

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

**Tuesday, February 12, 2013**

**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, TA Representative; Julia Thomas, Student Senate Representative; Steven Hall.

**Agenda Enclosures/Handouts**

Unapproved Minutes for January 22, 2013

**Call to Order**

Nancy Marshall called the Public Meeting to order at 7:36 p.m.

**Welcome**

Nancy Marshall requested a motion to approve the minutes of January 22, 2013. Kevin Matthews moved that the minutes be approved and Radha Gargeya seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**Presentation**

Michael Connelly presented the FY14 Budget Reapportionment and the FY14 Preliminary Budget View to the School Committee.

The first memo recommended not reapportioning funds as an offset to each town's assessment for the next budget cycle so that as one fiscal year closes, monies remaining will be added to the next budget cycle. This will permit an accrual of funds for a reserve to address emergencies grow the stabilization fund for some Capital costs to be addressed by the District, and the prefunding for OPEB. He requested

that the School Committee approve this request being placed before the Finance Committees of Lincoln and Sudbury.

Radha Gargeya wanted to know the prevalence of the practice of Budget Reapportionment in other school districts. Michael Connelly responded that while it was not that common, a state statute says that regional school districts are allowed to maintain reserves of 5% of their annual operating budget. Any amount in excess of that needs to be reapportioned.

Nancy Marshall supported the practice of not reapportioning as a way to address OPEB prefunding and growing E&D expenses. She affirmed that the school district was not obligated to return to the town funds under 5% of the total budget and that we have currently been retaining 1.86% of the total budget on average over the last few years. Nancy added that this practice would help address budget shortfalls in the future and presents a more accurate picture of what the district expenses are per year for each town. By returning money to the towns, the schools have not taken advantage of pre-paying tuition and supply expenses for future fiscal years, a common practice among districts.

Scott Carpenter directed the School Committee's attention to the information Michael Connelly presented if we were able to address budget issues by not reapportioning this year and how it would look for FY 14 and FY15. Not reapportioning could permit prefunding OPEB with \$170K. Funds could also be used to fill the shortfall for the Level Service Budget or for the use with the Partial Restore Budget. Michael Connelly stated that this was an optimum opportunity to address the matter with the Finance Committees of both Lincoln and Sudbury.

The School Committee agreed that the request for not reapportioning for FY14 be approved. Gerald Quirk moved that the budget request, absent of reapportionment be made to the towns of Lincoln and Sudbury through the Finance Committees. Elena Kleifges seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Michael Connelly's second memo was addressed concerning the FY14 Budget vote. The School Committee needs to approve the FY14 Budget before the Lincoln Town Meeting on March 23, 2013. The School Committee has discussed the Partial Restore Budget which includes an additional 4.50 FTE's to address the projected increase in enrollment, restores 4.16 FTE's a portion of those lost over the past five years, and including the restoration of a 4<sup>th</sup> administrative house. The School Committee voted to present the higher Partial Restore Budget with the understanding that revisions may have to be made as the process progresses and more fiscal information becomes firm from Beacon Hill, Lincoln and Sudbury.

Gerald Quirk moved that the preliminary Partial Restore Budget for FY14 be submitted with an operating budget of \$23,329,521; an FY14 pensions and insurance budget of \$3,850,258 for a total operating budget of \$27,179,779. A total debt service budget of \$2,283,613 for a total assessment of \$26,546,543 such amount to be apportioned to the member towns in accordance with the Statutory Method. Kevin Matthews seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Steven Hall presented an update on the Stadium Lighting Project. The contract is now in place with all user groups to support the project on a payment schedule. Financing is with Middlesex Bank and contracts have been signed with Mussco Lighting to purchase materials which will be delivered on site in three weeks. Construction will begin in mid to late March. Mr. Hall stated that the committee was able to hold costs level despite a cost increase. The School Committee commended the excellent work done by all to bring this project to completion.

**Public Comment** - There was no public comment.

### **Recognitions**

The Girl's Nordic Ski Team won the state championship. Eighteen LS art students were recipients of Boston Globe Art Awards. The WGBH quiz kids did really well and were great ambassadors for LS. Desiree Butter was their faculty advisor. Justin Robbins was a force to be reckoned with.

Urinetown opened last week and was roundly applauded for excellent performances by cast, chorus and orchestra.

Mike Malone and Brandon Dorey hosted the Massachusetts Math League Tournament at LS. Finals will take place in April near Worcester.

Nancy Errico's excellent presentation on the Technology Update is now on our website.

Lastly, our compliments to the Buildings and Grounds staff for a super cleanup after the blizzard. The crew was here throughout the evening of the storm. In addition, the Buildings and Grounds staff do wonderful things for LS students. The crew has taken one of our REACH students on as an intern. Todd wears a shirt identifying him as part of the crew when working with Kevin's staff and benefits enormously from his interaction with them. Faculty, students and staff at LS find that Kevin Rossley's staff makes a big difference on a daily basis.

### **Student Representative Report**

Julia Thomas reported that at the next Student Senate meeting committees will present plans for a Fall 2013 Spirit Event which will be a school-wide event. The students are working with the Cafeteria to make the food service more positive for students.

### **TA Report**

Lisa Weiss seconded the praise for Buildings and Grounds. The first two weeks of February had been filled with the play Urinetown which everyone enjoyed, and Valentine's Day activities. The teachers are looking forward to February break.

