

LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE
MINUTES

Tuesday, February 28, 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.

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.

7:00 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, Juanita Owens, METCO Representative, Senator Jamie Eldridge, Mark Gallagher, district administrator for Congressman Markey's office, and Suzanne Burns, School Committee Secretary, representatives from the Friends of L-S Softball, as well as the visitors listed on the sign-in sheet attached to the approved minutes of this meeting. Emily Casey, Student Representative, was absent.

Agenda Enclosures/Handouts

Unapproved Minutes for January 24, 2012

Unapproved Minutes for February 1, 2012

Unapproved Minutes for February 14, 2012

PowerPoint Presentation and Summary document from Friends of L-S Softball

Call to Order

Nancy Marshall called the Public Meeting to order at 7:02pm.

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Friends of L-S Softball Presentation

Nancy Marshall requested that the Committee take this agenda item out of order. Sue Pardus, president, and Jeff Dade made the presentation on behalf of the Friends of L-S Softball and acknowledged the members of the organization who were present including Jan Ryan, treasurer, Ruthann Wry, public relations, and Joe Durning who will manage the project. They noted that they had been working with the School Administration all through the process of developing the plan. Sue introduced other members of the organization as well as members of the team. Erin Dineen, captain and a senior on the team, spoke about her experience on the team and the passion, unity and teamwork that is fostered. She also described some of the incidents that occurred because of the deterioration of the field, including a referee who fell. There is a lot of concern about safety of players and referees. Nancy Childress, Softball Coach, responded to a question that there are 12 varsity players, 14 junior varsity and 16 freshman players on the team.

Jeff went through the presentation and identified the technical requirements to correct the issues with the field and also noted the concern about compliance with Title IX based on the inequity of the playing fields for boys versus girls. He noted that the work to upgrade the field would be in three phases: 1) Electrical service upgrade; 2) Landscaping; and 3) Irrigation. The plan would be to accomplish the work in August to allow the field to sit over the fall and winter and then be ready for spring use.

Sue spoke about the goals of the organization, the status of its 501c3 filing status, and the costs and fundraising status. One of the key elements to the fundraising plan is to install recognition banners around the field. Nancy Marshall suggested that the Committee needed to have further discussion about this because there was never a determination made within the fundraising policy about this type of recognition.

Overall the Committee was very appreciative of the clarity and detail of the presentation and noted that it should be the model for any group wanting to make a donation.

On a motion by Mark Collins, seconded by Elena Kleifges, the School Committee voted unanimously to 1) recognize the Friends of L-S Softball as a formal support organization for the L-S program; 2) to support the Friends in moving forward to fundraise for the project; and 3) to approve the plan for the field upgrades. The Committee did not vote to authorize banner recognition and will have further discussion at its meeting in March.

Legislative Update

Nancy Marshall spoke briefly about the process of applying for Extraordinary Relief, and how many other people are applying to the State for this aid. It is a very big change from last year, and the District is really struggling over how it will continue to provide appropriate educational opportunities to all students. She stated that the School Committee continues to look for ways to do this, and that we have the active attention of Tom Conroy, who has talked about the possibility of increasing the Extraordinary Relief allocation in the FY12 budget.

Nancy then introduced Senator Jamie Eldridge who addressed his priorities during the budget process which included protecting local aid to cities and towns, advocating for a fair, adequate,

and stable tax system that will raise sufficient revenue to support our state's goals and priorities, and promoting budget transparency and accountability, particularly around the issue of tax credit transparency, so that we can be sure that every penny of the public's money is being spent effectively. He circulated a memorandum which on these and other priorities, and addressed the annual budget as one of the Legislature's most important jobs. He also noted that he felt that the current formula which determines how much money a school district receives does not do a good job of measuring all needs of students, and that as part of budget reform he would like to revisit the formula and explore ways of improving it so that it more truly measures how much it costs to educate students. He encouraged everyone to call or email him directly with suggestions or inquiries.

Mark Collins talked about out of district costs for special education, noting that though some are reimbursed by the state, the circuit breaker program only reimburses for those expenses that exceed a certain level. He stated that he felt it was getting to a breaking point, and expressed his hope that the legislature would explore how those costs could be more evenly shared. Scott Carpenter added that this may be the fifth consecutive year in which L-S may have to lay off teachers. This is compromising the education we are able to offer to all students.

