

LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE
Minutes

Tuesday, October 4, 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: Scott Carpenter, Superintendent/Principal, Judy Belliveau, Director of Finance & Operations, Lisa Weiss, Teachers' Association President, 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 Representatives were unable to attend. Emily Casey, the Student Representative, was also unable to attend.

Agenda Enclosures/Handouts

- Unapproved minutes for the September 27, 2011 School Committee meeting
- Presentation to MASBO on The New Municipal Health Insurance Reform Law (September 27, 2011)
- LSRHS Policy on Donations and Fundraising (draft for discussion purposes)
- LSRHS Residency Policy (draft for discussion purposes)

Call to Order

Nancy called Public Session to order at 7:35.

Approval of Minutes

Patty Mostue motioned to approve the minutes for September 13, 2011. Elena seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Presentation by Buildings and Grounds

Nancy Marshall welcomed Kevin Rossley, Facilities Coordinator for L-S, along with Don Foss, Steve Henning, and Bruce Millet from the Building and Grounds department who presented an update on summer maintenance projects conducted at the school.

They reported that one of the biggest projects was the exterior wood finishing, which had been deferred for a few years. They finished more than half the facility, and hoped to finish the other half next summer. They also hired a consultant through grant funds who spent time inspecting the electrical and HVAC systems. There had been issues

such as random outages, and Kevin was pleased to be able to get expert advice and then have the staff be able to accomplish much of the rewiring that was required. They reported that all health and safety compliance measures, such as checking fire alarms, were completed. They also refinished the gym floors, installed the World Language Mural, and rewired the backstage lighting in the auditorium. They also installed new goal posts for the football field, and completed the batting cage lighting retrofit. They would also like to redo the auditorium lighting to make it more energy efficient.

Future plans include upgrading the PC they use to run the software to track everything, and switching from the current proprietary software system to a new open source web-based system, which they hoped would be more flexible and cost effective.

They also reported that about 35 students volunteered to help on various projects during the summer, more than they have ever had before, and that the students were friendly and extremely helpful and a great pleasure to work with.

Public Comment

Nancy welcomed L-S students John Newton and Devin Patel, both members of the L-S Volleyball team, who presented on the proposed donation of a volleyball court. Their presentation, which included a picture of what the new court would look like, contributed much to the information and discussion. Members of the School Committee discussed how the court would be financed and Judy clarified how funds for student activities are managed. Patty suggested that they address how the court's upkeep would be managed. The School Committee decided to wait until the donations policy is finalized before they vote.

Recognitions

Scott Carpenter reported on a recent Block Island field trip led by L-S teacher Alison Sanders-Fleming who took twenty-seven students to visit beaches, cliffs, and a bird-banding station.

He also recognized L-S staff members Sarah Greely, Emily Phillips, and Susan Shields for their work with student leaders for tomorrow's MetroWest Adolescent Health Survey presentation, which covers everything from substance abuse to stress to sexual activity among teens. He noted that several L-S students will be presenting the survey results, and their presentation will conclude with an audience discussion about how we can work together to guide youth to better decisions.

He recognized L-S staff Toni Benhaim and Leslie Belcher as well as the front office staff for the relatively smooth Back-To-School Night. He also congratulated Wendy Casey, Jay Flannagan, Katie Howard, and Vincent Cannistraro for their election to the Student Council.

Scott commended Evan Sobkowicz for the excellent work he has done in redesigning the L-S website. The new web design is powered by Wordpress, a content management system which makes it much more user-friendly, and streamlines the update process for administrators.

Teachers' Association Report

Lisa Weiss reported that tomorrow would mark the school's mid-quarter, which seemed to happen very fast. She also reported that the Massachusetts Mathematics Olympiad Competition Round I, is set to take place at L-S in December.

METCO Representative Report

There was no METCO report.

Chairman's Report

Nancy reported that the fifth annual Kicks for Cancer boys high school soccer festival was held at Concord-Carlisle High School. What began as a one game event in 2007 has now become a six-game affair, doubling in size from a year ago when six teams participated in three games that raised \$15,000 for the Dana Farber Cancer Institute last year. Everybody got wet, there was a huge L-S contingent, and the event received a nice write up in the Boston Globe. She also thanked the Sudbury Board of Selectmen for inviting the School Committee to attend their meeting last week, and thanked the School Committee for all the work they did this year. The summer retreat was a great success. Nancy also read a brief report for the School Committee's Student Representative, Emily Casey who could not attend.

