

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

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

7:30 p.m. Public Session

Conference Room B

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

Also Present: Scott Carpenter, Superintendent/Principal; Michael Connelly, Director of Finance & Operations; Lisa Weiss, TA Representative; Sue Pardus, FOLSS; Liz Darley and Kathy Gorman, LSPO.

Agenda Enclosures/Handouts

Unapproved Minutes for March 19, 2013. The March 19th minutes will be approved during the April 23rd meeting.

Call to Order

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

Welcome

Presentation

Tom Grandprey, Mike Bunting and Paul Sarapas presented the itinerary for the trip to D.C. by the LS music groups during April vacation. Two bands, the orchestra, and the chorus (98 students and 9 chaperones) will travel to Baltimore, MD via Crystal transport to work with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra in classes and workshops. Students will depart on April 17th and return April 21st. On Thursday, April 18th, the students will attend master classes with the Baltimore Symphony followed by dinner theatre featuring "The Wiz". Friday students will tour DC and attend a choral performance in the New Theatre of George Mason University. The students will also attend a performance of the Baltimore Symphony. Saturday morning will feature more musical workshops followed by a banquet and dance at the National Conference Center. Musical groups from many high schools will be attending this

conference. The Friends of Music have contributed 4 or 5 scholarships for students to participate in this trip and Thomas Grandprey and Michael Bunting have been energetic in planning fund-raisers with the music students to defray the cost of the trip.

Gerald Quirk made a motion to approve the trip and Radha Gargeya seconded the motion.

Public Comment

There was no public comment

Recognitions

LS students participated in the Science Olympiad competition held at Framingham State on March 23rd, 2013. LS placed 7th in a field of 44 teams competing in 25 events. Science teacher BJ Pegram led 16 LS students to their first top ten finish in 6 years.

The 2nd Annual Tenacity Challenge was held Saturday, April 6th at Bedford High School. African-American and Latino high school students from 15 urban and suburban districts competed in 4 events that test the academic rigor and intellectual risk-taking of 22 six-member teams. LS students finished 2nd in Social Studies (Flesche, Hamilton, and Reyes), and in the top 5 for English Literature (Riley and Perkins). The LS team was advised by Chris Gorham, METCO tutor and LS History teacher.

Teachers Tom Danko, Matt Wentworth and Charli Asta-Ferrero will be leading 17 students to New Orleans to rebuild houses damaged during Hurricane Katrina. Lynne Hunter and Shoshi Kahn-Woods have planned the MLK trip for students for the past 5 years.

Nancy Childress will be taking 8 students to Italy during April vacation. They will visit Florence, Siena, Rome and Ostia studying ancient, medieval, and art history for a week.

Alissa Jarvis will be taking 13 students to France for two weeks. The trip will include a home-stay with a French family for each student.

Tom Grandprey and Michael Bunting of the Music Department have arranged for 98 music students to attend workshops and classes with

the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra as well as attend performances of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, "The Wiz" and a festival chorus.

Lori Hodin led 29 Sophomore and Junior students in a full day of Mediation Training on March 26th, 2013.

"The Yellow Dress" will be performed at LS on April 24th, sponsored by Mentors in Violence Prevention.

Student Representative

Student Senate decided is planning a Fall Spirit event for Fall 2013. Elections are about to begin for Senate members for next year. The Student Senate discussions with Aramark went well.

METCO Representative

The METCO Representative was not present.

Superintendent Report

Scott Carpenter reported that one of his goals has been to ensure seamless transitions in the ACE Program, for the Curriculum Coordinator, the Director of Student Services, and for the new Business Administrator.

Michael Connelly has brought a solid financial system to the LS business office. He has clarified our hiring policy and updated the hiring policy manual. Scott Carpenter stated that working with Michael Connelly has been a great experience.

As a district, LS has been struggling with the increasing number of out-of-district students. Rhonda Taft-Farrell, as our interim Director of Student Services, has done a great job at looking critically at our management of out-of-district students. LS has stabilized the number of out-of-district students and finds the number to be decreasing. Aida Ramos, currently Head of Special Education for Cambridge Public Schools, has been hired as Director of Student Services beginning July 1st. Aida has been spending time getting to know everyone at LS and has been a part of the Counseling/Adminstrators Retreat.

