

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

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

5:30 p.m. Executive Session

Conference Room A

Call to Order:

Nancy Marshall called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m..

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

Also present: Scott Carpenter, Superintendent/Principal, and Judy Belliveau, Director of Finance & Operations.

Executive Session

On a motion by Kevin Matthews, seconded by Elena Kleifges, a roll call vote was taken and all members voted in the affirmative to enter into Executive Session 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.

7:30 p.m. Public Session

Conference Room B

The School Committee returned to Public Session.

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 Charlotte Balogh, Student Representative, 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 could not be present.

Agenda Enclosures/Handouts

- Unapproved minutes for the November 8, 2011 School Committee meeting
- Revised draft of the Donations Policy
- L-S Head Injuries Procedures and other information on this topic
- Memo from Judy Belliveau regarding FY12 potential deficit
- Insurance Advisory Committee representatives
- Information on grants and donations for the Robotics Team competition

Call to Order

Nancy Marshall called the Public Meeting to order at 7:30pm.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the minutes was held until the next meeting so that all members would be prepared to vote.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Recognitions

Nancy Marshall asked Paul Shultz to speak briefly about the Robotics Team Competition. Paul was very happy to report that L-S was awarded the NASA grant to attend the competition and also received a grant from a foundation, in addition to the donation from a parent. These funding sources were more than sufficient for the registration costs and would provide funds to also purchase materials to construct and ship the robot. It is very expensive to participate and L-S will be able to do so for the first time in a few years. Scott commented on the tremendous amount of work Paul put into the process to apply for the grants, and his willingness to take this on in his first year of teaching at L-S. The Committee congratulated Paul on this success.

Student Representative Report

Charlotte Balogh reported on the number of subcommittees of the Student Senate that have been formed to address Veterans' Day, recommendations for L-S courses, iPASS and students, development of an L-S App for smart phones, dodgeball, and school spirit. There are 20-25 students involved.

Teachers' Association Report

Lisa Weiss reported that members of the TA are meeting with Patty Mostue and Elena Kleifges to get a shared understanding of the new legislation regarding teacher evaluation. She also noted that L-S is already at the halfway mark for the quarter!

METCO Representative Report

Nancy Marshall noted that Janine Dailey is working with the METCO parent community to find representatives to replace Neslon Reyes and Mercedes Orozco who are unable to participate this year.

Chairman's Report

Nancy advised the Committee that the choral concert at L-S is Thursday at 7:00 pm and the Middle School would be coming to it also. She also complimented the cast of *Love's Labour's Lost* for a wonderful production. The students were confident and the band was terrific. There was a great turnout for it.

Liaison Reports

Mark Collins attended the Mass. Association of School Committees conference and reported that the programs were timely and informative. There were panels on Teacher Evaluation, health insurance reform, and regionalization and collaboration. The powerpoint presentations are available on-line at the MASC website. He also noted that there was a presentation on collective bargaining that included Alan MacDonald, Barry Bluestone (economist from Northeastern University) and a person from MIT.

Superintendent/Principal's Report

Scott Carpenter reported on his experiences in Germany. He had the opportunity to go as a member of the Pasch Principals' group as a result of the affiliation established by Joan Campbell and Michelle LePietre. He referred the Committee and audience to his reflections that he posted on the website in "Carpenter's Corner". Scott commented on what struck him most about the German system is the tracking that occurs at such a young age whereby the course of studies that students will undertake is determined at our comparable 4th grade and once determined, there is no option to change. He met a woman who has formed a non-profit to help facilitate students moving out of a pre-determined track to allow them to pursue studies that they are capable of succeeding in and are interested in. Scott also described the strong involvement that businesses have in the education system. They have their own university programs to train students, particularly in engineering or high level technical programs, in order to supply their own skilled work force.

The annual Thanksgiving dinner for senior citizens was held on Wednesday before the holiday and it was a wonderful event. Scott thanked the LSPO for its assistance in funding the event, Tom Grandprey and Michael Bunting for arranging the musical accompaniment, all of the student volunteers, and Bob Harden and his staff of Aramark for the meal preparation and involvement.

Information & Discussion

Review of School Committee Donations Policy

Nancy Marshall reported that she, Patty Mostue and Elena Kleifges had a series of meetings with faculty coaches, parent volunteers and other representatives from activities such as LSB players and SERF. They reviewed the policy and Nancy distributed the final version of edits for the School Committee to consider. The edits took into account Mark Collins' concerns about door-to-door fundraising. Nancy would like to come back at the December meeting for a vote. Once voted there will need to be a systematic rollout of the policy to all groups affected – sports, arts, etc. – so everyone is apprised of it.

As another outcome of the policy discussions there will be further discussion with Sudbury regarding establishment of a trust to fund maintenance of fields used by the community.

Mark Collins had specific concerns about some of the sections and Kevin Matthews suggested holding the discussion until the next meeting on the 13th.

Head Injury Guidelines

Nancy Marshall referred the Committee to the MASC information she forwarded with respect to the deadlines for establishing guidelines. The District is required to develop a policy and file it with the State's Department of Public Health. In the interim we can send an attestation that the District has guidelines that it is following. Scott thought that the work Nancy O'Neil had already done was pretty comprehensive and, with some editing, could become the policy. He noted that Nancy O'Neil had been out in front of this issue.

FY12 Potential Budget Deficit

Judy had distributed a memo to the Committee outlining the changes in Special Education tuitions and transportation that exceeded the budget. She had also included recommendations on how to address it, which involved using Excess and Deficiency funds (which are intended for unanticipated budget issues) and applying for the State's Extraordinary Relief for special education costs. She had already corresponded with the DESE and is certain that the District will qualify. The difficulty is that the application for this funding does not come out until February and then notification to districts doesn't occur until April or May. The State has \$5 million set aside for this and how much each district gets is partly a result of how many apply for it. L-S would have to exceed its FY11 special education costs by at least 25% in order to qualify to apply. If we qualify, which Judy expected we would, each tuition has to meet the Circuit Breaker threshold, then the district has to absorb the first 10% over that. The State would then reimburse 75% of the balance..

Action Items

- The Committee will wait to vote on the grants and donations for the Robotics Team
- On a motion by Kevin Matthews, seconded by Patty Mostue, the School Committee voted unanimously to appoint Susan Frommer as the retiree representative on the District's Insurance Advisory Committee.
- Nancy Marshall asked to table the vote to send the attestation to the State Department of Public Health regarding the district's head injuries policy.

Other Business

There were no other business items.

Bill Schedules

Warrants for November 30th were circulated for signatures.

Calendar of School Events

Monday	12-05-2011	7:00 am	Executive Session	Conf Rm A
Monday	12-05-2011	10:00 am	MNHG Board Meeting	Conf Rm B
Thursday	12-08-2011	7:15 am	Joint FinCom Meeting	Conf Rm A
Monday	12-12-2011	7:00 am	Executive Session	Conf Rm A
Tuesday	12-13-2011	7:30 pm	Regular School Committee	Conf Rm B
Wednesday	12-14-2011	7:00 pm	Lincoln Joint Budget Mtg	Hartwell Bldg
Monday	12-19-2011	7:30 pm	Sudbury Finance Comm.	Flynn Bldg

Adjourn

On a motion by Patty Mostue, seconded by Mark Collins, the School Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 10:03 pm.