

Approved
11/24/2009

**LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
Tuesday, November 10, 2009**

7:30 p.m.

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

Present: Radha Gargeya, Chair, Mark Collins, Vice Chair, Nancy Marshall, Patty Mostue, 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. Beth Emery and Robert Harden from Aramark Education were present as well as visitors listed on the sign-in sheets attached to the approved minutes of this meeting. Many of those visitors were parents of current White House Preschool students.

Agenda Enclosures/Handouts

- Unapproved Minutes of October 27, 2009 meeting
- PowerPoint slide presentation from Aramark Education
- Financial information on White House Preschool: Financial History; three projected models for FY10, and two projected models for FY11
- Revised "Selection and Reconsideration Policy for Classroom and Library/Media Materials"
- Draft dated 11-6-09 of "Policy on Sex Offender Registry Information"

I. Call to Order: Radha Gargeya, Chair, called the public meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. The Chair announced that he planned to adjust the order of the agenda to accommodate the visitors.

II. Food Services Presentation

Bob Harden, the on-site manager for Aramark Education, made a PowerPoint presentation that summarized the variety of food options available as well as the improvements in total meals consumed. Judy Belliveau reminded the Committee that Aramark is in its second year of operation and that last year ended with a financial surplus. The food service program is self-funding and contributes to the L-S budget each year through a charge as overhead. One highlight discussed was the implementation of an automated payment system, which has dramatically reduced the time spent waiting to check out at the cash register since students and staff can now put money on account in advance with credit or debit cards.

Judy recognized Aramark for its swift opening of the cafeteria last year with only a month's notice and the way the company has addressed the issues presented in the audit of the previous contractor's program by the Department of Education.

IX Information and Discussion

- White House Preschool Update

Scott Carpenter and Judy Belliveau provided some background on the history and current status of the White House Preschool. The pre-school's revenue and direct expenses pass through a separate "revolving fund" specifically designated for the pre-school with the exception of utilities, benefits, other insurance and maintenance which have been paid out of the L-S operating budget. The school has had deficits the last two years and the L-S subsidy grew substantially in FY09 due to the addition of health insurance for an employee. A new director was hired this past summer with the understanding that the pre-school would have five goals: 1) become financially viable, 2) provide a nurturing environment for children, 3) expand the hours of the school so that it is open when L-S classes are in session, 4) serve as an experiential setting for L-S students taking a child development class, and 5) allow working parents to have an extended day option that coincides with the public school calendar. Scott announced that the director recently resigned thereby creating a gap in the pre-school's ability to achieve its goals. Scott stated that the immediate options are either to find a new director and keep the pre-school open or to close the school at the end of January, 2010.

Other facts that emerged during the discussion are that the capacity of the pre-school is 42 students and currently there are 8 enrolled for one part of the day and 10 in the other part. In the late 1980's, there were five pre-schools in Sudbury; now there are 15 so there are more schools and fewer children enrolling in the White House. The required ratio under State regulations is one teacher to every 10 students but the White House has continued to operate with three teachers even though the enrollments have dropped over the years to a point that only one teacher is needed.

Questions from Committee members revolved around the long-term sustainability of the revolving fund if deficits continue as well as the possibility of shifting to the White House revolving fund those expenses that have been absorbed by the L-S operating budget. It was also noted that L-S may need to save money from the revolving fund for renovations to the building that may be needed to achieve the five goals.

The Chair opened the discussion for comments from visitors. Michelle Roderick, former Director, Steve Lanzendorf, Derek Brown, Mike Heslop, Andrew Smith, Steve Walsh, and Corinne Arrighini, all White House parents, spoke on behalf of leaving the School open at least through June. They made the following points:

- Closing the school in January not only breaks a promise that parents felt was made to them when they signed on for the year, but also provides them very little lead time to find alternative child-care arrangements.
- Communications from the L-S administration have come with no forewarning and no invitation to parents to help problem solve.
- Some parents expressed willingness to help with fund raising or whatever it might take to keep White House open and requested to be included in problem solving.
- The financial data presented at this meeting does not put a monetary value on the benefit that White House provides to the L-S students. It is therefore not fair to consider charging all the costs subsidized by L-S to the revolving fund. Nor does the information include the savings that will be generated by the resignation of the director.

- Closing the school in January would interrupt the natural progression that four-year-olds experience in a pre-school situation as they transition toward kindergarten.
- The experience of dealing with young children gives L-S students not only knowledge about child development, but also some insight into the trials and tribulations of raising children.

Robert Stein expressed his concern that the Sudbury taxpayers were subsidizing 18 families via the L-S operating budget and suggested that tuition fees be raised to make the pre-school self-sufficient. Rick Johnson sought information about the value that L-S reaps from its subsidy. This question was answered by Michelle Roderick who explained that about 50 L-S students spend time at the School each year. Child development is an elective course that is provided at White House.