Michael Hickey has had a great year as Coordinator of the ACE Program despite the challenges he has encountered including the death of Amy Butler.

The current Curriculum Director, Leslie Belcher, is retiring as of July 1st. Virginia Blake, current Coordinator of the Math Department, will be taking her place. Lisa Weiss will become the new Math Department Coordinator. Additionally, John Flynn will be stepping down as Guidance Coordinator but remaining as an LS counselor. We are currently looking for his replacement.

Scott Carpenter reported that there are a number of teaching vacancies to be filled. There are also the additional 4.5 FTE's which will prepare LS for the 52 student increase in 2013-2014. Ads have been placed with the Boston Globe.

Mr. Carpenter announced that he has been offered the position of Superintendent for Monomoy Regional High School. He plans to work with his successor at LS to facilitate a smooth transition.

Mr. Carpenter has been working with the administrative team and the academic council and they conclude that it is important to reestablish an additional House with Housemaster that will require an additional 0.5 FTE. The new hires planned for next school year combined with implementing the state's new evaluation system, will make an additional house and housemaster a necessity. An additional \$57,000 would be needed to restore a house and Michael Connelly has been working on a way to fund this position. Scott Carpenter has had conversations with Jim Rao to alert the Sudbury FinCom that this would be in the district's best interest. There are additional benefits to adding a house as it will unify counselors and housemasters. Michael Connelly believes that funding an additional 0.5 FTE will be possible as a result of savings in salary differential in the Director of Curriculum and the Director of Student Services positions. The support staff will not result in additional cost as it will be a matter of reallocation among the existing staff.

Kevin Matthews expressed his concern that the budget remain unchanged and that additional funds from ED&E would not be required.

Michael Connelly added that he was also exploring a potential 9% savings from the Massachusetts Teachers Retirement fund. Nancy Marshall agreed that it would be prudent for the stability of the school given the new evaluation policy to be implemented to add a House and Housemaster and is delighted to hear that there is the financial wherewithal to accomplish this task.

The last transition is for the new Athletic Director. LS plans to hire an Interim Athletic Director beginning February 2014 and will plan to hire a new Athletic Director in spring 2014 to begin work for the 2014-2015 School Year.

Scott Carpenter recommended that the School Committee solicit staff input for the hire of Superintendent/Principal. The staff is concerned because there will be so many changes in school leadership.

Fulfilling Carpenter's other goals in the past months have included communicating to the towns of Lincoln and Sudbury the capital needs of the school. He is thankful for the work done in this regard by Nancy Errico and by Radha Gargeya. He has also spent time observing classes at LS, sponsoring staff pizza lunches, meeting with parents, attending a sports events for every team at least once, and updating Carpenter's Corner frequently.

Liaison Report

Gerald Quirk reported on the status of CPA funding for the Softball Field. Lincoln approved \$50K in funding at town meeting subject to Sudbury approving \$250K. Lincoln has requested equitable access to the athletic fields. Unfortunately, Sudbury Park and Recreation does not support opening the turf athletic fields to the town of Lincoln and that means the loss of \$50K from the town of Lincoln.

Ultimately, the decision to share community fields with Lincoln is a matter for the Board of Selectmen to decide. The School Committee must consider, however, what it wishes to support and whether accepting funds that come with requirements are in the best interests of our communities.

If the Board of Selectmen refuse to open stadium use to the Town of Lincoln on equitable basis should the School Committee continue to support the warrant. Gerald Quirk does not support it. He added that a conversation with Nancy O'Neil was required. If the Town of Lincoln pays for access to a turf field, should the policy of paying for field use extend to the Town of Sudbury? Kevin Matthews inquired if the proportion of enrollment should be a factor in field use. Gerald Quirk responded that the School Committee needed to consider a policy for field use of non-community fields. It also needs to consider the possibility of paying for field improvements through a capital plan rather than through CPA funding. The School Committee is committed to funding renovations to the softball field and initially suggested CPA funds as an expeditious way to begin the softball field renovation this summer.

Nancy Marshall pointed out that Gerald Quirk has spent a great deal of time on this project and that the Board of Selectmen had been kept informed on our progress. At the Board of Selectmen meeting, the School Committee will be asked if it supports the receipt of CPA funds. The question is – how will the School Committee vote in light of the changed circumstances for field use?

