

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

**Tuesday, December 13, 2011**

**6:00 p.m. Executive Session**

**Conference Room A**

Nancy Marshall called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

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

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

**Executive Session**

On a motion by Radha Gargeya, seconded by Patty Mostue, 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, Emily Casey, Student Representative, Leslie Belcher, Lincoln-Sudbury Curriculum Coordinator, David Hosford as the Teachers' Association representative, 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 could not be present.

**Agenda Enclosures/Handouts**

- Donations Policy revision dated 11/18/11
- Memo from Judy Belliveau regarding potential FY12 Special Education deficit
- Memo from Judy Belliveau recommending award of a contract for 403b plan administration

## **Call to Order**

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

## **Approval of Minutes**

Kevin Matthews motioned to approve the minutes for November 8, 2011. Patty Mostue seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Patty Mostue motioned to approve the minutes for November 29, 2011. Elena Kleifges seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

## **Recognitions**

Scott Carpenter recognized the following:

- There are many behind the scenes groups who work tirelessly to make L-S beautiful. He recognized and thanked the Plant Care Team headed by Housemaster, Eleanor Burke and parent, Heidi Derbyshire. This small group of 11 volunteers water the plants, trim dead leaves and obtain new plants for our hallways. The plants beautify and truly warm up the open spaces.
- The Speech and Debate Club hosted the Mass. Forensics League Tournament at LS this past Saturday. They hosted approximately 500 high school students plus 130 adult Judges.
- Two of the team members placed first in the Debate portion of the tournament: Jeremy Cohen and Neil Wei. Another of LS's teams placed 4th in Debate; Natasha Kadlec, Crystal Phu, who are both freshmen. Will Carlough took 7th in Group Discussions and the remainder of the LS team members performed very well.
- The SERF Board of Directors announced this past week that we were the recipients of two Fall Enrichment Grants. The grants went to:
  - Silvana Stephen and Jorge Allen - Using Technology to Enhance Interactive Language Activities. The amount of the grant was \$3,240.
  - Laura Rotondo and Nicole Digenis from our Science Dept. - The High School Science Active Classroom in the amount of \$5,800.

## **MCAS Presentation – Leslie Belcher, Curriculum Coordinator**

Leslie Belcher, Curriculum Coordinator made a summary Power Point presentation on how LS did on the MCAS in 2011, and reviewed how LS is interpreting and using the scores. The primary question for LS is how they can better serve the interests of individual students. What supports can be offered to those for whom the standardized testing is a challenge? Her presentation reviewed results in all subject areas, and showed that LS was doing far better than state averages in each category. Results were high in all categories. The Tech and Engineering results were lower mainly because the students who took the exams were not currently receiving instruction in this area. If MCAS tests are administered in the area they are currently studying (e.g., Biology), student outcomes are better.. She also presented and discussed statistics to show how LS scores measure up with the no child left behind laws. **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

## **Student Representative Report**

Emily Casey reported that the Student Senate was in the final stages of planning a forum to talk about LS school culture. The Student Senate is planning a fundraising effort, pictures with Santa, to support the erection of a plaque honoring LS community members who have served in the US Armed Forces

### **Teachers' Association Report**

There was no Teachers' Association report.

### **METCO Representative Report**

There was no METCO report. Nancy said she met with Janine Daily on Friday and they discussed two possible new METCO parent representatives. She also reported that Janine would come to speak to the School Committee sometime in January.

### **Chairman's Report**

Nancy reported that she attended the recent Winter Concert at L-S and that it was wonderful. She also reported that she and Radha were part of the joint meeting of the Finance Committee liaisons last week. Judy submitted a number of documents, including a draft of the five-year Capital Plan, to them to prepare for future meetings with both Lincoln and Sudbury's Finance Committees. We are currently trying to work through with each town what our rights are in terms of the Capital Plan bylaw in Sudbury and to what degree we are eligible to apply for funds. Both Sudbury and Lincoln set aside funds annually for this purpose.

