

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

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

7:30 p.m. Public Session

Conference Room B

Present: Nancy Marshall, Chair, Radha Gargeya, Vice-Chair, Patty Mostue, Gerald Quirk and Elena Kleifges.

Absent: Kevin Matthews

Also Present: Scott Carpenter, Superintendent/Principal; Michael Connelly, Director of Finance & Operations; Lisa Weiss, Math Teacher/TA President; Julia Thomas, Student Senate Representative; 30 LS teachers.

Agenda Enclosures/Handouts

Unapproved Minutes for October 23, 2012

Call to Order

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

Welcome

Nancy Marshall requested a motion to approve minutes for October 23, 2012. Patty Mostue moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Elena Kleifges. Approval was unanimous.

Presentation

Michael Connelly presented a draft of the budget for FY14. The town of Lincoln requested a budget reflecting a 2.5% increase exclusive of fixed costs (pensions and expenses). The town of Sudbury requested a budget with 2.7% increase that does include pensions and expenses. The town of Sudbury also recommended to all cost centers who are still in collective bargaining negotiations that the budget submitted NOT include COLA figures.

Michael Connelly presented three budget levels to include different scenarios. The first budget will be referred to as the Level

Staffing Budget. It is the base budget requested by the towns of Lincoln and Sudbury.

The second budget will be referred to as the Level Service Budget. This budget would increase staffing to address the increase in enrollment expected for FY14 of 52 students (a 3.3% increase). In order to protect class sizes, the staff would need to be increased by a minimum of 4.5 FTE to address the additional 52 incoming students.

The third budget is referred to as the Partial Restore Budget. This budget partially restores staffing levels by an increase of 4.16 FTE. In addition, the fourth house in the LS House System would be reinstated and it would include a 0.25 computer technician.

The Administration's priority is to work toward level staffing or partially restored staffing. The budget levels are drafts since a number of assumptions have been made regarding state revenue, special education grants, etc.

Scott Carpenter remarked that the Sudbury FinCom guideline for a Level Staffing Budget would be devastating given the projected 3.3% increase in the student body. He stated that we can not absorb 52 students without additional staffing. LS is unable to staff enough sections to meet the educational needs of the additional students. Consequently, he believes that the Level Services Budget is the bottom line. It will be necessary to add an additional counselor as well as the extra teachers.

Scott Carpenter added that he hopes the School Committee will support a Partial Restore Budget that would add an additional 0.5 FTE for all departments over the Level Service Budget. The Partial Restore Budget's additional 4.16 FTE's would give the high school the flexibility to better schedule students. This is a flexibility lost since 2008-2009 school year; 18 FTE positions have been cut since that time. The additional FTE's would stabilize class sizes and permit the reinstatement of an additional house.

Radha Gargeya acknowledged that the loss of a House and the increase in students had increased the workload of the counselors. He asked that given the choices faced by the School Committee regarding restoring faculty to cope with the influx of students, where does restoring a house fall within our priorities?

Scott Carpenter reminded the Committee of the counselors who are currently straddling houses because the school no longer has four complete units. A Partial Restore Budget will heal the House System.

Nancy Marshall stated that she would support submitting the Partial Restore Budget to the towns. She believes that the confluence of increased enrollment and scheduling issues have brought the high school to a critical point.

Gerald Quirk spoke in support of the Partial Restore Budget and acknowledged that the safety net factor and maintaining the innovative curriculum would allow students to complete graduation requirements. He believes that the Partial Restore Budget will permit a more favorable student load for teachers that will lead to a better outcomes. Gerald Quirk stated further that although a Partial Restore Budget would be substantially higher than what had been recommended by the FinCom, it was necessary. He believes that a greater level of advocacy will be necessary in order to get it supported by Lincoln and Sudbury as it will be the voters of Lincoln and Sudbury that will end up making this decision.

Patty Mostue indicated her support of the Partial Restore Budget. Radha Gargeya also supports the Partial Restore Budget but believes that the relative priorities of teachers v. counselors v. housemaster must be thought through. Lisa Weiss was happy to hear that the School Committee supported the Partial Restore Budget but wondered what it would mean to the COLA being negotiated with the Teachers' Association. Nancy Marshall reminded her that the COLA had been held out of the preliminary budgets to protect the confidentiality and progress of negotiations rather than to discourage it, but would be published upon completion of negotiations.

