

**LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes**

**Tuesday, October 25, 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 October 4, 2011 School Committee meeting
- Unapproved minutes for the October 11, 2011 School Committee meeting
- FY12 October 1st Enrollment Update
- FY13 Enrollment Projections
- Memo from Lincoln Finance Committee Re: FY13 Budget Guidelines
- Memo Regarding Robotics Team Competition and Fundraising Proposal
- Sand Volleyball Court Followup Document
- Draft of Capital Plan

**Call to Order**

Nancy Marshall called Public Session to order at 7:35.

**Approval of Minutes**

Patty Mostue made a motion to approve the minutes for October 4, 2011. Elena Kleifges seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Mark Collins made a motion to approve the minutes for October 11, 2011. Elena seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

**Public Comment**

Susan Richmond expressed her disappointment regarding the school's recent decision to cancel the traditional college visits due to budget constraints, stating that preparing students for college and beyond is one reason why we are all here. She suggested that in the future when there is a decision that is required because of the budget that

consideration be given to other options parents might consider to address the need - for example, parent volunteers. Parents can be key, and in this community there is a lot of interest in helping out. She also asked why juniors have not yet been given accounts and passwords on Naviance, which could help them begin exploring which colleges they might want to apply to in the coming year.

Stephanie Skedros reiterated Susan's feelings and expressed her agreement that juniors should have access to Naviance. Nancy agreed that she too is eager to help students utilize Naviance and thanked both parents for their comments. Scott promised to address their concerns later in the meeting.

### **Recognitions**

Scott described the World Language Mural Dedication which was held on Thursday, 10/20, and thanked the Language Department, especially Silvana Stephens, for spearheading this event. He said she had obtained financing for the mural through grants from SERF, the Sudbury Local Cultural Council, the Lincoln Local Cultural Council, and the Mass Cultural Council. He also thanked Tom Grandprey and the L-S Select Jazz ensemble for their time and effort in performing the night of the event and to the LSPO for providing refreshments.

Scott also thanked the LSPO for sponsoring a Rock Climbing speaker, LS Alum and former Wellness faculty member, Matt McCormick. He said Matt brought substance and real world experience to our curriculum and showed students what can happen with hard work and following your passion.

The Community Connections Program was held last Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>. Scott thanked Sarah Greeley, David Bloom and Emily Phillips for making it happen. He announced that Al Fordiani, L-S JV Baseball coach, was selected Assistant Baseball Coach of the Year by the Mass. State Baseball Coaches Association. Scott also thanked Jaime Wong, Rebecca Carr and Susan Frommer for bringing their Shakespeare classes to a performance of *Twelfth Night* in Boston several weeks ago, and Biology teacher, Jeff Mazza and the students in Invisible Children Club for bringing in a great assembly on child soldiers.

Scott described the recent MLK Action Project, co-sponsored with the L-S Musicians Union, which included Rocktoberfest last Friday night, to raise funds to defeat AIDS. They raised more than \$1,000 to be donated to AIDS Action in the name of former L-S students who died of AIDS.

He also said he received a wonderful email from Julie Hebble thanking the MLK program for their help in providing volunteers for the Special Needs Soccer program.

### **Student Representative Report**

There was no report.

### **Teachers' Association Report**

Lisa Weiss invited School Committee members to attend L-S classes, and passed around a list of teachers and their contact information so that School Committee members could contact the teachers directly.

### **METCO Representative Report**

There was no report.

### **Chairman's Report**

Nancy reminded the School Committee that the collaborative annual joint conference between MASC and MASS, which presents a program of nationally known speakers, current-issue panel discussions, informative exhibits, and demonstrations of successful instructional and management initiatives in local districts, was taking place November 9-12 in Hyannis MA. She said that she went for two years and really enjoyed it; it's great way to meet people.

She also said she received an email from Marguerite Roche announcing that the LSB Players will be visiting the Sudbury and Lincoln Senior Centers with thirty free tickets to the Wednesday (November 16th, 7:30pm) performance of *Love's Labours Lost*, as well as an invitation to attend a pre-show reception, just as they did this past year when they performed *Our Town*. She also invited L-S staff to the reception, and invited the School Committee to attend the performance.

Nancy spoke about the current efforts at redistricting of the Lincoln and Sudbury's shared State Representation away from Lincoln and Wayland and circulated a letter she wrote to Senator Stanley C. Rosenberg, Senate Chair, and Representative Michael J. Moran, House Chair, asking them to give this proposal and the benefits of retaining the district as it currently stands further consideration.

### **Liaison Reports**

There were no reports.