Liaison Reports

Radha reported that the Minuteman Nashoba Health Group board meeting will take place at L-S on October 20th. They are expected to finalize their healthcare plan design and have rates before Thanksgiving. Radha suggested that as L-S moves forward with its financial planning, it would be a good idea to write to them as soon as possible and request rates sooner. He offered to draft this letter. Mark suggested that in the interest of timing, the School Committee should get this letter out as soon as possible and motioned that the School Committee authorize Radha to draft the letter and send it out, signed by Nancy. The motion was seconded by Patty, and passed unanimously.

Superintendent/Principal's Report

Scott reported that L-S couldn't have asked for better weather or a better game on Friday night. It was an outstanding game played by the L-S football team. He reported that the overwhelming majority of the students were enjoying the game and the atmosphere, but one student near the end of the game had to be taken to the hospital for alcohol poisoning. Scott said that we try to keep our kids safe and try to guide them to better decision-making with the "no bags, no outside beverages, and no re-admittance" rules for our games. Campus aides or other L-S staff and police are at each gate interacting with fans and enforcing the stadium rules. Scott stated the school and parents need to work collaboratively to address some of the safety challenges of our students.

Scott also reported that there was one other item of concern that occurred at last Friday's football game: fan rushing into the field to celebrate the team's victory. He

stated that from an athletic perspective, overly celebrating victory could be seen as unsportsmanlike and a team and school could be sanctioned for fan behavior. From a safety perspective, anytime a mass of humanity stampedes onto a field there is risk for accidental injury or death by trampling. He reported that he discussed the matter with the housemasters in consultation with Nancy O'Neil. On Friday, they expect to have the team captain lead a PA announcement about field rushing, sportsmanship, and safety.

Scott also reported that a lot of effort has gone into finalizing the Alumni Survey. He recognized the English Department Coordinator Dan Conti's efforts to help create, edit, and organize the distribution of the survey. He also recognized Lisa Kenney's input into the survey and question design.

Information & Discussion

Donation to FATA Department

Judy reported that Vera Schlichter donated a number of gemstones to L-S's metalworks (jewelry) program. The donation consisted of cabochons and faceted stones including lapis, tourmaline, opal and more. L-S would like to accept this donation. Mark made a motion to accept the donation. Elena seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Review of LSRS Residency Policy

Nancy thanked Scott and Elena for doing research on how other districts determine residency with an eye to strengthening L-S's residency policy. She distributed a draft of the policy for the School Committee to review, and pointed out areas that had been clarified. She suggested that the School Committee discuss and vote on the policy at a future meeting.

Discussion on Use of OPEB Trust Fund

Judy reported that she attended a meeting with members of the Sudbury Finance Committee, Town Manager Maureen Valente, Asst. Town Manager Maryanne Bilodeau, and Town Treasurer Andrea Terkelsen. The meeting was called to discuss the OPEB liabilities for the town and for L-S and ways to get future reports that have comparable assumptions built into them. It was agreed that, for the next report, the town and L-S will bid jointly for an actuarial firm and have the same assumptions used for both.

The discussion then turned to funding the OPEB liability. The town had an article voted at town meeting that allowed it to budget for its retiree insurance through the OPEB trust fund and any unspent funds would remain in the trust. This would then be the initial funding of the OPEB liability. The town is considering doing the same for active employee insurance.

Judy explained that the unspent funds would otherwise have rolled into free cash at the end of the year and could be used to fund future budgets. At L-S any unspent funds have to flow into E&D and then, by regional agreement, are reapportioned to provide revenue to fund the future budget cycle. Bob Jacobson from the Sudbury Finance

Committee was present and supported L-S budgeting in a similar way as the town in order to begin to fund the OPEB liability.

Other Business

Judy reported that L-S had its preliminary enrollment numbers. The October 1st report has students enrolled at 1,600. The official report will be released next week.

Patty handed out a revised draft Donations and Fundraising Policy to review and discuss at a later meeting. Mark discussed his concerns about where funds that are raised go. He was particularly concerned about cash donations raised door to door by students -- where do they go? How are they reported? Judy said that work is being done internally on this process and one change that is being made is the elimination of Student Activity Accounts for athletic teams and shifting everything into revolving accounts, under the general heading of athletics, but with a separate line for each sport.

Bill Schedules

Judy reported that there were no warrants to sign.

Calendar of School Events

October 11, 2011 7:30 p.m. School Committee Meeting Conference Room B

Executive Session

On a motion by Elena, seconded by Patty, a roll call vote was taken and all members voted in the affirmative to enter into Executive Session at 10:35 p.m. 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. The Committee will not return to Open Session.