Michael Connelly next explained the details of the 5-Year Capital Plan. The highlights are the vehicles and equipment that must be purchased, facilities improvements and technology improvements. Many of the items in the new 5-Year Capital Plan have been in the capital plan in the past and are being carried forward. The plan includes 2 Athletic Vans (\$42,500 in FY14) and a Truck replacement for Buildings and Grounds (\$50,000). Equipment requests include requests from the Music Department to replace instruments (\$24,150) and Storage Units to protect equipment (\$2,180). The Media Department needs LCD Projectors (\$5,000) and Lab workstations in FY16 (\$11,360). The English Department has requested an LSC Mounting Project (\$11,360) and an Intercom System (\$10,000).

The FATA Department needs 12 video cameras in FY14-16 (\$12,000 annually), 25 Digital Cameras in FY14 (\$7,500), and Kilns in FY15 (\$15,000). The Wellness Department seeks to replace the cardiovascular equipment in FY14 (\$23,775) and 3 Body Circuit Training units in FY15 (\$18,964). The Athletics Department has listed volleyball standards for FY14 (\$8,970) and pole vault mats in FY 15 (\$10,000). Buildings and Grounds has listed a Ransomes Mower for FY14 (\$16,472).

Under the category of Facilities, it has been recommended that the boiler building be renovated in FY14 (\$200,000) to become a cold storage building. The gym floors should be refinished in FY14 (\$10,700) and the HVAC system should be upgraded to a web-based system. Kevin Rossley is exploring a grant to cover this upgrade. Future needs for Facilities include replacement of the lower artificial turf fields in FY16 (\$800,000) – the typical life span of an artificial turf field is 10 years – the LS fields will be 12 years old in FY 16.

Michael Connelly summed up the 5 Year Capital Plan by noting the most expensive items which are improvements to technology infrastructure (\$640,000), the Boiler Building renovation (\$200,000) and the replacement of the two turf fields at \$400,000 each. Michael noted that LS is fortunate to have received generous contributions from the LS Boosters and other outside organizations to support some prior capital needs.

Public Comment

Nancy Marshall opened the meeting to public comment by stating that the School Committee recognizes and appreciates the comments and emails from the people who were unable to attend the meeting.

Laurie Michaels, Lincoln parent, addressed the School Committee complimenting the competence and professionalism of the LS teaching staff that has impressed her family. Their student is invested in school because his teachers are invested in him. She stated that the LS teachers have extended themselves far beyond call of duty and that they truly value our students. She urged support for LS faculty in their contract negotiations.

Shelby Magid, a 2011 graduate spoke eloquently praising a faculty that has made her person she is today. She appreciates the opportunity to be able to speak in their behalf. Shelby studies International Politics at Brandeis University and credits the LS faculty with helping her

discover her interests. She felt the full support of the faculty whenever she needed extra help and knows that her reflections are the experience of most of the LS students. In Shelby's case, because she had come to LS from another town, she was always a year behind her classmates in French. When she expressed a desire to take the French Film Class taken by Seniors, one of the world language faculty worked with her over the summer so that she could share a class with her fellow seniors. This commitment to students and passionate, caring and supportive way of attending to students made her more prepared for college than her classmates at Brandeis. Shelby treasures the relationships with teachers she had as a student here that continue today. The LS Faculty have been exemplary role models and mentors – including faculty she did not have in class but encountered through clubs and activities.

Nancy Marshall stated that the School Committee had received many emails supporting the faculty. She extended her thanks to those who made the effort to communicate with the School Committee. During the long and difficult process of negotiating, the School Committee has never lost sight of the fact that we are fortunate to have such a dedicated staff. The School Committee issued a public statement on November 2nd that reflects our desire to support faculty. The Committee is trying to solve the contract negotiations in good faith. The School Committee remains unable to address the substance of negotiations in public but hopes to conclude the negotiations in the near future.

Recognitions

Scott Carpenter congratulated Anita Honkonen who will be inducted to Massachusetts Hall of Fame for Science Educators on November 15th. She would like to thank her fellow faculty members and noted that when she started work at LS 29 years ago, the Superintendent/Principal expected her to be a professional and treated her as a professional. The support of the school and faculty members has been instrumental in her growth as a teacher.

Lincoln Sudbury Regional High School is a Finalist in MassRecycles's 17th Annual Recycling Awards Event. The LS team was awarded Third Prize at the awards ceremony in Boston. Eleanor Burke praised the coordinated efforts of the Reach Program, Buildings and Grounds, the Environmental Club at LS and the Charles River Program for this award.

Scott Carpenter expressed special thanks to Ken Kimura and Alison Richardson who organized Observation Day for new teachers. They have arranged a program whereby new teachers have an opportunity to observe veteran teachers. Scott believes this is an invaluable service that was not available to him when he was a young teacher.

