

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

Tuesday, December 11, 2012

7:30 p.m. Public Session

Conference Room B

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

Also Present: Scott Carpenter, Superintendent/Principal; Michael Connelly, Director of Finance & Operations; Lisa Weiss; Julia Thomas, Student Senate Representative; Sam Chen and Family, Jeremy Cohen and Family.

Agenda Enclosures/Handouts

Unapproved Minutes for November 27, 2012

Call to Order

Nancy Marshall called the Public Meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

Welcome

Nancy Marshall asked for a motion to approve the minutes from November 27, 2012. Patty Mostue moved to accept the minutes and Kevin Matthews seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Presentation

Scott Carpenter presented the Massachusetts Superintendents' Award for Academic Excellence to Samuel Chen and Jeremy Cohen. Students receiving this award are within the top 5% of their graduating class based on a three-year GPA. Lincoln-Sudbury presents this award to two students each year based on the number of students in our graduating class. This year, Sam Chen and Jeremy Cohen are the recipients and they clearly embody the attributes of leadership, academic excellence, and strength of character envisioned by the creators of the award.

Sam Chen has a 3.95 GPA, is a National Merit Semi-Finalist, and has consistently done exceedingly well in LS's most challenging courses. Sam works part-time, volunteers in the community and is active in the Student Senate. He particularly enjoys coaching Sudbury youths in Lacrosse. Every parent hopes that his son will have an opportunity to be coached by Sam as he is the type of young man they hope their sons will become. Sam brings practical solutions to all his endeavors and is charismatic when working with peers.

Jeremy Cohen has a remarkable 3.99 GPA and is one of our 14 National Merit Semi-Finalists. He has selected the most challenging courses at LS and has received A's in all of them! Jeremy is driven to succeed but is firmly grounded in reality. He is an avid learner who makes connections between academics, travelling, and life. Jeremy cites Introduction to Western Civilization as a favorite class that refined his critical reading and writing skills. Jeremy is interested in pursuing the classics in college. In our drama productions, Jeremy has exhibited his superior leadership skills. He has also been a leader within the Speech and Debate Club to keep the club on track despite the lack of a faculty advisor. As co-president of the Debate team, Jeremy has led the team to national success. We extend our thanks to Jeremy for keeping the Debate Team going between permanent advisors.

Radha Gargeya stated that is one of the pure and unadulterated pleasures of each School Committee member to congratulate students like Sam Chen and Jeremy Cohen. Mr. Gargeya encouraged the students to return to school next year to address the current juniors as they prepare to set off for college.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Recognitions

Scott Carpenter recognized the efforts of the Martin Luther King Office advisors for their tireless work behind the scenes. Community Service hours for our 394 seniors this year stand at 15,860 hours which can be compared to last year's 407 seniors who had accumulated 11,000 hours at this time last year. We would like to commend the MLK office for the growing momentum of the Community Service effort at Lincoln Sudbury

Regional High School. The MLK advisors have done a wonderful job of encouraging the students to participate and their record keeping is quite an accomplishment.

Linda Hawes and Debbie Procter were recognized for their efforts to schedule college visits. Linda scheduled 128 college visits that were well attended by students. The college representatives have been pleased with their reception and the preparations of Linda Hawes and Debbie Procter that made the visits run so smoothly.

Nancy Errico and Leslie Belcher planned and organized workshops for Professional Day on December 5th. We would like to recognize Sandy Crawford, Eleanor Burke, Cristina Gonzalez, Rebecca Reitz, Bill Ray, and PJ Pegram for hosting workshops.

The annual Choral Winter Concert was held on Thursday evening, December 6th and featured students from LS, Curtis Middle School, and Brooks Middle School. Michael Bunting is doing a fabulous job connecting choral groups of the local schools that will undoubtedly increase participation in the high school programs when these students enroll in the high school.

The Instrumental Winter Concert will be held on Thursday, December 13th at 7:30pm. Tom Grandprey is working to provide the instrumental students with an opportunity to play and learn from the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra in April of 2013.

Cristina Gonzalez received SERF grant for 36 Headphones with integrated microphones to transform language/computer lab into a language lab. Thank you for time writing the grant. Thank you to SERF for granting it and our appreciation to many the parents who contribute to SERF.

FELS pies at Thanksgiving were much appreciated by those in the school who received them as gifts from appreciative parents.

