

Report of the Chair, Lincoln-Sudbury School Committee, on the Status of Safety Procedures and Practices at Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School (11/28/2007)

Weapons Policy

- The LS Weapons policy remains consistent and clear, and the school discipline code defines weapons in a more comprehensive way than state law defines them. The policy has been amplified and strengthened in that all staff have been notified that any and all weapons must be reported immediately to the administration - even objects that might seem innocent or harmless. The policy is clearly explained to all students at the beginning of each year.
- Students found with a weapon or admitting the possession of a weapon will be suspended and must face an expulsion hearing with their parent(s)/guardian(s). After hearing the facts of the case, the school administration determines a consequence, up to and including expulsion from school.

Campus Supervision

- Members of the L-S School Committee continue to work closely with the Administration and local police, particularly the chiefs, on issues regarding campus safety and security.
- Cameras have been installed at all exterior doors of the school. The purpose of such installation is evidentiary, for protection of the building, though there is ample evidence that the presence of cameras may serve as a deterrent. There are no plans to install other video monitoring systems at this time.
- Members of the L-S School Committee will work closely with the school administration to support a budget that supports the safest possible school climate, including adequate supervision and appropriate student/staff ratios.
- At this time, there are no plans to include a School Resources Officer at L-S; however, the school administration is in regular and close contact with the police departments of both towns, and meets with them frequently. The presence of law enforcement officers at the school is a regular and welcomed occurrence. The administration is considering a request for police officers to teach electives in law and to offer a self-defense program for girls. Furthermore, police officers will be invited to join the Health Advisory Committee.
- There are no plans to establish certain designated areas where students would gather before classes begin. By the time most students arrive, the building is filled with staff members, and campus supervision by a campus aide starts at 7:00 AM.

Outsiders on Campus: Access to the School Building

- Access to the building is now restricted to two (2) doors - through the lower level A/B entrance and at the Main Entrance. There are no plans to install a card access system for entry to the school during the school day; such a procedure would be unworkable, given the sheer number of students.
- The School Committee has agreed that staff will not be required to visibly display an identification card; however, students are strongly encouraged to carry their student ID cards at all times. Such identification card includes the student's name, photograph, grade and house affiliation.
- Visitors are requested to enter the school through the Main Entrance and to check into the Main Office where they sign in with the date, time, name, and their purpose or destination. Visitors have been extremely cooperative in following this request.

- "No Trespassing" signs will be placed at all entries into the parking lot. Such signage will state that only those with school or community business should be on the property.

Prevention of School Violence, and Threat Assessment

- L-S will continue the process of assessing the emotional climate of the school on December 5, 2007 at which time students will be asked to respond to a set of questions regarding their views of safety in the school. Results will be used to determine what additional programs or approaches to safety might be needed.
- Certain behavioral data are recorded in i-PASS; discussions will continue to go on regarding the appropriate use of this system. One staff member has developed a manual explaining the i-PASS system. However, information about students and their welfare is constantly shared between and among staff members, house teams, and the counseling staff.
- Administrative staff members explain clearly those behaviors that must be reported to housemasters and/or to guidance personnel and clinical staff. Housemasters are charged with the responsibility of following up on all reports of inappropriate behavior.
- Students are continually encouraged to follow the ACT system: Acknowledge, Care, and Tell, when they see risky behavior among their peers.
- As to methods for assessing and investigating threats, Scott Carpenter, the designated School Safety Officer, issues safety bulletins which detail procedures for responding to specific school-related situations.
- Freshman students are assigned a big brother or big sister senior class member as a mentor; this relationship assists the first-year student in acclimating to Lincoln-Sudbury, its rules, culture, and expectations.
- If a student has a concern about his or her or the school's safety and wishes to report it anonymously, he or she may e-mail this information to the administration with no name attached.
- Administrators, counselors, clinical staff constantly and continually monitor students who they believe need assistance or intervention. In addition to individual support, many programs have been developed at L-S to offer group or programmatic support.
- There is a peer mediation program conducted by adults along with trained student mediators to help any members of the L-S community work out differences and avoid conflicts. Many students take advantage of this program each year.
- Allocating additional resources for additional clinical staff and programs in conflict resolution, mediation, and anti-bias education may be done, if appropriate and if the budget allows.
- Summer training programs for teachers in identifying students who may need psychological counseling have been held in the past; additional programs would be available pending budget allowances.
- On-line bullying is a concern; this may become an important issue for the reconvened Health Advisory Committee.

Other Concerns

- The superintendent, in conjunction with administrative, guidance, and clinical staff, continues to review out-of-district programs at Lincoln-Sudbury, their procedures and criteria for acceptance.
- An outside consultant was hired to review the Central Program; the administration hopes to review others in the future.
- The School Council is working on how best to address issues of student stress, anxiety, depression, and substance abuse in a comprehensive way. There are many programs already in place to deal with these issues, but a more broadly-based initiative, including many community resources, seems advisable.
- There is a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOA) between the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School and the Sudbury and Lincoln Police Departments. This MOA includes the reporting requirements for multiple minor offenses and ongoing behavioral incidences. Audits will be conducted in order to ensure that these notifications are being made in accordance with the policies and procedures of the school and the individual police departments.
- The METCO director at L-S continues to gain input from parents of Boston students.
- There are no plans to include metal detectors on buses; issues of safety on buses have not been raised. However, the administration is working the buss company on issues of overcrowding on the afternoon buses.
- There are no plans to augment emergency response procedures since procedures such as cell phone and 911 use in order to assist in communication, as well as staff assignments for traffic control, have been put in place. Furthermore, the school has developed an instant "e-mail blast" system, whereby parents can be notified instantly when necessary.
- First aid supplies have been increased, e.g., supplies and defibrillators.
- There are currently no plans to hire a consultant to carry out a school safety assessment in conjunction with a threat assessment.