When Radha Gargeya inquired about the basis for the Sudbury Park and Recreation position, Gerald Quirk replied that Sudbury Park and Recreation believed that since the Town of Lincoln did not pay for the renovation of the stadium fields, Lincoln should not have access to them. Nancy Marshall pointed out that the Town of Lincoln wasn't asked to contribute. Gerald Quirk stated that the Sudbury CPA paid for the stadium field along with private donations and funding from the state of Massachusetts.

Scott Carpenter pointed out that the School Committee, and indeed LS itself, is an entity that bridges the towns of Lincoln and Sudbury. The LS policy has always been that fields are open to all without charge. The dilemma includes the fact that the Town of Lincoln does not have a softball program and therefore no pressing need for softball fields but they are willing to contribute \$58K to share the burden of field improvement. They do need access to a turf field for their soccer program. Gerald Quirk added that the Town of Lincoln has never been

invited to planning meetings regarding field improvements but that the Inter-municipal Agreement would invite them to share usage based on allocation principals which, when finished, will cover the entire high school facility.

The question before the School Committee is – do we withdraw support of CPA funding for Softball renovations absent support from the Board of Selectmen? Nancy Marshall stated that the School Committee is the accepting body for the CPA funds and that the School Committee must decline them and redirect the need for funds to the Capital Planning Committee. This means that the Softball fields will not be renovated this year which is a travesty. Nancy Marshall further recommended that Gerald Quirk assert the decision of the School Committee to not accept the funds.

A motion was proposed by the School Committee to authorize Gerald Quirk to speak on its behalf tonight at the Board of Selectmen meeting and that CPA funds will be declined if CPA funding is tied to preventing usage of the turf fields by the town of Lincoln. The motion was put forward by Elena Kleifges and seconded by Kevin Matthews. All were in favor.

Radha Gargeya reported on the Technology Committee. Three vendors have been lined up to give estimates and make recommendations. The committee includes two members of the Sudbury FinCom, Lincoln FinCom, Sudbury Capital Improvement Committee and the Lincoln Capital Improvement Committee. Michael Connelly, Nancy Errico, Radha Gargeya, Gerald Quirk and David Walsh provided valuable input during the presentation with the vendor. The Technology Committee plans to make a recommendation by the end of the school year so that they will be ready to make a proposal to the Towns of Lincoln and Sudbury. Nancy Marshall stated that the School Committee has been encouraged to request a Special Town Meeting in order to move this project forward. She recommends a large public meeting with a question and answer period for both towns and all relevant organizations.

Kevin Matthews pointed out that there is a federally mandated amount of capacity per student which is a minimum of 100 Kb/sec per student.

Radha Gargeya stated that the School Committee will have to continue to lobby for technology needs to become an integral part of building needs.

TA Report

The Evaluation Committee met today to discuss contract language. The School Committee will receive a full report when more has been accomplished. Third quarter grades have been submitted. The teachers are looking forward to a happy fourth quarter.

Chair Report

Nancy Marshall congratulated Scott Carpenter on his appointment as Superintendent to the Monomoy Regional High School. The School Committee plans to proceed with the Superintendent/Principal evaluation in June to send Scott off with a good reflection on this year.

The METCO banquet will be held on May 14th in Boston at the Kroc Center. The School Committee's May 14th meeting will take place just before that in Boston.

Nancy Marshall congratulated to Kevin Matthews and Radha Gargeya on their re-election to the LS School Committee.

Nancy Marshall met with Bill Braun, Andrea Terkelsen and Kevin Batt to prepare for introducing the PILOT at town meeting. Kevin Batt confirmed that the PILOT amount to be paid by SunEdison is \$5K. The Pilot amount for the Landfill will be \$7K. A certified copy of the vote from town meeting will be sent to the Department of Revenue. The understanding of the moderator is that we will be addressing the PILOT and not the solar canopy project. The PILOT promotes electrical savings to users in place of taxation. Before Town Meeting the School Committee will discuss the PILOT with the Board of Assessors and the Board of Selectmen. The discussion at Town Meeting is scheduled for the second night. Nancy Marshall stated that it is her hope that the PILOT will be accepted so that construction on the solar canopy can begin this summer.