At the conclusion of this agenda item, the Committee agreed to reconvene on Wednesday, November 18th, with the primary purpose of discussing options for White House and with the expectation that a final decision would be made at the regular School Committee meeting on November 24th.

III. Public Comment – None other than above.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Patty Mostue moved that the minutes of October 27, 2009 be approved, including some corrections submitted by Nancy Marshall and Patty Mostue. 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:

- The nurses, front office staff - Debbie Aiello, Tracey Lyon and Patty Gogan, LSPO volunteers, CERT & Medical Reserve Corp, the Board of Health and Town nurse for organizing the seasonal flu vaccine clinic held at LSRHS on Thursday, October 29, that was administered to over half the student body and many staff.
- The teams that qualified for MIAA Postseason tournaments: field hockey, girls soccer, boys soccer and girls volleyball. DCL champs were boys cross country, girls cross country, girls volleyball and boys soccer.
- Language Department teachers, Michele LePietre, Alissa Jarvis, Michael Clark and Silvana Stevens for organizing a 2 week French exchange program with 22 students, 2 adults and 22 host families.
- All those on the staff, including Jamie Kirsch, Director of Choral Music, for arranging and leading the L-S Chamber Singers at the HopeSudbury event. Kudos also to Tom Grandprey, Director of Music, for preparing select L-S music students for a performance as well.
- The Senior Class for a wonderful showing of school spirit on Senior Dress Up Day.

VI. Student Report

David Sackstein also spoke highly of Senior Dress Up Day and brought a recent copy of “The Forum” with photos. He noted that the girls volleyball team finished the season with a 16 –

1 DCL record. The LSB Players will present “Alice in Wonderland” next week. The Student Senate now has two 9th grade representatives and there are two METCO students who may be interested in becoming representatives. The Senate is drafting a policy to accept new members part way through the year. They are also working on a survey that may include a question about awarding varsity letters for club sports as well as other questions related to stress.

David asked if his agenda item might be placed earlier so that, if need be, he could be excused earlier although he recognizes that one of his responsibilities is to report School Committee news back to the Senate. A member of the Committee also asked if David could bring copies of “The Forum” as it is published to distribute to Committee members.

VII. Teachers’ Association Report

Rami Alwan noted that the first quarter is complete. He found that the iPass software is very useful in submitting grades. He is also working with a group of students to encourage those who are eighteen or older to register to vote, especially in time for the forthcoming US Senatorial election.

VIII. Superintendent’s Report

- Scott reported that Sudbury police had delivered a notice of a recently classified Level 3 sex offender in the area. Following procedures used by the K-8 system, Scott sent an e-mail message to all parents. Staff have been directed to call the police if anyone encounters the offender on school grounds. He reviewed briefly the draft dated 11-6-09 of the “Policy on Sex Offender Registry Information”.
- The School Council met today and has formed three subcommittees.
 - 1) The Committee on Administration will focus on student involvement in decision – making and issues resulting from the reduction of four houses to three.
 - 2) The Committee on Information and Learning will focus on the impact of class size on learning and ways to support students of all levels.
 - 3) The Committee on Health and Safety will focus on the unhealthy impact of stress and ways to decrease substance abuse.

IX. Information and Discussion

- Update on Joint Finance Committee Liaisons’ Meeting and FY11 Budget

Radha Gargeya, Jack Ryan, Nancy Marshall, Scott Carpenter and Judy Belliveau represented L-S. Jack reported that a major issue of discussion relates to capital items. For L-S all of the School’s computers are the same age and going on 5-6 years old. We need to look at other areas in which L-S may be lagging in classroom technology. Perhaps we need to plan with Lincoln and Sudbury K-8 systems jointly and consider doing a “capital exemption” type override.

- Report on Discussions among L-S, Lincoln Public Schools, Sudbury Public Schools and Wayland Public Schools.

Radha reported that the group that is meeting consists of the four superintendents and one representative of each of the school committees. They have had three meetings and have named themselves the “G-4”. Radha read a draft of the mission statement which will be finalized at their next meeting. The group has identified six areas of potential cooperation that may provide cost savings, administrative efficiencies as well as mutual enrichment.

They are 1) purchasing, 2) professional development, 3) advanced courses at the middle school level, 4) joint payroll system(s), 5) community education, and 6) METCO transportation.

X. Action Items

Mark Collins moved that the Committee adopt the “Selection and Reconsideration Policy for Classroom and Library/Media Materials” as it was presented with the handouts for this meeting. Seconded by Jack Ryan. The motion carried unanimously.

XI. Other Business - None

XII. Executive Session, if needed

On a motion made by Mark Collins and seconded by Nancy Marshall, a roll call vote was taken and all members voted in the affirmative to enter into Executive Session at 10:20 p. m. for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter, not to return to open session.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Whittemore
Secretary