



Lincoln-Sudbury School Committee Digest January 10, 2012

On Tuesday, January 10, the L-S School Committee held a regularly scheduled meeting.

Topics for discussion and/or action included:

- A mid-year presentation by METCO Director Janine Dailey
- A review of a re-drafted Policy on Concussion and Head Injuries
- An update on the budget

METCO Update – Janine Dailey

Janine Dailey, the shared Director for METCO for LSRHS and Sudbury Public Schools (SPS), spoke to the Committee with regard to her first six months in this position. Janine divides her time 60% at LSRHS, 40% at SPS. She shared three goals she set for her work at LSRHS:

1. *Increasing student achievement through strengthening existing programs and introduction of new programs*
Janine has designed an Independent Academic Study program, required for students with less than a 2.5GPA at LSRHS, facilitated by trained faculty.
2. *Strengthening parent involvement and communication* - A Boston Parents' Committee has been formed, to provide academic and social supports from home, completing the parent/school circle of support for METCO students. Parent liaisons from Lincoln and Sudbury are also active in this effort. Janine also introduced Jesse and Juanita Owens, the new METCO liaisons to the School Committee, and their son Jeremiah.
3. *Strengthening the student community.*

Janine spoke about academics being a constant, key focus, in her work at LSRHS, and her work to impress on students the impact their efforts at LSRHS have on their opportunities for higher education. Janine also highlighted her efforts to continue to broaden her relationships with the LSRHS faculty and keep her office open for faculty and students to visit and meet with her. Early in the school year, Janine had meetings with each student, once in the fourth week and once in the eighth week, to check student enrollment, ensure courses were of an appropriate level of rigor, and monitor student progress.

One of Janine's hopes is to obtain funding to permit a "Summer Institute" for all incoming 9th grade METCO students, whether transitioning from Lincoln, Sudbury, or from Boston. She envisions a 1-2 week program, 6 hours per day, plus transportation, that would allow students to be assessed and better prepared for the academics and larger environment at LSRHS. Janine acknowledged that self-discipline is a great strength for any student attending LSRHS.

In closing, Janine said although her time as Director is limited in each District, she is managing well and feels she is making an impact on student experiences in both districts. She acknowledges there is enough work in her role to support two separate, full-time Directors, and feels particularly that more time is needed within SPS. In lieu of that, she is prioritizing and delegating responsibilities to staff in both Districts and is grateful for the support staff she has. Both Districts are distinct in their needs, and within SPS, each school has a distinct personality.

Jesse Owens, father of two LSRHS students, expressed his appreciation to Scott Carpenter and the LSRHS staff. He was grateful for the care of the staff for his children, and particularly for the openness to communication from Scott and the connection efforts by Janine.

Scott spoke of his ability to more clearly evaluate the shared Director position with Janine in that role. The publication of data that supports why METCO works for students is forthcoming. The report will speak to the reasons why METCO has greater traction on positive outcomes in comparison to other similar programs.

Recognitions

Scott Carpenter reported on the 23 Band/Orchestra and Jazz performers from LSRHS who participated in the Eastern District Senior Festival the weekend of January 6 at Boston Latin. Michael Bunting accompanied the musicians to their ten-hour rehearsal on Friday, and Tom Grandprey chaperoned the students for their final morning rehearsals and afternoon concerts on Saturday. Fifteen of the 23 students were recommended for All-State auditions, which will happen in the next weeks following the festival. High School students representing 30 Metro Boston schools competed for the slots in each ensemble, culminating in an intensive series of rehearsals and performances. Approximately 150 students participate in each ensemble, aside from the jazz ensemble, which had approximately 15 musicians. Scott recognized the following students for their efforts:

Ethan Blackwood, clarinet in band*
Caitlin Chin, piccolo in band (there's only one), soloist* (flute)
Stephanie Chin, Trumpet, band*
Haley Lynch, Tenor Saxophone, band*
Anna Menkis, first chair clarinet in band, soloist*
Eric Qin, clarinet in band
Gregory Derecho, violin, orchestra
James Jhun, first chair trumpet in orchestra
Jon Pan-Doh, Viola, orchestra
Sarah Tsang, Viola, orchestra
Jeremy Bernstein, guitar in jazz band (there's only one), soloist*
Brittany Baltay, Soprano, chorus*
Jessica Newman, soprano in chorus, soloist
Julia Palmerino, Soprano, chorus
Kenter Davies, Alto, chorus
Maggie Klureza, Alto, chorus
Demi Sperazza, Alto, chorus*
Sarah Stone, Alto, chorus*
Valerie Zhao, Alto, chorus*
Adam Blake, Tenor, chorus*
Jesse Bogdan, Bass, chorus *
Ian Marshall, Bass, chorus
Ori Ravid, Bass, chorus*

*Students who received a recommendation to audition for the All State Music Ensembles on Saturday Jan. 21st at Shrewsbury HS.

The 9th annual Steve Richard Memorial Concert was held at LSRHS during the first week back from the school winter break. Eleven student bands performed and \$1,000 was raised towards a scholarship in Steve's name.

LSRHS Senior Nordic skier Corey Stock is ranked in of the top six juniors, under 20 years of age, in the US. Her ranking last week at US Senior National qualified for the World Junior Championships. Corey will travel to Turkey in mid-February to compete.

LSRHS visual art students are preparing for the *Boston Globe* Scholastic Arts Competition.