Nancy Marshall, Patty Mostue, Nicole Digenis and Elena Kleifges have worked through language for the Field Trip Policy. The first reading of

the policy will be in May. It is very straightforward and Wellesley is adopting the same policy for their school district.

Scott Carpenter related the extent to which technology is used in the schools he has visited. He firmly believes that a strong WIFI infrastructure must be in place at LS in order to support the next leap in technology. Radha Gargeya reminded the committee that there must be an annual technology budget so that LS does not fall behind and that this fact must be shared with the communities.

GIFTS

The School Committee expressed its gratitude to the Co-Presidents of the LSPO, Liz Darley and Kathy Gorman, for their successful effort to provide funds for technology.

Michael Connelly submitted a Gift memo to accept money from the LSPO. Liz Darley reported a profit of \$37,600. She also reported that the LSPO felt it was a successful event and one that the community would be receptive to repeating. Nancy Marshall felt that it was for a great cause and a wonderful way to draw the LS community together.

Elena Kleifges moved that the School Committee vote to accept the \$37,600 donation from the Lincoln-Sudbury Parent Organization from the Technology Fundraising Gala event held on March 23rd, 2013. The funds from this event will be used to support the technology needs of the district to specifically assist with the replacement of 9-year old devices that were originally purchased in 2004. Kevin Matthews seconded the motion and all members were in favor.

Information and Discussion

Glenn Koocher has offered to facilitate focus groups to guide the transition from Scott Carpenter to the new or interim Superintendent/Principal. The School Committee has the information gathered from the LS community from three years ago when Scott Carpenter was hired as Superintendent/Principal. A succession of meetings will be held with Mr. Koocher for Faculty/Administration, followed by LS parents, and a final one for Faculty/Staff. The School Committee would like to cast a lens on what the essential requirements of the role are. Screening of candidates will begin May 15th. Nancy

Marshall has received referrals for candidates for the Interim Superintendent/Principal position. The committee must also plan a time line for the more extensive search for permanent Superintendent/Principal which will take place in the Fall.

Nancy Marshall requested a motion to create a Search Committee for Interim Superintendent/Principal. Radha Gargeya moved that such a committee be formed and Elena Kleifges seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Bills

There were no bills.

Information and Discussion

Michael Connelly reported on the bids from Food Service companies for a contract with Lincoln-Sudbury. LS is required to secure bids from Food Service companies every five years. The evaluation committee for the current five year review included Michael Connelly, Kelly Mazza, Vicky Caburian, Elena Kleifges and Diane Kaufman. Bids from Whitson's Food Service and from Aramark Food Service were considered.

Aramark is known for its good management, strong administrative team, and it has an excellent reputation with large K-12 schools. Whitson's proposal offered a different approach to food preparation, creating entrees from scratch on site to produce a fresher product. Both groups received favorable ratings from community outreach efforts. Whitson's is a fast growing company that has expanded rapidly. There were some complaints that that Whitson's management cannot maintain a solvent break-even financial program. Aramark received good recommendations for management but needs to be more receptive to the community they are serving. Aramark has met with the Student Senate and faculty to discuss areas of change which Aramark has pledged to begin implementing immediately.

By looking at comparative criteria, the committee agreed that Aramark would be a better food service for LS. Scott Carpenter added that he has been very pleased with Aramark's food service. Radha Gargeya inquired if Sudbury Public Schools or Lincoln Public Schools might join

LS in using Aramark. Michael Connelly replied that Sudbury Public Schools decided to offer a contract to Whitson's.

Kevin Matthews put forward a motion to award the food service management to Aramark. There was no further discussion. Elena Kleifges seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Calendar of Events

Patriots Day	April 15
School Committee meeting	April 23 (Grange Hall)
Yellow Dress Performance	April 24
Junior Prom	May 4
Sudbury town meeting	May 6

Nancy Marshall requested a motion to adjourn the public meeting and commence Executive Session. Elena Kleifges moved to adjourn the meeting, Kevin Matthews seconded the motion. All were in favor. The School Committee meeting was adjourned at 9:34 pm.

Adjourned at 9:34 pm.