Student Representative

Julia Thomas reported that the last student senate meeting was on Wednesday, December 5, 2012. The student senate continues to discuss the lack of five 9th graders in the Senate. Kevin Matthews suggested that perhaps in future there should be an outreach program to eighth graders to encourage them to join the senate when they arrive at the high school.

The student senate is planning its Santa fundraiser. Many students are interested in being Santa's elves. The December Dilemma has been settled to everyone's satisfaction.

TA Report

Lisa Weiss reported that warnings were issued on Friday, December 7th, 2012. Thursday, December 6th, Eleanor Burke, Patty Mostue and Lisa Weiss attended a conference on the new evaluation system. The conference was informative and the attendees discovered that they understand how to go forward with confidence. LS will begin practicing the new evaluation system in September 2013.

Metco Report – Liaison not present.

Chair Report

Nancy Marshall attended the Winter Choral Concert last week and reported that it was wonderful! Mike Bunting is a marvelous leader. He and Tom Grandprey are great colleagues who are doing wonderful things with the LS musical program and are to be commended. Instrumentalists played with the choral groups at the concert. The music program at LS continues to grow as students are enjoying their involvement more and more. The Lincoln Middle School choir is nearly as big as the LS choral group and that augurs well for future concerts at LS. The Wind Ensemble has become so large that it has had to be broken into two groups. Nancy Marshall attended a meeting last week to discuss a proposal from the music department to take students to Washington, DC for an opportunity to play with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra in conjunction with a music festival to be held in April.

Chris Herren addressed 9th and 10th grade students on Monday, December 10th. He is a former Celtic who succumbed to and then subsequently overcame chemical dependency. The event was sponsored by SADD; the advisors are Sarah Greeley and David Bloom. Mr. Herren spoke about his experiences and journey to overcome addiction. He spoke again at a public session that evening.

The School Committee is looking forward to hearing the report from Nancy Errico and colleagues regarding feedback from the technology vendors who will submit proposals next week.

Liaison Report

Radha Gargeya attended the Board of Selectmen Meeting on Thursday, December 6th, 2012. A subcommittee was proposed to comprise of a representative of the Sudbury Public Schools, Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School, the Town of Sudbury, a School Committee member and an Administrator from SPS and from LS to think collectively about a five-year capital plan. The goal would be to pool resources and coordinate the needs of the schools and the town to maximize options. The CIPC is also being re evaluated.

Nancy Marshall reminded Committee members that there would be a FinCom meeting Wednesday, December 12th in Lincoln and suggested that School Committee members attend.

Gerald Quirk reported that the Solar Array contract is in the final stages of negotiation. He will look at the contract on behalf of the committee to make sure that matters raised in meeting are dealt with and will report back. He indicated that all is on track for the December 31st contract deadline.

Scott Carpenter attended a meeting with the Community Preservation group regarding the planned Softball Field improvement. The next meeting will be on December 19th, 2012. Gerald Quirk anticipates that approval for the field will be achieved to put it on the docket for Town Meeting. There will be more conversation regarding the cost to the LS of fields used by the community and the cost to LS of community resources used by LS teams (i.e. Atkinson Pool).

Superintendent Report

Scott Carpenter appreciated the opportunity to go to Germany as part of the Pasch program. In comparison with the schools he visited in Germany, he found the technological foundation in our schools to be far advanced. In many German schools, technology advances are not penetrating into the classrooms. German schools are very progressive, however, in terms of advanced vocational training. German businesses post advertisements for apprentices. When a student is awarded an apprenticeship, the student then applies to schools that will provide the “theory” part of their education. The system is funded by the German Chambers of Commerce and is explicit to the current market needs of Germany.

Scott Carpenter lauded Sarah Greeley and David Bloom for arranging the presentation by Chris Herron mentioned by Nancy Marshall during her report. Chris Herron spoke of his own road to addiction which began with choices he made as a teen. The problem exists in this community and has resulted in tragedy. Herron gives his talk hoping to touch just one student, hoping to get that one student to make a different choice. It was a very effective presentation.

Attorney Kevin Batt has resolved outstanding issues with SunEdison.

Scott announced that he has applied for the position of Superintendent at Harvard Public School System. Harvard has announced three finalists for the position. The school system will announce their decision on a candidate by January 14th, 2013. The opportunity to become the Superintendent of a PreK-12 School system would provide him with an opportunity for personal growth. He feels very at home in the culture of LS and has a fantastic administrative team that he enjoys working with and so feels torn at the prospect of leaving. He remains committed to making sure that LS remains a strong school.

