

LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE
Minutes

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

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, was absent.

Executive Session

On a motion by Mark Collins, 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, Lori Hodin, Coordinator for the Safe School Initiative, and Susan Shields, Peer Leader, Emily Casey, Student Representative, 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. Juanita Owens, METCO Representative, was absent.

Agenda Enclosures/Handouts

- Unapproved Minutes for April 10, 2012

Call to Order

Nancy Marshall called the meeting to order at 7:30.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of minutes for April 10, 2012 were deferred until the next meeting.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Presentation

Peer Leader/Mentor Program Presentation by Susan Shields and Lori Hodin

Nancy Marshall welcomed Lori Hodin, Coordinator for the Safe School Initiative, and Susan Shields, Peer Leader Coordinator, who presented on LS's Peer Mediation and Peer Leader programs. Lori and Susan also introduced a group of students--Kate Barker, Matt Cahill, Sarah Meier, and Sammie Roberts, with Jahnea Johnson participating through a pre-recorded video-- who shared their experiences participating in the program as mediators. Together they talked about how student-centered programs such as the Peer Mediation program create a positive climate and promotes a safe culture for the students; youth empowerment creates resilience. Lori talked about how conflict can be treated as an opportunity for growth in mutual understanding, and how peer mediation is often more effective than intervention by an Administrator since it is a conversation between peers, and not a matter of being "in trouble."

Lori also talked about the Peer Leader elective course gave an overview of the program's history and how many students were now involved, and described how this year the program began holding 8th Grade Q&A sessions and tours of LSRHS. Kevin Matthews commented that the program is a double-win for the students; student peer mediators learn important leadership skills they then bring to college. Scott reflected on what a valuable program it has become; he also noted that cuts to this program have really been painful, and suggested that this may be one area where LS should work toward finding private or grant funding.

Recognitions

Scott Carpenter recognized the following:

- Michele Lepietre and Erica Wilsen will be returning from France tonight, April 24, after a very successful 15 day exchange experience with our sister school, the Lycée Claude Monet, in Le Havre, France. Michele and Erica worked exceptionally hard as faculty organizers and chaperones to make this exchange a success. Michele reports that all our students have been excellent ambassadors for their school, community, and nation!
- Congratulations and thanks to Carly Evans and the huge cast and crew for a fantastic performance of Footloose, April 11th-14th. Also, thanks to Tom Grandprey and members of the orchestra pit for the fantastic music. We had nearly 100 students involved in this production, either onstage, in the pit or on the crew.

Student Representative Report

Emily Casey talked about the Senate's current project to dedicate a plaque commemorating LS faculty and alumni who have served in the military since September 11, 2001. She reported that they were all set for the dedication on May 12th, which will include an assembly with the student body. She also reported that the Senate has talked to the Colors Club which works on diversity issues at the school, about holding a panel discussion on the METCO program sometime in May. She also reported that the Senate was busy preparing for their yearly elections.

Teachers' Association Report

Lisa Weiss reported that she was looking forward to tomorrow's faculty meeting which members of the School Committee would be attending.

METCO Representative Report

There was no METCO report.

Chairman's Report

Nancy Marshall reported on the recent meeting of the Youth -n Philanthropy Program administered by the Foundation for Metro West with students at Concord-Carlisle High School, where fifteen students talked about their various funding proposals and how they were approaching their decision-making. Their presentations were very engaging, and she felt it would be a wonderful opportunity for LS students. She also reported that LSRHS has submitted proposals to the Sudbury Foundation and the Codman Trust in Lincoln for grants to facilitate instruction for students with language-based learning disabilities. This could be a great opportunity for teachers to facilitate programs over the summer so that students might be able to stay at LS in the fall instead of having to go out of district. She also announced that Thursday is Cabaret Night at LS, and that FinCom is also meeting on Thursday to roll out what they want to advocate at the next town meeting.

Nancy also announced that this meeting is Mark Collins' final meeting with the School Committee, and offered her congratulations on his nine years of great service to the school. She presented him with a card and flowers for his wife.

Liaison Reports

There were no reports.

Superintendent/Principal's Report

Audit Update

Scott Carpenter reported that on Tuesday over vacation he met with John Sullivan from the auditing firm they hired, Melanson & Heath. He will be at LS in and out over the course of the next month, and will examine many aspects of LS's financial operations and personnel functions within the Business Office. Scott also reported that he received a lot of email feedback from parents regarding the recent bomb scare at the school, and he sent out an email to let them know that, among other things, pranks of this nature extend the school year since the time must be

made up. Scott acknowledged how aggravating and disruptive these incidents are for the community.

Scott also updated the School Committee on the budget, and reviewed the presentation he gave to the Sudbury Finance Committee which pinpointed the significant budget shortfalls the school is facing, even with extraordinary relief funding for FY12; what the school is facing for the coming years; and what steps he recommends. LS is now in a situation in which we need taxpayer and voter support to maintain the quality the community wants from the school, which is drifting significantly away from its educational ideals.

Scott shared with community that LS cannot schedule students into the classes they need should staffing levels reduce much further.. It can't happen. We have to do something to mitigate this. The mitigation strategy leaves the schools Excess & Deficiency (E&D) fund at 400k. Dropping the account balance below this level compromises the schools fiscal stability, and makes LS potentially subject to mid year layoffs if unforeseen expenses such as new out of district tuitions come about that cannot be funded from E&D.

Scott stated that LS needs support from the Sudbury FinCom and the Selectmen for an override for capital for FY14 in order to allow the school to prepare students for their futures in a high tech world.

Information & Discussion

Budget Update

See above.

Action Items

There were no other action items.

Other Business

There were no other business items.

Bill Schedules

There were no warrants to sign.

Calendar of School Events

Friday	04-27-2012	7:00 am	Executive Session.	Conf Rm A
Monday	05-07-2012	7:00 pm	Sudbury Town Meeting	Aud
Tuesday	05-08-2012	6:00 pm	School Committee	
			Superintendent's Conf. Rm	
Tuesday	05-08-2012	7:00 pm	SudburyTown Meeting	Aud
Wednesday.	05-09-2012	7:00 pm	Sudbury Town Meeting	Aud
Tuesday	05-22-2012	7:30 pm	School Committee.	Conf Rm B

Adjourn

On a motion by Patty Mostue, seconded by Radha Gargeya, the School Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:30pm.