

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

**Tuesday, February 26, 2013**

**7:00 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; Julia Thomas, Student Senate Representative; Alison Richards; Phil James; David Bloom, TA Representatives; Sue Pardus and Nancy Rubenstein, Friends of LS Softball.

**Agenda Enclosures/Handouts**

Unapproved Minutes for February 12, 2013

**Call to Order**

Nancy Marshall called the Public Meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**Welcome**

Motions to approve minutes for February 12, 2013 will be postponed until next School Committee Meeting.

Nancy Marshall addressed the ratification of the Teachers' Contract for 2012-2015 as the first order of business. She expressed gratitude to everyone involved in the negotiations that brought many issues to the table and provided the School Committee with many new insights. Scott Carpenter lauded the efforts of all parties and Nancy Marshall was thankful for the open and respectful communication possible between parties. The School Committee believes that the Towns of Lincoln and Sudbury will benefit and the district will be strengthened by a contract that will keep the district on a sustainable path.

Lisa Weiss extended her thanks to the LS Faculty for the level of professionalism that was maintained during the negotiations. The Faculty exhibited a commitment to excellence to the high school and compromised to reach an agreement on the contract. Radha Gargeya stated that the School Committee would be assiduous in seeking support for Lincoln-Sudbury from the communities of Lincoln and Sudbury. Larry O'Brien, Board of Selectmen, agreed that now was the moment for the Board of Selectmen and School Committee to build on this agreement and truly exhort the communities to support a contract that sustains LS for the next three years. Scott Carpenter acknowledged that the Teachers Association had contributed in a very meaningful way to help the School Committee manage the current fiscal restraints.

**Presentation**

The annual performance report will be presented when Patty Mostue can be present. It will be posted on the LS web site this coming week.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Recognitions**

Scott Carpenter congratulated Susan Frommer and Matt Wentworth on leading a successful Habitat for Humanity trip to Baltimore during the February vacation.

Bill Schechter led a group of LS students to visit the LS Memorial School during the February break. The group visited Phnom Penh, the Battambang Riverfront, and the Temples at Angkor Wat at sunrise.

Tom Grandprey and Michael Bunting visited Lincoln Middle School and Curtis Middle School with members of the LS Concert Band and Chorus to introduce the music program to eighth grade students.

Greg Gammons will be offering a CPR class to LS staff on March 9<sup>th</sup>. The Wellness Department has a new student teacher, Hilary Glencross, from Salem State University who was awarded Eastern District Physical Educator of the Year Award.

Kimberley Heller has been accepted to The Naval Academy.

Girls Nordic Skiing came in first at States.

Girls Swimming came in second at States.

Boys Swimming is 4<sup>th</sup> in the State.

Boys Wrestling sent 12 students to Sectionals in the top two categories.

4 LS wrestlers qualified for New England Championships.

Girls Basketball and Girls Hockey as well as Boys Hockey all qualified for end of season tournaments.

**Student Representative**

Julia Thomas reported that the Student Senate is organizing Teacher Appreciation Activities to celebrate our faculty's excellence. A Dodge Ball Tournament is on the agenda for the next meeting. Elections will be held this spring, it is undecided if seniors will be allowed to vote in the upcoming elections.

**TA Representative**

Lisa Weiss reported that the teachers are happy to have the contract negotiations behind them. Student progress reports will be issued on March 8<sup>th</sup>.

**METCO Representative**

Representative not present.

**Superintendent Report**

Scott Carpenter reported that the Hiring Committee for Director of Student Services has recommended two candidates who have returned to the school to visit and meet staff. The candidates have different strengths but both are very qualified for the position. One of the candidates will be hired by the end of the week.

The LS community has experienced, with the death of Amy Butler on February 13<sup>th</sup>, the loss of one of the best special educators we have ever worked with. Amy touched so many of us

and had special way with students. She was a transformative educator. The Memorial Service was attended by many staff, students, parents, and alumni. Parents spoke eloquently about the remarkable transformations she effected in her students so that they left LS and successfully attended colleges such as Northeastern University and enjoyed international internships. Lisa Weiss added that Amy Butler made a difference to the Faculty because she changed the way they interacted with their students. Scott commended the LS clinical staff and the ACE staff who were prepared to assist students in this difficult time.

Amy's death is a challenging loss for all at LS. Scott related that he had received many emails remembering and honoring Amy. A Book Award in Amy's name will be presented at graduation by parents wishing to honor her memory.

The 2012 Annual Performance Report for Lincoln-Sudbury has been completed and is on the LS website. Through analysis of information presented in the report it is possible to trace trends for the past 10 years. Peer community comparison is also possible where data is available. Our peer communities include Acton-Boxboro, Bedford, Concord Carlisle, Lexington, Wayland and Weston. It is clear that Sudbury and Lincoln prepare students equally well for the rigors of LS classes. Special Education trends are outlined including out of district numbers, as is social-emotional learning, per pupil expenditures and outcomes of standardized testing including MCAS, SAT, ACT, and AP scores. It is apparent from the data that METCO students are better prepared for life after school than their peers in Boston Public Schools.