**METCO Report** – representative not present.

### **Superintendent Report**

Scott Carpenter brought the School Committee up to date on the hiring process for Curriculum Coordinator and Director of Special Education. Virginia Blake has been hired as Curriculum Coordinator to replace Leslie Belcher who will retire on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013. Virginia has been the Department Coordinator of the Math Department since 2004. We expect a seamless transition. Ginny will continue to teach and be Department Coordinator but will hand off one or two classes

to a long-term sub to assist while being brought up to speed by Leslie Belcher.

We are also in process of narrowing down the field for Director of Student Services. The Hiring Committee will invite the finalists to return to school the week after break. Rhonda Taft Farrell has been doing a fantastic job and we are pleased to have her with us.

On Friday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, a bomb threat was left in the voice mail of a staff member. We are certain of the identity of the caller and the student was arrested on Friday, February 8<sup>th</sup>. Faculty and staff were effective in securing the safety of students while the school was searched for a possible bomb.

On January 24<sup>th</sup>, Sudbury Police broke up a private party on Easy Street. A significant number of students, including many athletes, were at the party where alcohol and marijuana were in evidence. Using illegal substances and not leaving immediately is in violation of MIAA regulations. Scott Carpenter believes that it is very important for the school to send a clear message to teens in order for the culture of substance abuse to change. He credits Nancy O'Neil for addressing this issue unambiguously. SADD will present a Forum on February 13<sup>th</sup> that addresses the Lincoln and Sudbury party scene and will help educate parents to what really happens when they drop children off at a "party". The forum presents a candid interchange between students and parents that illuminates the choices presented to students and the difficulty in making the correct decisions when students are not prepared by parents with an exit strategy.

Lastly, Scott Carpenter informed the School Committee that he had withdrawn his application to the Harvard School system's search for a new Superintendent. The extended timeline of the search did not suit Mr. Carpenter and he has decided to focus his energies elsewhere. Scott is increasingly convinced that his children will fare better in a school system in which he is not both father and superintendent but knows that other opportunities will arise. In the meantime, he is happy at LS and enjoys the wonderful faculty and staff.

### **Liaison Report**

Gerald Quirk reported on the Softball field initiative. The Lincoln CPC voted last week to appropriate \$50K for the Softball field renovation project contingent upon the Sudbury CIPC contributing \$250K. Lincoln also voted contingent on a municipal field agreement that covered the football stadium and softball fields. Discussions will begin after the winter break. Gerald Quirk is encouraged that LSRHS will be directly involved in Capital Fund decisions in both Lincoln and Sudbury. The towns recognize the investments made by LS in maintaining its fields that are a resource for both towns.

The Solar canopy contract has been signed and the School Committee looks forward to a successful completion of this project.

### **Chair Report**

Nancy Marshall, Patty Mostue and Scott Carpenter attended a meeting on school safety at Assabet Regional Vocational High School. Gerry Leone was the keynote speaker. There was also a speaker from S.T.A.R.S. The speakers addressed strategies for moving forward from tragedy and making decisions regarding safety that are reasonable and aligned with existing cultures and climates in each municipality. Mr. Leone spoke eloquently about ways in which communities assess the potential for risk. He pointed out that the best prevention in a school is a climate of trust and connectedness between students and adults. The towns of Lincoln and Sudbury have been active in collaborating with S.T.A.R.S., liaising with the District Attorney's office's Community Based Justice initiative and working with local public safety officials to assess risk and aspects of prevention. There will be a follow-up meeting with town officials and the District to address recommendations made at the meeting.

Nancy Marshall expressed her appreciation to Scott Carpenter for making clear his plans for the near-term future. The communication as a Committee with Scott has been balanced and forthcoming. The School Committee has a good sense of the steps required to find a replacement Superintendent if/when the need arises.

Nancy Marshall and Scott Carpenter visited the Lincoln K-8 PTO with students from LS. The students spoke from wide array of

experiences in building. They were consistent in speaking about connectedness with teachers and faculty and appreciated the support they received from teachers after school. The students felt comfortable taking the initiative in seeing teachers proactively. Nancy Marshall enjoyed seeing LS from a different point of view and met many 9<sup>th</sup> grade parents that were excited about their children's current and future experiences at LS.

There will be a Legislative Forum March 5 in the LS Library. All four of our state legislators will be present. There will be updates on PILOT options for municipal solar installations, Circuit Breaker funds for Special Education and information on tax issues related to the solar arrays. Nancy Marshall would like faculty and staff to be part of the discussion and for the Committee to be prepared with any questions in advance of the discussion.

The LSPO will be holding a Spring Forward for Technology, their fund-raiser for items NOT included in our technology initiative at Nashawtuc Country Club on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. They will be holding an auction and are looking for donations of talents, skills and services.

Finally, the School Committee has submitted two warrant articles for Sudbury Town Meeting in May. The first is for a PILOT between the Town of Sudbury and SunEdison. The second is for formal inclusion of LS in the wording of the CIPC bylaws. A revision to the bylaws has been submitted by the Board of Selectmen and Town Manager Maureen Valente as well.

## **Bills**

## **Information and Discussion**

## **Other Business**

### **Calendar of Events**

Joint FinCom meeting, Sudbury Town Hall	February 28, 2013
Civics Bee	March 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2013
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Parents Night	March 7, 2013

Nancy Marshall requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kevin Matthews moved to adjourn the meeting and Elena Kleifges seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned.

**Adjourned at 8:56pm**