Mark Gallagher, district administrator for Congressman Markey's office, made closing remarks about budget priorities, and noted that the budget for education will be one of the battles waged over the next year. He expressed that he was very glad to be at this meeting to hear the concerns and hoped to continue the dialog to help find remedies to this significant budget crisis.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Recognitions

- 1 Thank you to Joanne Delaney, Rebecca Reitz, Anne O'Reilly and the Student Services Department for all their hard work in preparing, organizing and participating in the recent DESE audit. The auditors spent three full days interviewing approximately 50 people. At the exit meeting, the two DESE auditors were very complimentary to the very knowledgeable staff and broad continuum of services LS provides for students with disabilities, and the consistent protection of civil rights imbedded in our policy and procedures. It was a long process to prepare for the audit and Joanne expressed her sincere thanks to all LS staff for their support in completing all the mandated trainings, curriculum materials screenings, and posting of anti-discrimination materials and for taking the time to participate in the interviews. We received a very positive review and we were only cited on one thing, the absence of an active Special Education PAC (which was anticipated).
- 2 The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) has named Nancy O'Neil of Massachusetts as the recipient of the 2012 NFHS Coach Educator of the Year Award. True to Nancy's style, when she was called to be congratulated by the NFHS, she responded that she was thrilled, humbled, and said it was a team award.
- 3 The FATA dept would like to recognize 9th grader, Nick Laviolette, for organizing on his own initiative a student ART CLUB which allows music students after school access to art instruction.
- 4 Paul Sarapas for organizing and coordinating a screenwriting seminar which was presented by LS Alum, Jim Fernald, to 150 students on February 15th.

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5 Mike Bunting and Tom Grandprey and all music students for the POPS concert performance on February 16th.

6 Dani Weisse, Susan Frommer and the MLK group for hosting our annual assembly honoring Martin Luther King. They presented their award this year to Saskia Epstein, a former LS student who has now become the head of Room to Grow, a national organization that serves poor families and children.

7 Sandy Crawford for spear-heading and arranging to host L-S grad Colin Ahern, on Tuesday, Feb. 27th to discuss his experiences in the Afghan conflict. Colin was born and raised in Sudbury, MA and graduated from L-S in 2003. He has completed two year-long tours in Afghanistan, first in 2008-9 and most recently in 2011-12. He is currently a senior intelligence officer. The event was very well attended and our students were very appreciative of Colin sharing his experiences with them.

Approval of Minutes

- On a motion by Patty Mostue, seconded by Kevin Matthews, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of January 24, 2012 with noted edits. Mark Collins abstained.
- On a motion by Patty Mostue, seconded by Kevin Matthews, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of February 1, 2012 with noted edits. Mark Collins abstained.
- The vote on the minutes for February 14, 2012 was deferred.

Student Representative Report

There was no report from the Student Representative. Nancy Marshall noted the Emily Casey had emailed her that the Student Senate hasn't met.

Teachers' Association Report

Lisa Weiss reported that tomorrow is the Professional Development day for teachers and she read a list of some of the workshops being offered by our own staff or guest presenters. Most workshops are offered by L-S staff who have a particular expertise to share.

METCO Representative Report

Juanita Owens noted that March 12th is the State House METCO Rally that is held annually to garner support for the METCO program. On March 14th there will be a mandatory parent meeting at a location to be determined, but likely the Twelfth Baptist Church. Juanita then spoke about the incidents that occurred before the school break and the very negative, hurtful blogging that took place in the Town Crier. Students were very disturbed by it. It was very helpful that Janine Dailey organized a meeting for the students to be able to talk about what happened and how the blogs affected them.

Public Hearing on the FY13 Budget

There were no comments or questions.

Chairman's Report

Due to time constraints Nancy Marshall did not make a report.

Liaison Reports

There were no reports.

Superintendent/Principal's Report

Due to time constraints Scott Carpenter did not make a report.

Information & Discussion

8 Friends of L-S Softball Presentation

9 This item was taken out of order, see above.

Action Items

The vote on the on L-S Softball Field Proposal was deferred until the next School Committee meeting.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Bill Schedules

Judy distributed warrants to sign.

Calendar of School Events

Tuesday	03-13-2012	7:30 pm	School Committee	Conf Rm B
Thursday	03-15-2012	7:00 pm	"Race to Nowhere"	Auditorium
Saturday	03-24-2012	9:30 am	Lincoln Town Meeting	Lincoln, MA
Tuesday	03-27-2012	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 8:40pm.