We have examined four levels of college placement for LS students and how they are doing relative to our peer communities. Interesting information is highlighted by examination of percentage of students in the high needs category. LS has the lowest number of students in the high needs category among our peer communities.

More discussion of this annual performance report will take place at the March 19<sup>th</sup> School Committee meeting.

### **Liaison Report**

Sue Pardus and Nancy Rubenstein were present to bring the Committee up to date on the Softball field renovation project. The CPA committees of both Lincoln and Sudbury have approved the articles for renovation of the softball field. The FOLSS requests that the School Committee and Lincoln Sudbury high school direct the renovations and be contractually responsible for the work on the field.

Gerald Quirk stated his surprise at this request since it was his understanding that the School Committee had voted to accept the donation of the completed project from FOLSS. The school district has not planned to be involved in the bidding, signing of contracts, obtaining insurance or using our staff and administrative resources to ensure that the project is completed. To change at this point will require that the School Committee, together with Kevin Rossley and Nancy O'Neil, determine the staff commitment necessary, the cost of liability insurance, and the submission of a warrant jointly with Lincoln. It is also probable that if the school district is undertaking the project, its scope will be more limited.

Sue Pardus responded that the project is beyond the scope of parent volunteers. Kevin Rossley, Nancy O'Neil and Michael Connelly are more suited to guiding this project to

completion. Gerald Quirk believes that the liability issues are the responsibility of the design group and contractor. In any case, he felt that the School Committee must now reassess the project scope and discuss their approach to the project. Michael Connelly detailed the chronology which would include bidding in May and June, and contract award at the end of June and construction during the summer months. Nancy Marshall stated that consideration of the demands of the solar canopy must be taken into account.

Nancy Marshall approved further discussion for the next School Committee meeting. Radha Gargeya detailed the issues to be addressed as “who will be in charge” and “what is the scope of the project”.

### **Chair Report**

Nancy Marshall reminded School Committee members of the Pops Concert at LS the following week. She also reminded all present of the Joint FinCom meeting in Flynn Building on Thursday at 7:30pm. Eighth Grade Parents Night was scheduled for March 7<sup>th</sup> and Candidates Night also on March 7<sup>th</sup>. Next Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, the state legislators would be available for a question and answer evening – topics would be funding for districts, solar initiatives and sequestration of funds. Nancy requested that committee members submit questions in advance of the evening. March 23<sup>rd</sup> is that date of the LSPO Auction and Gala at Nashawtuc Country Club. At the Joint FinCom meeting in the lower level of town offices, LS is the agenda. The FinCom will want a pulse check on our budget for next year. Michael Connelly added that they may also wish to discuss the ED&E funds for next year and its effect on next year’s budget.

**Bills** – no bills were presented.

### **Information and Discussion**

Michael Connelly presented a memo about recent legislation for background checks. The expanded background checks will be added to a national criminal data base. LS will wait for official guidance to the schools before instituting any change.

Visitor Sign-in is a subject that the School Committee will have to address as is ID badges for Faculty and Staff. The Safety Committee will meet on Wednesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, to recap safety issues. Part of the discussions of the Safety Committee will be the ALiCE protocol and processing past lock-downs at LS. Scott Carpenter stated that the faculty and staff at LS are always trying to improve our emergency responses. The committee is currently working on scripts to read in times of emergency to relay information to the school population to keep them informed in a way that will not impede the efforts of the police responders.

Nancy Marshall related DA Gerry Leone’s advice that the best safeguard for school safety is to foster a climate of communication and connectedness. When students trust the adults in a school, the safety level of the school is increased. Good communication within a school will catch at-risk students and that is more important than isolated safety issues.

### **Other Business**

Nancy Marshall asked Michael Connelly what a federal government impasse would mean for LS. Michael Connelly distributed a memo that illustrates possible results. The DESE issued information on March 1<sup>st</sup> deadline that no impact would be felt until July 1<sup>st</sup> of the next fiscal year.

Our federal grants for Special Education would be affected by a 6% reduction. Most of LS grants are entitlement grants. There will probably be a \$21K reduction in our FY14 budget.

**Calendar of Events**

Joint FINCOM Meeting	February 28, 2013
Legislators Meeting, LS Library	March 6, 2013
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Parents Night	March 7, 2013
Candidates Night	March 7, 2013
Progress Reports for Students	March 8, 2013
School Committee Meeting	March 12, 2013
School Committee Meeting	March 19, 2013
MCAS	March 19,21,22, 2013
Lincoln Town Meeting	March 23, 2013
LSPO Fundraiser Gala	March 23, 2013
Good Friday	March 28, 2013
3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter ends	April 3, 2013

Nancy Marshall requested a motion to not adjourn to executive sessions. Gerald Quirk moved that the meeting be adjourned, Elena Kleifges seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:08pm**

Respectfully submitted  
Francy Zingale