



## Lincoln-Sudbury School Committee Digest November 8, 2011

On Tuesday, November 8, the L-S School Committee held a regularly scheduled meeting.

Topics for discussion and/or action included:

- Presentation to the Committee regarding the Wellness Policy
- Staffing/Class Size/Teacher Loads Presentation to the Committee by Curriculum Coordinator Leslie Belcher
- Further discussion of a proposal for the donation and installation of a Lacrosse Wall
- Receipt and acknowledgement of two donations to the Athletic Department

### **Presentation by the Wellness Committee**

The Wellness Committee representatives - Wellness faculty member and coach Vicky Caburian, Parent Representative Dr. Alice Domar and Director of Finance and Operations Judy Belliveau - offered a Power Point presentation to the Committee with regard to their charge of ensuring our Wellness Policy is up-to-date as well as assessing how the District implements the policy. In addition to those in attendance, Food Services Manager Robert Harden and student representative Lizzy Wolozin complete the Committee.

The Power Point presentation is [here](#). The District is required by law to have and regularly monitor implementation of a Wellness Policy. The policy oversees:

- the teaching, development and practice of lifelong wellness skills
- support and promotion of proper dietary habits that contribute to student health
- a provision for students to engage in physical activity

The representatives spoke of working to better integrate wellness curriculum within other departments, both with regard to reducing and better managing stress as well as implementation of the new anti-bullying policy, both of which fall under their purview. Areas that were discussed during the presentation included a possible viewing for parents and students of the film "Race to Nowhere", with a moderated discussion to follow; identifying symptoms versus the causes of stress; the Student Senate's work on Stress Week that began last spring, an effort to revive connectedness between faculty and students and the broader communities that support LSRHS. The committee meets every three weeks, and is currently considering inviting licensed practitioners in wellness-related professions, such as an orthopedist or nutritionist, to visit and talk with LSRHS students.

### **Staffing/Class Size and Teacher Load Presentation by Curriculum Coordinator Leslie Belcher**

October 1 each year is the point of required reporting by the District of enrollment. It is also an opportunity for the District to assess the current effects of staffing levels, class size and teacher loads on providing educational services at LSRHS. In compiling this report, information is also provided from the report to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) with regard to class size, which is published online with all Districts in Massachusetts.

The 100+ page report outlined overall student enrollment as well as enrollment by department over the last 15 years, overall staffing levels and staffing by department, class sizes by department and their comparison to the past three years, funding sources for staffing that are outside the regular budget through grants that are limited in their duration, as well as a full reporting of all courses and their enrollments and frequency of offering in the District for 2011/12.

Leslie Belcher commented that a variety of changes have occurred due to budget reductions in funding for programs at LSRHS. Students participating in the peer tutoring program in past years were facilitated by the Academic Support Office at LSRHS, which was reduced in personnel in the last round of budget reductions. Peer tutors are now a community service exercise, with no credit available to tutors, and the program is facilitated through the house counselors.

The decline in expected enrollment has helped a bit to mitigate the effects of expanding class sizes, but the newer challenges with a reduction in teaching staff have involved ensuring that current teaching staff are certified in multiple subject areas, so to ensure curriculum can continue, given the restriction in budget for new hires. In science, this requires certification in up to four subject areas - biology, earth science, chemistry and physics.

Excerpts from the report are [here](#). The full report is available from the Curriculum Office.

### **Recognitions**

Scott Carpenter was absent from the meeting due to a reciprocal exchange opportunity for him to visit Germany as a guest of the Pasch/Goethe cultural exchange program that facilitates our student exchange. Nancy Marshall read his recognitions.

Scott noted an email Science Faculty member Doug Grant sent to Kevin Rossley, Director of Buildings and Grounds to acknowledge the efforts of the B&G staff. The email stated: *"Your staff recently completed a significant welding job on all the ring stands in the chemistry labs. With the prices of replacement science lab equipment going up and the budget so tight, efforts like this are very important to our success in the classroom. This repair saved a lot of money in replacement costs and stopped potential safety problems with the wobbly ring stands that we have. Thank you so much, and please pass our thanks on to your crew."*

Scott expressed his thanks to Michael Clark, Alissa Jarvis, and Michel LePietre from the World Language Dept for their work on a successful French exchange and to Math teacher Erica Wilson for hosting a French teacher.

Scott reported that L-S fall sports is having a terrific season. As the season currently stands, L-S has 5 Dual County League champion teams: girls volleyball, girls soccer, girls cross country, boys soccer, and football. Golf finished 3rd in the Sectional tournament and will compete in the State tournament this Thursday. The cheerleaders finished 3rd in the league competition, qualifying them for the regionals. After defeating higher seed Danvers, L-S field hockey to Andover in the tournament quarterfinals. Post-season play will continue for boys soccer, girls soccer, boys cross country, girls cross country, girls volleyball and football.

Scott spoke about the amount of time Carly Evan and Tom Grandprey have expended in preparation for the LSRHS Fall production, Shakespeare's *Love's Labour's Lost*, which opens Wednesday November 16 for four evening performances. It is set to the music of the Beach Boys and features a cast, crew and on-stage band of nearly 80 students. Scott encouraged the Committee to try and attend.