Five members of Math Department and Leslie Belcher will attend a conference on the PARCC Assessment System that will probably replace the MCAS in coming years.

Marci Stoda arranged for a speaker from the Humane League to address students on October 24th. Food Day is a nation-wide celebration to promote healthy, affordable, and sustainable eating.

Jaime Wong, Susan Frommer, and Rebecca Carr organized a field trip for students in the Shakespeare classes to attend a production of Macbeth in Boston.

Carly Evans, Tom Grandprey, Bill and Judy Plott have assisted the LSB Players production of Twelfth Night that will be performed from Wednesday, November 14th through Saturday November 18th in the Auditorium. We recognize also the efforts of the Friends of LSB Players and the parent support group.

Allison Sanders-Fleming and BJ Pegram took 32 students on a field trip to Block Island on Friday, October 12. The students studied the geological features and processes on view at two beach locations and visited the Ocean View Foundation to study banding and releasing birds with Foundation birder Kim Gaffett. The students also toured the historic Southeast Lighthouse. It was a full day capped by dinner at a local Block Island restaurant.

Student Senate Report

Julia Thomas reported that the Student Senate and Administration had met to talk about the December Dilemma. They were able to make significant headway and found the process highly educational. The Student Senate is trying to avoid conflict and hoping to solve the problem permanently. They are working on specific guidelines for students and staff to follow in years to come. The Student Senate is also addressing the matter of parking costs and the new food guidelines.

Teachers' Association

Lisa Weiss stated that the Teachers' Association supports the Partial Restore Budget. Grades have been submitted and report cards posted to Student IPASS. The Teachers' Association thanks the School Committee for good faith support in the current negotiations. Second Quarter has begun.

METCO Report – Liaison not present.

Chair Report

Nancy Marshall reported that Senior Dress-up Day was wonderful. She has attended six Senior Dress-up Days and this was by far the best. It is a day that school spirit explodes and it was with positive expression. Nancy wished to acknowledge the work behind the scenes by LS Faculty to assure that the day would be a success. It is an opportunity for kids to embrace one another in a communal fashion for one day.

Many budget meetings will be held in the next few months. Nancy expressed the thanks of the School Committee to Michael Connelly for all the work he has put in so far.

Liaison Reports

The most recent EDCO meeting was about contract agreements within the collaborative. The new Director of Contracts and Human Services was introduced. There was a clear and informative presentation by a 3-4th grade teacher regarding using data.

Superintendent report

Scott Carpenter left the EDCO meeting early in order to attend the METCO Superintendent's meeting. He believes that LS needs to support the METCO program because of its significant benefits to students from Boston as well as students from the suburbs who benefit from a diverse student body. Superintendents gather a few times per year to seek ways to support the METCO program.

Report cards went out today and students were reminded to keep up with community service requirements. He hopes that students will thoughtfully include community service in their lives.

Scott Carpenter reminded the School Committee that he will not be able to attend the School Committee meeting on November 27th as he

will be in Germany exploring methods of German schools as a guest of their PASCH Program. Eleanor Burke will represent Scott and will report to School Committee about the possibility of building a solar canopy in the parking lot. The final details must be examined before deciding to move forward with this initiative. Sun Edison (CA) has committed to power at a lower rate should the District proceed. We will generate power from solar panels in parking lot and our net savings could be fairly substantial. The Green Team (Kevin Rossley, Rami Alwan, Eleanor Burke, and Scott Carpenter) will confirm the savings number with an outside entity. According to Sun Edison, we must lock into a rate by the end of year for a power purchase agreement. Scott stated that he will also be getting legal advice on the proposed agreement. We are currently paying \$.18 per kwh. The lock-in agreement would be for \$.135. The \$.05 kwh would add up to 1 FTE unit in Year 1 – approaching \$80,000. If power costs increase, we will be locked in at a lower rate for 20 years and our savings would grow. Energy costs typically grows at 3% per year. If the fact checking bears out the projected savings, Scott urges the committee to move forward with great urgency. Nancy Marshall indicated that it would be helpful to hear from Minuteman Tech to learn what their experience has been. This is breaking new ground for Lincoln-Sudbury. Scott replied that the Massachusetts company has 800 units so far and that Wayland, Weston, Sudbury and Lincoln are all looking into solar installations via the Solarize Massachusetts initiative.

Action Items

No Action Items

Bill Schedules

Yes

Calendar

Meeting with town cost centers	November 20, 2012
Thanksgiving Recess	November 21-25, 2012
School Committee Meeting	November 27, 2012

Adjournment

Nancy Marshall requested a motion for adjournment. The motion was made by Elena Kleifges and seconded by Gerald Quirk. All were in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.