

**LINCOLN SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES  
OCTOBER 24, 2017**

**Present**

Kevin Matthews, Chair; Gerald Quirk, Vice-Chair; Radha Gargeya; Craig Gruber; Nancy Marshall; Patty Mostue

**Also Present**

Bella Wong, Superintendent/Principal; Sherry Kersey, Director of Finance; Caroline Singler, TA President; Kerri Johnson, Student Senate; Emily Phillips, Clinical Counselor; Susan Shields, Wellness Department Coordinator; Tamara Andrews and Diedre Lewis, METCO Parents; Joann Forester, LSPO Co-Chair; LS Students Ranji Matthews, Anya Elder, Caitlyn Feng, Lizzy Murphy, Ally McNamara.

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:31pm

**Approval of Minutes**

On a motion from Patty Mostue, seconded by Nancy Marshall, the minutes for September 26, 2017, were approved pending edits. There was no discussion. All were in favor.

**Presentation**

Emily Phillips, Clinical Counselor, and Susan Shields, Wellness Department Coordinator, presented the results of the 2016 Metrowest Adolescent Health Survey. The survey was administered in November 2016 to 26 Metrowest School Districts. At Lincoln-Sudbury, 96% of students took the survey which is now in its 10th year. The design of the survey is valid and reliable.

Encouraging 10-year trends: Students indicated increased adult support at school  
Decrease in cigarette smoking  
Decrease in alcohol use  
Decrease in Marijuana use  
Decrease in drinking while driving  
Decrease in riding in a car driven by someone drinking  
Decrease in bullying.

Concerning 10-year trends: Increase in stress  
Decrease in things to be happy about at LS  
Increase in Cyber-bullying  
Increase in receiving and/or sending a "sext"  
Increase in incidents of "seriously considered suicide."

## Slight decrease in driving after marijuana use

### Correlated data and Matching Behaviors:

Stress levels high in students who reported challenges with mental health.

Students who identify as LGBTQ feel increasingly at risk of cyber-bullying.

Increase use of social media to increased substance abuse and mental health problems.

Risky substance abuse behaviors correlate with increased substance abuse by parents and peers.

### Significant LS facts from the survey:

80% LS students have a relationship with a supportive adult at school

71% LS students feel “a part of the school.”

66% LS students feel more connected to peers because of social media.

58% LS students heard other students at school being verbally harassed because of differences.

50% LS students spent three or more hours per night on homework.

41% say that life is stressful.

2% LS students attempted suicide. (28 students)

13% LS students hurt themselves on purpose.

In presenting the results of the current survey to the LS student body, the A.C.T. (Acknowledge, Care, Talk) protocol was discussed to remind students of their role in the LS community: the need for us to acknowledge problems, care about them, and talk about them. A World Cafe scenario was utilized to share information with students and parents. Twentyone student leaders at 10 tables discussed: substance abuse including alcohol and marijuana; sexual behaviors; bullying and dating violence; social media and cyberbullying, stress; mental health; sexual orientation and gender identity. Students were encouraged to write post-it notes containing their thoughts, concerns, and/or remedies.

The survey results data will be used in Wellness classes as discussion points. It will also inform discussions in other classes as students examine current literature, discuss addiction issues in science classes, demographic issues in psychology or history classes, etc. As students become increasingly aware of the extent their peers feel certain challenges, their ability to discuss and empathize with others will increase. Ms. Wong commended the students and Ms. Shields and Ms. Phillips on their efforts to distill and disseminate the vast amounts of data contained in the survey results. A copy of the Metrowest Adolescent Youth Survey is located in the Superintendent’s Office.

### **Recognitions**

The Sudbury-Wayland-Lincoln Domestic Violence Roundtable is holding “Light in the Darkness Candlelight Vigil” to commemorate this year’s victims of domestic violence on Thursday, October 26th, at 6:30pm in the LS Auditorium. Michael Bunting and the Chamber Singers will

perform for the event. A light dinner will be served following the ceremony. The event is open to the public and all are welcome.

The Metrowest Adolescent Health Survey Results were presented to the LS parent community during Connections on October 11th at 7:30pm in the LS cafeteria. The results were also presented to students during an assembly on Friday, October 13th. LS students Shea Justice, Ethan Weisman, Samantha Carroll, Max Zuo, Ally McNamara, Lizzy Murphy, Kayla Bain, Hayley Lopes, Ella Grandprey, Bella Kacprzyk, Zack Barsamian, Chanel Osborne, Ranji Matthews, Becca Dubrovsky, Caitlynn Feng, Anya Elder, Kate Molloy, Lisa Stevenson, Emily Hyer, and Emily Touche participated in the presentation. Our thanks to Sarah Greeley, David Bloom, Susan Shields, and Emily Phillips for organizing and managing these informative presentations.

