



Lincoln-Sudbury School Committee Digest, October 11, 2011

On Tuesday, October 11, the L-S School Committee held a regularly scheduled meeting.

Topics for discussion and/or action included:

- A Presentation Of the Superintendent/Principal Goals
- Further discussion on revision to the LSRHS Residency Policy
- A Preliminary Report on the Official Enrollment numbers as of October 1, 2011

Recognitions

Scott Carpenter expressed his appreciation to LS English Department Head Dan Conti for his work on getting the 2011 Alumni Survey live online and out to alumni today. LS teachers who are LSRHS grads themselves provided feedback as the survey was being designed. The survey has been emailed to alumni, posted on Facebook and other social media to reach as many alumni as possible.

Thanks were also offered to Wellness faculty Susan Shields, Sarah Greeley and clinician Emily Phillips for their work in facilitating the Metrowest Adolescent Health Survey results evening last week. The preparation of the student presenters from SADD, who offered their own perspectives and answers to questions from the audience, was evident and appreciated. Those audience members in attendance included members of the Wayland Schools, the Principal of Ashland High School, and Lincoln Recreation Department staff. The other school districts were in attendance to consider ways that they might incorporate elements of the LSRHS presentation into their own districts' presentations.

Student Representative Report

Emily Casey, President of the Student Senate, submitted a report that was read by Nancy Marshall. 9 freshman students have submitted statements of interest as part of their candidacy for the Senate. The Senate will be meeting with Scott to discuss goals and talking points for the year.

Teachers' Association Report

LSRHS Teachers' Association President Lisa Weiss reported about a Speech and Debate tournament that will be hosted at LSRHS in December and the active parent support for the team.

She also highlighted that many of the faculty remarking on how the death of Steve Jobs last week provoked a number of conversations in classrooms at LSRHS.

Chairman's Report

Nancy Marshall reiterated her appreciation to Kevin Rossley and the LSRHS Buildings and Grounds staff for their time at the last meeting and for their work over the summer. She directed the Committee to an article written for the LSRHS *Forum* by a student highlighting the students' experiences working with the B&G staff and their appreciation for the efforts taken to have LS ready for teaching and learning.

Liaisons Reports

Health Insurance Sub-Committee – Radha Gargeya reported that he had worked with Judy Belliveau to draft a letter for Nancy Marshall's signature as chair requesting an earlier release of FY13 rates by Minuteman Nashoba Health Group to facilitate a better process as the District determines their direction in light of the new State health insurance legislation.

Policy Sub-Committee – Nancy Marshall, Patty Mostue and Elena Kleifges will meet with a small group of coaches, parents involved in "Friends of" support groups, and grant agencies such as the Boosters and SERF to discuss the proposed fundraising and

donations policy revision. The aim is to ensure that the policy revision will be understood and followed when voted, what obstacles and changes are at issue given current fundraising and donation practices, and also to start to consider how to best inform all support and fundraising organizations on campus of the revision.

Superintendent/Principal Report

Scott Carpenter reported on the draft *Superintendent/Principal Goals* he distributed to the Committee. He stated that English Department Coordinator Dan Conti had reviewed the archive of District Goals from the past 20 years. Typically, each year had a single goal. For the 2011/2012 school year, Scott has focused goals under five distinct areas, each of the first four with a connecting statement from the LS Core Values. Within each section, Scott highlighted some of the reasons for establishing the focus areas in support of each goal:

- Teaching and Learning – *Maintain the purposeful and rigorous educational environment that has been developed while continuing to promote innovation in our classrooms and in our extracurricular programs.*
Within the Teaching and Learning Goals, Scott spoke to better meeting all the needs of all learners, particularly considering ways to continue to try and control out-of-district tuitions as well as supporting the faculty in light of their teaching larger classes and within those classes a broader differential of learners. Also, the survey results addressing how students utilized support within the building for tutoring or extra teacher time and the alumni survey will inform future goals on teaching and learning.
- Climate and Culture – *Build upon school-wide initiatives that have created strong student-staff relationships and a supportive school climate, so that the LS School Climate continues to have the cooperative, caring and respectful culture that we value.*
Within the Climate and Culture Goals, increasing responsiveness to incidents of peer mistreatment will address the “code of silence” articulated by the student presenters during the Adolescent Health presentation, encouraging greater pro-activity of the staff and student community in these circumstances. In addition, increasing student connectedness through the recommendations gleaned from the School Climate Survey as well as staff-to-staff connectedness, collegiality and respect are focal points.
- Communication and Leadership – *Improve upon internal and external communication relating the excellence of our educational program, the needs of our students and staff, areas for improvement and the future direction of Lincoln-Sudbury.*
Within Communication and Leadership Goals, Scott commented that the School Council will continue their work, increasing their internal communication to staff as well as outreach to the communities served by LSRHS. Also, the use of online tools - email, iPass and improved access for updating the School website, will be part of ongoing assessments as to the effectiveness of communication internally and externally. Naviance, the online college profile development program available to LS senior and their families and in November to LS juniors and families, will provide a time efficient, cost effective alternative for families in their college search and for families and faculty in the recommendation writing process for college applications. Staff are being trained in utilizing the service, with a goal of completely virtual administration of the recommendation component in the near future.
- District Budget and Planning – *To maintain the excellence of Lincoln-Sudbury’s educational program and upkeep of the campus to support a quality program at a time when fiscal resources are limited.*
Within District Budget and Planning, Scott mentioned again the need to promote cost containment for Special Education out-of-District expenses, and a large piece of this effort will be working with the k-8 feeder districts in Sudbury and Lincoln to better anticipate and process special needs cases and consider ways to keep students at LSRHS, as well as budget where possible for known future expenses.
- Superintendent/Principal Personal Goals - Scott spoke to continuing to improve in his communication and outreach to the parent community, as well as internally with faculty and staff with regard to decision-making. He also wants to improve the relationship between the Faculty Advisory Council and his office with regard to reflecting ideas to and from the faculty that are outside the collective bargaining agreement.

The draft is a synthesis from discussions Scott conducted with faculty, staff, community members and students. He presented the draft to the Faculty and conducted discussions with each House Office and their respective academic departments. He also spoke with the Academic Council, soliciting their feedback. Seth Weiss, Jason Medeiros and Rami Alwan worked with Scott to synthesize the feedback, which facilitated further refining of the Goals. Scott will provide a timeline for reporting and achieving each goal at one of the

November meetings. Radha Gargeya suggested and Scott agreed to provide a mid-year report on the overall Goals to the Committee in February. The finalized goals will be posted online and will facilitate the framing of the guidelines for the Superintendent/ Principal evaluation in the spring.

Lastly, Scott spoke about the *LS-2000* initiative, an effort in 1990 to project forward how the District should be directed in 2000. He wants to have a similar exercise looking towards 2020.

FATA Department Robotics Club Fundraising Proposal

The proposal will be offered to the Committee at their October 25 meeting.

Review of Proposed Residence Policy Revision

Nancy Marshall presented a revision to the policy pursuant to a discussion with legal counsel. The Committee reviewed the policy and asked for further clarity with regard to the legality of requiring a prescribed number of nights in residence in either Lincoln or Sudbury as a component of the policy, something which has been articulated in policies in neighboring districts. Nancy will inquire and report to the Committee at the October 25 meeting.

Preliminary DESE Enrollment Report

Judy Belliveau, Director of Finance and Operations, provided a preliminary report of the LSRHS FY12 enrollment figures, which are filed with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). She highlighted the decline in both projected and annual enrollment at LS over the last three years. Judy will meet with Anne O'Reilly in Student Services and District Registrar Donna Cakert to better understand the basis for the numbers, whether the decline is a result of families who have moved from either town, moved to private school, home schooling or school choice, and will report back to the Committee in greater depth on October 25. Lincoln-Sudbury votes annually not to accept School Choice students, but many other Districts do allow School Choice. Judy also spoke to the use of a three-year rolling average for apportionment purposes for each town, which continues to avoid precipitous annual spikes in apportionment, providing a more linear accounting for the allocation of costs to each town.

Mark Collins questioned the depressed real estate market and whether there was any correlation with the enrollment decline.