

LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Minutes

Tuesday, September 13, 2011

7:30 p.m. Public Session

Conference Room B

Present: Nancy Marshall, Chair, Radha Gargeya, Vice-Chair, Patty Mostue, Elena Kleifges, Mark Collins, and Kevin Matthews.

Also present: Lisa Weiss, Teachers' Association President, Scott Carpenter, Superintendent/Principal, Judy Belliveau, Director of Finance & Operations, and Suzanne Burns, School Committee Secretary, as well as the visitors listed on the sign-in sheet attached to the approved minutes of this meeting, were also present. The METCO Representative was unable to attend.

Agenda Enclosures/Handouts

- Unapproved minutes for the August 3, 2011 School Committee meeting
- Unapproved minutes for the August 18, 2011 School Committee meeting
- Unapproved minutes for the August 31, 2011 School Committee meeting
- Letter of proposal for the Donation of Lacrosse Wall
- L-S Residency Policy

Call to Order

Nancy opened the Public Meeting at 7:40

Approval of Minutes

- Patty Mostue motion to approve the minutes for August 3, 2011. Elena seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.
- Patty Mostue motion to approve the minutes for August 18, 2011. Elena seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.
- Patty Mostue motion to approve the minutes for August 31, 2011. Elena seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Recognitions

Scott Carpenter talked to the School Committee about meetings held with each incoming class from grades 9-12 in which students discussed the school climate and

the core values L-S embodied. He recognized the LS School Climate Committee and students; Paul Tocci, Jahnea Johnson, Wyatt Owens, who planned and made presentations for our welcome back all-grade meetings to set a tone of respect, review core values, and the A.C.T. (Acknowledge, Care, Talk) plan for standing against mistreatment of others or "bullying", and shared a letter sent by the parent of a freshman who, after experiencing bullying elsewhere, was met on his first day of high school by a throng of cheering, encouraging seniors. He stated that he felt that "first adventure" feeling is what we try to have on day one, and that it was wonderful to have a parent acknowledge this. Scott also recognized Ann Kramer, Chris Herbert, and Lori Hodin for coordinating the L-S 9/11 commemoration.

Teachers' Association Report

Lisa Weiss reported that the Teachers Association met a few days ago and proposed that the School Committee start a subcommittee on teacher evaluations. Lisa said that she expected to have the names of proposed TA members to the School Committee by the end of the week.

METCO Representative Report

There was no METCO report.

Chairman's Report

Nancy shared a photo of the building and grounds crew taken as they were in the process of power washing the school buildings, and talked about the cleanup process which was underway and on schedule.

She also reported that she communicated with the Sudbury Finance Committee Chair Jim Rao about how to improve communication between School and Sudbury Finance Committees to better direct and facilitate understanding of any requests for information, hopefully allowing everyone to respond in a timely fashion. She also reminded the School Committee that the Sudbury Board of Selectmen has a meeting coming up on September 27, 2011 to report on estimated revenues and reported that they extended a special invitation to the School Committee to participate.

Liaison Reports

Radha Gargeya reported that there was no further news yet on the issue of health insurance.

He said that the Sudbury Public School would be having their meetings soon and that he hoped, as a liaison to SPS, to report back at the next School Committee meeting.

Superintendent/Principal's Report

Scott shared more news about the beginning of the school year, and shared details on the School's commemoration of 9/11, which was very emotional for the whole school. The day began with a reading over the intercom by staff members of a narrative of the events as well as a poem by former United States Poet Laureate Billy Collins, and Community members reached out to let him know about students who connected to

those events of 10 years ago. For many of the students the event is a very abstract thing given their age ten years ago, but for many of the adults, the memory is very vivid. Radha commented that he was at LS when the faculty made their presentation on the intercom and it was quite moving.

Scott also talked about some of the challenges presented by Hurricane Irene, and said he was glad that the school did not have to use snow days for a hurricane. He talked about some of the communication challenges during the emergency; although the school did not lose power, the phone lines were down. He conducted multiple efforts to communicate including a reverse 911 “phone blast”, email blast, and outreach to *Sudbury Patch*, and was pleased by the efficiency in communicating with parents.

Scott also talked about new features on the L-S’s website which is currently in the final stages of redesign, including a new page called “Carpenter’s Corner” where he will make regular announcements.

Scott said eventually the Chair and Vice Chair of the School Committee, and the Superintendent/Principal and Director of Finance will have the power to update the School Committee portion of the LS website easily and quickly. Right now the process is inefficient, but she hoped that, as the design for the website evolves, access will soon be streamlined. Scott also recognized student Evan Sobkowicz for the work he has done on the redesign.

Scott also announced that School Council elections are forthcoming and would send out a email soon with the details.

Information & Discussion

Donation of Lacrosse Wall

Discussion was deferred for a future meeting. Scott reported that he had not yet received from a letter from the donor describing the proposed donation in detail.

Donation of Volleyball Sand Court

Discussion was deferred for a future meeting. Scott said he would like to have students come and present on this.

Nancy also commented that the School Committee would need to revise the donations policy and suggested that the policy require provisions covering the reasonable costs for the lifetime care of items donated in the future. For example, the Town of Sudbury has trust fund and includes an agreement with donors that 10% of the value of donated items has to be raised to be included in trust fund to cover maintenance. We should have a similar policy.

Review of LSRS Residency Policy

Scott said that he would like to review and clarify L-S’s residency policy at a future meeting and circulated a document which detailed the current policy. It becomes

challenging because it is often difficult to figure out whether or not a student is truly a resident, e.g., sometimes parents transfer guardianship of a child in order to maintain access to L-S. Scott expressed that he felt uncomfortable that the policy does not more carefully emphasize the value of keeping families together.

Mark responded that the process of legal guardianship is rigorous, requiring court approval, and that School Committee must make sure that whatever we do to revise the policy that it remain consistent with our legal obligation to provide an education to students who have legal guardians. Nancy said that she agreed that the School Committee needs to visit this issue and clarify the policy as needed. She suggested that the School Committee look into the residency policies in other school districts and then come back to the issue at a future meeting.

Action Items

There were no other action items.

Other Business

Judy Belliveau reported on the upcoming purchase of a new van from the Capital Fund, approved at a prior meeting at a cost that was lower than was estimated. She reported that they would soon choose a vendor.

Bill Schedules

Judy said that there were warrants to sign.

Calendar of School Events

9/14/11	6:00 p.m.	Back to School Night	Curtis Auditorium
9/19/11	7:00 a.m.	Executive Session	Conference Room B
9/27/11	7:00 p.m.	Sudbury Board of Selectmen Meeting	
10/4/11	7:30 p.m.	School Committee Meeting	Conference Room B

Executive Session

An Executive Session took place prior to tonight's meeting at 6pm for the purpose of discussing matters related to collective bargaining which, if not discussed in Executive Session, could be detrimental to the District's position. A further Executive Session was not needed.

Adjourn

On a motion by Patty Mostue, seconded by Radha Gargeya, the School Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 9pm.