LSRHS Robotics Coach and Applied Tech faculty member Paul Schultz accompanied 10 LSRHS Robotics Team members to Northeastern University for the formal kick-off of the US F.I.R.S.T. Robotics Competition. Scott was happy to report that

the team is supported by university student mentors from Tufts, as well as engineers from Raytheon in Sudbury who have re-engaged with the team. One engineer from Raytheon was a US F.I.R.S.T. competitor herself. In addition two parents, one of a 9th grader and one of an incoming freshman for 2012/13 are supporting the team.

LSRHS finished second to Mansfield HS in the *Boston Globe* Dalton Sports award for best regular season records during 2011, missing a first by .7%.

LSRHS Girls' Volleyball Coach Judy Katalina was awarded the 2011 National Federation of State High School Associations Northeast Sectional Volleyball Coach of the Year.

Student Representative Report

LSRHS Student Senate President Emily Casey reported to the Committee that the forum on LSRHS culture was successful. The event featured a panel of four LS seniors who spoke about their experiences with staff and faculty and connectedness at LS. Students in attendance were provided with comment cards and Emily reported that the majority of comments pointed to widespread positive relationships between students and faculty. The Student Senate and LS School Climate Committee will glean more specific information from the comments and determine next steps. Emily was asked to report their findings back to the Committee.

The Student Senate has also been working with LSRHS Junior Evan Sobkowicz on an LSRHS smart phone app. The conclusion is that while an app will not be possible, a mobile website with fast links to highly utilized parts of the LSRHS website may be possible.

Teachers' Association Report

Lisa Weiss spoke of the school preparation for the week of exams that are upcoming.

She also told the Committee that Jorge Allen, Caroline Han, Lori Hodin, Sue Leichtman, Tracie Lopez, Leslie Patterson and Karen Thomsen, who were members of the Racial Climate Committee of the former METCO Task Force, and Rick Pinderhughes of Visions Inc. conducted a professional development session for the faculty. The METCO Task Force was a voluntary group of staff that was created in the spring of 2010 to support students and staff during the transition to a consolidated METCO directorship. The presentation during the session included results of surveys conducted last year. 7 students of color, both METCO and resident students, spoke of their personal experiences at LS - what has helped them be successful, what has been difficult. The faculty asked questions of these courageous young folks.

Chair's Report

Nancy Marshall spoke about the recent publication of statistics regarding senior volunteer hours at LSRHS and how the Class of 2012 has completed 34,767 hours of Community Service so far in their years at LSRHS, equal to 11.9 years. That's over 3,000 more hours than the class of 2011. There are only 47 seniors who have not reported their required Community Service hours for graduation to the MLK Action Project office.

Nancy also spoke of her attendance at the Eastern Senior District Festival with her family. The event was remarkable, a very high standard of performance and responsiveness from the student performers.

Lastly, Nancy has had ongoing correspondence and conversations with MA State Rep Tom Conroy with regard to the fiscal issues facing the District in currently known out-of-district Special Education tuitions for this year and for FY13. She has extended an invitation for Tom and Senator Jamie Eldridge to join the Committee at a meeting in the near future.

Superintendent/Principals Report

Scott spoke again to the Student Senate/Climate Committee forum on connectedness at LSRHS. It remains a recurring theme that upholds much of what is done well at the high school.

Scott also brought to the Committee's attention that there will be a transition in East House with the early departure of

Leslie Gray Patterson, East Housemaster, who has been advised by her doctor to take a medical leave as she awaits the arrival of twins. A hiring committee was in place to anticipate Leslie's departure, and at the beginning of second semester, English Faculty member Jason Medeiros will transition as interim East Housemaster until Leslie is able to return. Scott encouraged the Committee to extend its best wishes to Leslie and to Jason in this transition.

In a recent email to parents, Scott highlighted the many activities outside the classroom that are undertaken by the school community – theatre, robotics, music, speech and debate, etc. All of these activities happen with faculty and parent support, providing a window for the greater community in Lincoln, Sudbury and Boston to witness many aspects of the good things that are done at LSRHS, whether those witnessing have direct connections to LS or not.

Draft Concussion Policy Review

Nancy Marshall reviewed a copy of a revision to the policy as provided to the Committee by Scott Carpenter following a discussion at a previous School Committee meeting. In reviewing the draft with Athletic Director Nancy O'Neil, Nancy highlighted to the Committee some suggestions for edits in language and to improve clarity. Further comments were offered in reviewing the finalized policy of the Lincoln Public Schools and whether there were any aspects of their policy that could strengthen LSRHS's policy. Nancy offered to track all changes into a successive draft and provide it to the Committee for review and possible vote at the next meeting. The District has been in compliance with Massachusetts State regulations governing sports-related concussions and head injuries. The filing of an articulated policy to the State Department of Public Health will provide final guidelines and the basis for biannual review of the policy and all required annual reporting to the State.

Patty Mostue provided copies to the Committee of a recent Opinion by Derrick Jackson in the January 8 *Boston Globe* about concussions and youth sports, "The Black Hole of Sports".

Budget Information and Discussion

Judy updated the Committee with news that there is an immediate need for a replacement truck for Buildings and Grounds, requested by LS Director of Buildings and Grounds Kevin Rossley. LSRHS is responsible for all snow removal, and while the snow season thus far has been minimal in need for clearing, the capacity of the current fleet of trucks is compromised, given the age and condition of one of the trucks. She will provide a full update to the Committee as to specifications and cost at the January 24 meeting.

FY13 Calendar

Judy and Scott provided a draft of the FY13 school calendar to the Committee, with a pre-Labor Day start and four-day Labor Day weekend scheduled, as has been the schedule over the past few years. Edits were provided by the Committee and a revised draft will be returned for review on January 24.