### **Superintendent/Principal's Report**

Scott addressed the school's recent decision to cancel college visits due to budget constraints, and addressed the concerns expressed by Susan and Stephanie. He said he realizes the visits were a way for students to meet personally with college recruiters, that families are unhappy about the change, and that not all families are able to travel and make their own college visits.

The decision was covered in an article in the Boston Globe, and his statement from that article really did sum up the issue: the challenge is not about money, but about staff. The district had to cut the equivalent of 4.26 full-time teachers and counselors, and 5.13 support staff positions, including a half-time guidance counselor. With the guidance cut, the existing staff had to take on more students, and didn't have time in their schedule to manage hosting the traditional college visits at the high school.

Scott said he wished he had been able to communicate with families earlier, and was exploring alternative models on how to provide students with information about colleges and contact with college representatives, as well as information about the college application process. Scott contacted Linda Hawes, former LS Career Center Director, and she agreed to help reinstate the college visit program as much as possible.

Scott addressed Naviance, which he said would be a huge step forward. Right now Guidance is focused on introducing seniors to Naviance, but juniors should be getting their logins and passwords later in November. Juniors will be getting Naviance logins in November.

Mark asked the School Committee what their commitment to this process should be as a Committee? That process has changed, and continues to change, and there are budgetary restrictions, but helping students find their way into the right college is a high priority. Meeting these obligations is extremely important to all of us.

### **Information & Discussion**

#### **FATA Department Robotics Program and Donations**

Scott discussed the fundraising and donations proposal by L-S's Robotics Team, which would like to participate in this year's national F.I.R.S.T. robotics competition. The cost will be approximately \$5000, which includes equipment and parts to build the robots in accordance with competition guidelines, and the team would like to raise the money through fundraising events and donations. Scott noted that it has been a while since L-S has participated in this competition, and the collaborative nature of the competition tends to be very appealing to female students who are interested in engineering. He noted that he is impressed at how many L-S students pursue engineering, but there is generally a great disparity between men and women. The School Committee is being asked to authorize the Robotics Team to do the fundraising and solicit funding. Once they have done that, they will submit the report and the School Committee would vote to accept the donations.

Nancy proposed that the School Committee vote on the matter at this meeting but also expressed that the School Committee should formulate a set of conditions for reporting and accounting. Mark made a motion to approve the fundraising program proposed by Robotics Team provided they keep Scott apprised with their accounting. Kevin seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

#### **Review of School Committee Residency Policy**

Nancy said she spoke to Atty. Marc Terry about the proposed revisions to the residency policy, and showed the School Committee her final edits and clarifications to the document. She said that, after consulting with legal experts familiar with residency requirements, the Committee could only vote to create a guideline to support Scott, but not make it enforceable. Scott is empowered to use the guideline, which requires students to reside in the district four nights a week or face removal from the school. Nancy said that the policy does not supercede any collective bargaining agreements

(i.e., that teachers can send their children to Lincoln-Sudbury, regardless of where they live) and added that the Committee will review the policy on an annual basis.

Mark made a motion to approve the Residency Policy, pending minor edits. Patty seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

### **Enrollment Projections**

Judy Belliveau circulated two more documents regarding enrollment: an update on the FY12 October 1st Enrollment reflecting a shift of students between 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade, and the FY13 Enrollment Projections, and she reviewed the results. The projections indicate a decrease in enrollment for the third straight year, with an increase still anticipated in FY14, though not as large an increase as had been projected in prior year enrollment reports.

### **Draft of Updated Capital Plan**

Judy circulated a preliminary draft of the Capital Plan and reported that she and Kevin Rossley were still compiling information. She expected to have a more polished version soon. She noted that technology represented the biggest items in the budget but wanted to point out that, given the budget reductions, L-S has not been purchasing equipment across all departments and this is catching up to us.

### **Action Items**

In addition to voting on the FATA Department Robotics Program and Donations, above, the School Committee discussed and voted on the proposed Volleyball Court donation. Patty expressed that she felt that the materials the students had supplied were not complete, and did not answer all questions. Nancy suggested that the School Committee should outline more clearly in the Donations Policy what should be provided with such proposals. She also said that if the students provided the written form of their presentation, most questions would probably be answered. Mark made a motion to accept the proposal subject to concerns raised. Elena seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

### **Other Business**

There were no other business items.

### **Bill Schedules**

Judy told the School Committee that there would be warrants to sign at the end of the week.

### **Calendar of School Events**

11/8/11      7:30 p.m.      School Committee Meeting      Conference Room B

### **Adjourn**

On a motion by Patty Mostue, seconded by Radha Gargeya, the School Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:50pm.