Scott recognized Janine Dailey, Tara Zantow, Andrew Nyameke and the Friends of Boston for their efforts in organizing and hosting the Diaspora luncheon on Friday, Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>. The Diaspora is a bi-annual fundraiser run by the METCO students. *Diaspora* literally means "a scattering of seeds," and refers to any ethnic group that has been permanently displaced from their homeland and relocated. It enables METCO families to share their cuisine and culture with the L-S community, as well as the German exchange students visiting from Vilshofen, Bavaria. The food is always wonderful and the event was another success this year.

The METCO students and the German Exchange students also hosted a Dance Exchange and performed for fellow students on Thursday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. They showcased five genres of dance: METCO students performed hip hop, contemporary ballet and "Krumpin." Our German guests, who learn dance at school, demonstrated two styles of dance. The girls wowed the students with a medley of Line Dance, Cha-cha and Zumba from South America. Meanwhile, the German boys, dressed in Lederhosen, performed Schuplatteln (slap dancing) - a difficult and traditional Bavarian dance.

### **Student Representative Report**

Student Senate President Emily Casey spoke to the Committee about the Senate's efforts to honor LS students and staff who are military Veteran's by the erection of a plaque recognizing their service. A fundraising effort is being discussed to allow for this to be possible. The Senate is also continuing to consider an 'app' for LSHRS for smartphone users.

### **Teachers' Association Report**

Lisa Weiss, LS Teachers' Association President remarked that School Committee members were starting to attend classes in the building and she encouraged that the practice continue. She also commented that the Evaluation Sub-Committee will begin meeting shortly, comprised of faculty members, Patty Mostue and Elena Kleifges, to work through LSRHS's current evaluation practice and how the new State legislation governing teacher evaluation will be successfully integrated.

### **Chair's Report**

Safe Schools Initiative Coordinator and LS History Faculty Member Lori Hodin provided a copy of the first LSRHS *Shout Out* to the Committee for their information. The internal newsletter is a means by which to recognize and celebrate positive happenings at the high school. In her new role, Lori oversees the School Climate and Violence Prevention program, the VISIONS program and the Peer Mediation program.

Nancy and Vice Chair Radha Gargeya recently met with the Finance Committee liaisons from each town to discuss the budget preparations and capital needs for the District going into FY13. Part of the discussion was the question as to whether the recent allocation of additional funds as aid to towns would be available to cost centers or be allocated to free cash for the next fiscal year.

Nancy also spoke to the recent visit to the German exchange student's host family in Sudbury as part of the US State Department protocol requiring a school official to call on host families to assess the current level of comfort and satisfaction with the exchange program and also receive an assessment from the exchange student. The program has been highly successful and the host family sent their student to reside with the visiting student's family in Germany last year.

Nancy Marshall read a note sent to the Committee from Scott with regard to his travels in Germany, the comparisons of educational institutions, practices and how students are segregated at an early age in Germany and directed towards a myriad of academic, technical and vocational opportunities. He also wrote with regard to standardized testing, assessments similar to No Child Left Behind, and other similarities between the US and Germany.

### **Liaisons Report**

Radha Gargeya spoke to the new LSHRS website and the School Committee section of the website. He asked for the Committee to visit and comment any suggestions for changes or additions.

The Donations and Fundraising Sub-Committee had its second meeting with faculty, coaches and parents to review proposed revisions and hear comments. A third meeting was scheduled to allow Judy Belliveau to review practices and it was anticipated that a further revision of the policy would be made available to Committee members at the next meeting for review.

### **Donation of Lacrosse Wall**

Judy Belliveau provided to the Committee a copy of the proposal set forth by LS Lacrosse Coach Brian Vona for the construction of a practice wall for use by the Lacrosse teams that would be funded by donations and the construction of which would be undertaken by Vona Construction. Questions remained unresolved as to, given the scope and value of the project, whether a request for proposals would be necessary, allowing a formal bidding process to take place. Also, there remained a concern insofar as LSRHS's liability when outside contractors performed work on campus, as well as whether prevailing wage laws would need to be considered. Many of these concerns result from laws governing municipalities, including LSRHS, and how a proposal for donated capital that requires construction is viewed under the law. The unique nature of a gift of this scope and ensuring compliance with the laws governing a formal bid process are essential before the Committee can vote its approval. Judy will provide further information to the Committee. All donations, whether cash or capital, become the property of the District.

### **Donations from Sudbury Little League and Sudbury 4<sup>th</sup> of July Road Race**

Judy Belliveau provided copies to the Committee of letters accompanying donations that had been made to the Athletic Department, one from Sudbury Little League in the amount of \$500 and the other from proceeds resulting from the Sudbury July 4<sup>th</sup> Road Race, again in the amount of \$500. The amounts do not require a vote from the Committee for acceptance.

### **Links used in the document**

- ⤴ [Wellness Presentation, 11/8/11](#)
- ⤴ [Excerpts from "Staffing/Class Size and Teacher Load Presentation" by Curriculum Coordinator Leslie Belcher, 11/8/11](#)