

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

Tuesday, November 27, 2012

7:30 p.m. Public Session

Conference Room B

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

Also Present: Michael Connelly, Director of Finance & Operations; Lisa Weiss, Math Teacher/TA President; Julia Thomas, Student Senate Representative; Eleanor Burke, Housemaster; Rami Alwan, Biology Teacher; Kevin Rossley, B&G; Kevin Batt, Attorney; Ray Cass, SunEdison.

Agenda Enclosures/Handouts

Unapproved Minutes for November 13, 2012

Call to Order

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

Welcome

Nancy Marshall called for a motion to approve minutes for November 13, 2012. Radha Gargeya made a motion, Gerald Quirk seconded the motion.

Presentation

The Environmental Club and Green Team presented the proposal for a solar panel canopy over the parking lot at Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School in partnership with SunEdison, a solar energy equipment provider, and PowerOptions, an energy buying consortium.

Eleanor Burke, Rami Alwan, Kevin Rossley, and Dan Lewis are members of the Green Team. The Environmental Club members are Anna and Bridget Menkis, Michael O'Brien, Katie LaScaleia and Bonnie Filker. Ray Cass represents SunEdison.

The Environmental Club illustrated that a great deal of energy is lost during transmission from source to user and that by having the

Solar Array at LS, LS would benefit from all energy generated by the array.

Rami Alwan and Eleanor Burke presented the proposed solar parking canopy project proposal issued by SunEdison and PowerOptions. The solar array canopy would allow LS to purchase electricity at a rate of \$0.13/kwh for 20 years. SunEdison would build and maintain the facility at no cost to LS. Rami pointed out that traditionally power costs have increased by 3% per year in the past. Our power costs would remain level for 20 years under this system. The Green Team is seeking information from other institutions in the northeast to learn if our weather patterns produce problems for the solar canopy. Rami stated that there are penalties in the contract if insufficient power is produced and that the penalties are carried by SunEdison/PowerOptions and not LS.

The canopies are on raised footings and are 13.5 feet high with LED lighting powered by the solar array underneath. It will cover most of the current parking lot and provide shade and cover from rain and snow for the cars parked underneath which is an added benefit.

Radha Gargeya pointed out that the angle of the array would maximize the opportunity to collect solar power. The rain run-off will be directed properly for the drainage plan of our parking area. The canopies are strong enough to carry the weight of possible snow cover.

Eleanor Burke illustrated the savings in electricity per year that would be achieved with the solar panels. LS would produce 1.5 million kwh which would be half of our current demands. LS would save \$90,000 in electrical costs in the first year alone. Patty Mostue asked what would happen in year 21 at the end of the contract. The contract could be extended by 5 years or we would be able to purchase the array at a very minimal cost. Removal would be our cost.

Michael Connelly pointed out that the potential savings could be considerably larger than illustrated. Kevin Matthews wondered what were the benefits to the Consortium. Rami responded that the consortium would benefit from current tax breaks and from government supplements. Nancy Marshall inquired if SunEdison was the company of choice for this project. Attorney Kevin Batt was present to answer questions.

The array must be connected to the grid by NSTAR and the permits to allow this can take up to 6 months to be issued. If the permits take longer than 6 months, the array will have to be built in

installments. Most permitting has been in the 5-6 month range. Kevin Matthews asked what issues a phased-in project would present. One scenario would be that juniors would not be able to park in the main lot. Nancy Marshall and Patty Mostue asked if arrays would be upgraded as technology improved and Kevin Rossley and Rami Alwan replied that upgrades would be unlikely.

The direction of the revenue stream from branding that would be affixed to the solar array panel was not answered although it is somewhere in the proposal.

Kevin Matthews questioned what the legal exposure would be to having another company's products on LS property. What happens in the event of theft or vandalism is a question to be explored by Rami Alwan and Kevin Rossley. Nancy Marshall inquired what would LS liability be if there were equipment failure of the solar array which resulted in damage to LS property or public property. Attorney Kevin Batt replied that there was an indemnity protection clause in the proposal that would be capped at a certain figure. Loss of service as a result of storm or unexpected events is another question posed by Kevin Matthews. Attorney Batt replied that the consortium would have insurance to replace the equipment.

Patty Mostue requested that the students in the Environmental Club members relate their interest in the project. The students believe that their involvement is driven by their desire to make changes that lead to sustainable energy use. The Green Team's hope is that there would eventually be a Green Technology Course offered at LS and that this project would inform and instruct our students in the benefits of sustainable energy. Kevin Matthews noted that this project would provide a teachable moment in many courses such as economics and finance.

Nancy Marshall wondered if other institutions in town were investigating a similar project. Rami Alwan said that Fairbanks had a small array and that the landfill was working on a similar project. The hope of the Green Team is that the School Committee will vote favorably on the project so that Scott Carpenter can finish negotiating the contract before the December 31st deadline. The School Committee expressed concern that there might be a point at which various delays would result in a detrimental result for LS. Attorney Batt replied that there situations in which the Consortium would be able to back away from contractual elements.