### **Liaison Reports**

There were no Liaison reports.

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

Scott Carpenter talked to the School Committee about the -S policy on holiday decorations. Personally, he has never been a part of a minority group that doesn't observe winter holidays or feels strongly about observing or not them. L-S has a policy of inclusion, and Housemasters have in the past placed notes in student mailboxes about how to handle holiday decorations so that nobody feels alienated. This year the note articulating school guidelines (e.g., avoid Santa and Christmas trees, neutrality on religion, and strive to create decorations that are inclusive of everyone) was emailed out to students. He said he advocated that student voices be a part of the dialog, and pointed out that there were many sources for holiday guidance. One he felt was particularly well-written was an essay, *December Dilemma*, published online by the Anti-Defamation League. He commended the Winter Concert for doing a particularly good job of balancing out different kinds of seasonal music. He said he will be talking to students about decorating the Senior Spot; the Student Senate also plans to address the issue.

### **Information & Discussion**

#### **Review of School Committee Donations Policy**

Nancy circulated a revised draft of the proposed L-S Donations Policy, and the School Committee reviewed and discussed line by line all changes in detail. Nancy O'Neil summarized

how fundraising works in the athletic department and what their priorities are. She circulated handouts which detailed a highly successful program with very committed students, a supportive community, and a strong all-sports Booster club. She particularly highlighted the difficulty in finding good coaches. The athletic department is doing the best it can during challenging times, and wants to be a part of the solution.

The School Committee decided to take the proposal through one more draft and tabled voting for a future meeting.

### **FY'12 Budget Update**

Judy Belliveau reported that there is no real change to the deficit situation reported at last meeting. Right now, we have to cover a deficit of about \$324,000. Nancy reminded the committee that the School Committee will be speaking with the Lincoln Finance Committee tomorrow at 8pm.

### **FY'12 Potential Budget Deficit**

Judy also distributed a memo to the School 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 said she had already corresponded with the State, 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% 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. [Is this correct in its explanation insofar as where the 75% comes into play?]The State would then reimburse 75% of the balance.

### **FY'13 Budget Information and Discussion**

Judy said there was no further information about the FY'13 budget at this time.

### **Capital Plan**

Judy reported that there were only a few minor changes to the Capital Plan, and that she would send the updated version soon to the School Committee and post it to the school's website.

### **Action Items**

#### **Vote on School Committee Donations Policy**

The School Committee tabled voting for a future meeting.

#### **Vote on Attestation on Head Injury Policy for Dept. of Public Health**

The School Committee tabled voting for a future meeting. Scott and Judy said the policy is still being finalized; the Policy, when voted, will go to the Department of Health for final review to ensure LSRHS is in full compliance.

**Vote to Award 403b Third Party Administration Services Contract**

Judy circulated a proposal to award a 403b third-party administrative services contract to MidAmerica Administrative and Retirement Solutions Inc. Mark Collins made a motion to approve the award. Patty seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.

**Other Business**

There were no other business items.

**Bill Schedules**

There were no warrants to sign.

**Calendar of School Events**

Wednesday	12-14-2011	7:00 pm	Exec Session Neg.	Conf Rm A
Wednesday	12-14-2011	7:00 pm	Lincoln Joint Budget	Hartwell Bldg
Thursday	12-15-2011	7:00 pm	Exec Session Neg.	Conf Rm A
Friday	12-16-2011	7:00 am	Executive Session	Conf Rm A
Monday	12-19-2011	7:00 am	Executive Session	Conf Rm A
Monday	12-19-2011	7:30 pm	Sudbury FinCom	Flynn Bldg
Tuesday	12-20-2011	7:30 pm	Regular School Com	Conf Rm B

**Adjourn**

On a motion by Patty Mostue, seconded by Radha Gargeya, the School Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 10:40pm.