions on the budget-building process. In answer to questions, Judy reported that the Lincoln no override budget guideline is for a 0.5% reduction to the operating budget, excluding pensions and insurance. She also reviewed the categories of expenses that are generally predictable at this point although this was all preliminary and there will be modifications as more facts become known.

X. Action Items

Nancy Marshall tentatively agreed to serve as the delegate to the MASC Annual Meeting on November 18th and will confirm this with the Committee.

XI. Other Business – none

XII. Bill Schedules – The October 30th warrants were signed by the Committee members following adjournment.

XIV. Calendar of School Events

The next meeting will be on November 10th. The agenda will include:

- Food Services Program update
- Discussion of FY’11 Budget Priorities
- Adult/Community Education Programs

XV. Adjourn

Patty Mostue moved that the meeting be adjourned at 9:55 p.m. Seconded by Berne Webb. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Whittemore
Secretary