Attorney Batt stated that there was a purchase option price which diminishes over time. Kevin Matthews reminded members that LS would be obligated to purchase electrical energy from SunEdison for 20 years at \$0.13 per kwh even if a lower cost energy option should become available or should LS close its doors due to low enrollment. Gerald Quirk noted that there would certainly be an opportunity to renegotiate.

Recognitions

There are no recognitions today.

Student Representative Report

Julia Thomas reported that the Student Senate had not had a meeting since the last School Committee Meeting. The Senate has received a favorable reaction to their request for Progress Reports from the faculty and expects to receive a more definitive response soon. The Senate continues to work on the December Dilemma and is compiling a list of acceptable symbols for the holiday season that will be clear and unambiguous.

TA Report

Lisa Weiss reported that mid-year warnings would be distributed on December 7, 2012.

METCO Representative was not present.

Chair Report

Congratulations to the football team for making to finals and condolences for the loss to Barnstable. It was a good season for the football team.

The Wellness Department will be sponsoring an "Eat to Compete Nutrition Program" that highlights sports nutrition on Thursday, November 27th, at 7 pm. A Boston University Clinical Consultant will be addressing students and parents regarding the benefits of good nutrition for athletes.

There will be a Winter Choral Concert on December 6, 2012 at 7:30pm.

On Monday, December 10th, Chris Herren, a former Celtics Basketball player will address students during the day and the public

during the evening on the dangers of drugs. The program will be sponsored by Community Connections and SADD.

Liaisons

Gerald Quirk reported on his discussions with the Park and Recreations Department and Town of Sudbury. The subject was compensation for field use and more specifically CPA Application to fund the Softball Field renovation. Lincoln-Sudbury has always made its fields available to the community without charging field usage fees. Our policy has been to treat the fields as a community resource. However, LS has been charged by the Town of Sudbury for use of facilities such as the Atkinson Pool for our swim team and the Tye fields for rugby and ultimate frisbee. The town and park and recreation representatives acknowledged the fact that LS had never charged for field usage nor received compensation for field usage but the idea of not charging LS for use of town facilities was met with a mixed response.

Gerald Quirk proposed a holistic approach to community resources, including use of LS fields that would include the Town of Lincoln. He also suggested that funds from CPA be sought for field repair and upkeep. The deadline for the Lincoln CPA funds has passed but the Softball group has spoken with Margery Fahey of Lincoln.

A Subcommittee should be formed which would include Nancy O'Neil, Gerald Quirk, and Paul Griffin among others to further explore the proper way to share community resources and field use charges. It must be remembered that LS has benefitted from the generosity of Town groups in funding projects such as the Stadium Lighting Project. The subcommittee should be prepared to have a solution or plan by next Town Meeting in Sudbury.

Nancy Marshall remarked that many Lincoln athletic groups utilize Sudbury fields and so perhaps conversations with the Town of Lincoln to discuss contributions are appropriate. It is certainly true that capital improvement funds are necessary.

Radha Gargeya inquired whether field use has been quantified to determine percentages of use by different groups. Kevin Rossley replied that the information would be available through the records of the Athletic Office. Kevin Matthews stated that a one-year snapshot of field use would be sufficient for quantifying purposes. Gerald Quirk praised the work that Kevin Rossley and the Buildings and Grounds

crew does on all the fields. He also indicated that an algorithm for estimating fees for field use would be useful.

Superintendent Report

Scott Carpenter is currently in Germany as a part of the PASCH initiative of the Federal Foreign Office. He will return on November 30, 2012.

Information and Discussion

Michael Connelly reported on the status of the Nashoba Health Group reserve balance has increased to 141% of target. It has now reached over \$7 million. We are waiting to hear if the rate for LS would be mitigated. Michael Connelly and Theo von Lingen are board members of the Nashoba Health Group.

Actions

A motion was called by Gerald Quirk to permit Scott Carpenter to negotiate a contract with SunEdison and PowerOptions for a solar array panel over the LS parking lot. Elena Kleifges seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Other Business

5 Year Capital Plan was discussed. Michael Connelly has updated the requests from program leaders and revised the 5 year plan. Kevin Matthews inquired whether we should change our model regarding technology improvements so that LS could access the Cloud. Is the timing of our technological improvements allowing us to take advantage of new aspects of technology. Nancy Marshall reminded the committee that Nancy Errico had suggested a staggered investment into replacing the infrastructure that would maintain a certain flexibility. Radha Gargeya is working to assemble a task force that would advise LS in its infrastructure renovation. There are many questions to be answered and the proposals will have to be examined carefully so that LS makes the best decisions possible. Kevin Matthews noted that leasing might be an option for LS and that it was up to the School Committee to seek advice that would encourage LS to be open to all options. Patty Mostue brought up the idea of “virtual high school” and what its benefits might be to LS.

Questions were raised concerning the advisability of renting musical instruments. Michael Connelly will investigate further.

Calendar of Events

School Committee Meeting	December 18, 2012	
December Recess	Dec 24-January 1, 2013	
School Committee Meeting	January 8, 2013	
FY14 No Override/Rollup Budget Docs to Sudbury		January 11, 2013
School Committee Meeting		January 22, 2013

Adjourned

Nancy Marshall requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kevin Matthews made a motion to adjourn, Elena Kleifges seconded. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.