Action Items

Michael Connelly addressed our OPEB liability and informed the committee that he has done a study of OPEB to assess what other employee liability we might meet. A detailed report by KMS Actuaries indicates an increase to \$14 million in liabilities as a result of changed

criteria and assumptions. Close to \$12 million was attributed to changes in assumptions and the number of retirees we have. Cost centers in the state have recognized the need to address ways of dealing with future liability to determine what options are available and how to pre-fund the liability. One concern is the affect this may have on our bond rating.

Nancy Marshall acknowledged that this subject needed serious consideration. Benchmark studies will be helpful in determining what direction would be best, what is the appropriate level of reserves to maintain and what the pre-funding levels should be. Since we are in the early stages of the budget season, we should determine our budget commitment so that we have a minimum threshold. There are many demands on our resources and we face a pay as you go obligation.

Kevin Matthews noted that the bottom line increases by a million or so every year and at some point will become a tax bill issue. Michael Connelly added that final figures will be available with the Governor's Budget which comes out at the end of January. Nancy Marshall added that the School Committee would be having discussions with both towns but that the information from the Governor's Budget would be important to have before moving forward.

Michael Connelly related that the Sudbury Public Schools and Lincoln Public Schools and Town of Sudbury cost centers have been working together to develop a detailed 5-year Plan. LS is ahead of the game because a detailed 5-year Plan has been a part of our routine for years and has been yearly updated. The cost centers have agreed on four major categories for future focus. Kevin Matthews stated that work is underway in association with Lincoln Public Schools and Sudbury Public Schools to combine resources for a leasing pool or a purchasing pool.

Michael Connelly presented information regarding a \$2,500 gift from Bentley Systems to purchase resources for teaching robotics and engineering. He requested support from the School Committee to accept the \$2,500. Scott Carpenter added that we are very thankful to Bentley Systems for the donation, which will be a great benefit to LS engineering classes and that Paul Shultz, Engineering and Robotics Teacher, will add a matching donation from his budget. Nancy Marshall

said that the School Committee accepted the donation gratefully and asked for a motion to accept the donation. Elena Kleifges moved that the donation be accepted and Kevin Matthews seconded. All committee members were in favor of acceptance.

Bills

Scott Carpenter notified the School Committee that Sudbury community member Susan Procter had donated a Concept 2 to the Fitness Center.

Information and Discussion

Michael Connelly announced that the 9C State Budget Reductions for FY 13 have become public. This means that there will be an immediate, mid-year reduction in state revenues to all towns and municipalities. The reductions are a result of lower than anticipated tax revenues.

In a memo to school officials from the Commissioner of Education, the Special Education circuit breaker will be reduced and regional transportation contributions will be reduced. In all, however, Michael Connelly does not see any major impacts to Lincoln Sudbury for FY 13 because Chapter 70 is protected and not impacted so far. There will be a \$16,000 reduction in Transportation but additional revenue from Chapter 70 covers that reduction. Other good news is that no federal or state grants that have already been awarded are impacted.

The Circuit breaker reimbursement rate may be close to 70%. We had forecast a 60% reimbursement rate. A worst case scenario shows a 5% reduction of \$79,000 for LS which is higher than we had appropriated at Town Meeting. We are planning to use reserves in FY14.

Michael Connelly related that there is ongoing budget discussions regarding our three budget scenarios and what priorities have been set. The Partial Restore Budget remains foremost followed by the Level Service Budget to protect class sizes. One of the priorities established is the return of a House to the House System with accompanying House Master and House Assistant. This would heal the House System and eliminate students and counselors being split between houses which is very important. Scott Carpenter added that the Housemasters would like to come to the next School Committee meeting to present information about what it would mean to return to a four house system

and existing problems with student supervision. With the advent of the new evaluation system beginning in September 2013, it is even more important to have an additional housemaster in the system.

Other Business

There will be a budget workshop tomorrow evening in Lincoln at 7:30pm.

Calendar of Events

School Committee Meeting	December 18, 2012
December Recess	December 24-January 1, 2013
School Committee Meeting	January 8, 2013
Quarter 2 ends	January 16, 2013
Martin Luther King Day	January 21, 2013
School Committee Meeting	January 22, 2013
MidYear Exams	January 17-24, 2013

Adjournment

Nancy Marshall called for a motion to adjourn to executive session. Kevin Matthews so moved and Elena Kleifges seconded the motion. Nancy Marshall called for a motion to adjourn the meeting, Patty Mostue moved that the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Radha Gargeya. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:16pm.