National Coming Out Day was marked by the Gay Straight Alliance selling rainbow ribbons and handing out stickers. Faculty, staff and students with coming out stories to share were asked to submit their story for posting on the GSA board (across from East House). It means a great deal to our students to hear that adults in the building who they admire also wrestled with the same issues they do. Our thanks to Jane Murphy for organizing this activity.

The current art work of Sara Fine-Wilson will be on display at the Fountain Street Gallery, 460C Harrison Avenue, #2 in Boston, Ma from October 11 until November 12, 2017. The title of the show is ***JUNCTURE: exploring the intersection of chaos and cohesion***. There will be a first Friday Reception on November 3 from 6-8pm. The gallery is located in Boston's SOWA (South of Washington) district.

Nicole Digenis has been invited to a Teacher Appreciation Lunch hosted by the Massachusetts Academy of Mathematics and Science on November 15th in Worcester, MA. She is being recognized for her outstanding work as an educator. Piyusha Kundu (LS'17) recommended Nicole Digenis for this honor.

On October 15, 20 German students from our partner school, the Gymnasium Vilshofen, arrived at LS and will spend the next three weeks with us, attending LS classes with their partners. They shadowed their LS hosts Monday (10/16) and Tuesday (10/17). LS student hosts are: Andrew Brown, Dylan Goldman, Hunter Mankus, Isaac Tibor, Sam Anderson, Juliet Capodilupo, Chris Streilein, Jack Bull, Ethan Hullinger, Kurt Westerberg, Jackson Bleakley, Brendan Kelleher, Samantha Carroll, Parker Luther, Mary Lee, Sabrina Hoenig, Kerri Maron, Oliver Neale, Jack Ginand, Zach Armour, Andrew Sifferlen. Beginning on Thursday, October 19, other LS students enrolled in German were able to bring one German exchange student to one of their classes, as part of our Rent-A-German program. This gave other students taking German the chance to "host" a visitor for one block and gave our German exchange students a chance to experience the breadth of our LS curriculum. Joan Campbell, Department Coordinator of the World Language Department, has organized hosting accommodations and events for our German guests.

The LS Environmental Club presented a well-planned and articulate defense of last Spring's plastics reduction efforts at Sudbury's Special Town Meeting on October 16. It was another very late night and another overtime session, but the LS Environmental Club was successful in defending their plastic water bottle ban last night at Town Meeting. Students that were at the Town Meeting were: Sarah Levine, Lucy Bergeron, Julia Concannon, Nicole Garay, Anjuli Das, and Kerstin Kelly. We are proud of what these students have accomplished over the past year. Club Advisor Chris Collins gives a special thanks to Rami Alwan, Christine Iskandar, and Caroline Singler for all of their advice and support of these students.

On October 11th, 6 MVP LS students attended the Game Change Student Leader Summit at Gillette Stadium hosted by Robert Kraft and Attorney General Maura Healey. MVP LS 12th grader Elana Rose and Alum Sam Ryan addressed the attendees and spoke about how community service organizations like REACH Beyond Domestic Violence and the Lauren Dunne Astley Memorial Fund strengthen the MVP team ([Link](#) to Sam Ryan's thank you to Mr Astley and the Lauren Dunne Astley Memorial Fund). Advisors Lori Hodin and Tim Jason attended the Summit, hosted by Robert Kraft and Attorney General Maura Healey, with the students. In other MVP news, almost 20 MVP Student Leaders will hold a full day MVP training for accepted underclass nominees. Other advisors for the MVP program are: Chris Belmont, Desiree Butter, Jill Coutu, Humberlys Galindez, Greg Gammons, Jen Garfield, Mel Gonsalves, Tim Jason, JK Park, and Jen Reen. Lori Hodin received a letter from Attorney General Maura Healy commending the MVP program stating that it is "Truly a model for every high school in our state." Atty. Gen. Healy also said that she appreciated Lori sharing the LS MVP story with the attendees of the Game Changers Summit at Gillette.

On Wednesday, November 8, our new staff members will be observing other classes in the school. This will provide the new staff members an opportunity to see what different departments, teaching styles, grades, heterogeneous classes, and levels are like.

LS is planning an Art Opening and Gallery Walk on November 20th from 6 to 8pm with a Formal Presentation at 7pm. The gallery walk will include a guided tour of the many existing pieces hanging throughout the building with student or artist commentary at select pieces. The METCO Gallery features student work as well as the work of professional artists. The unveiling will include Dana Chandler's collage art and Hakim Raquib's digital photo collage. Melissa Rocklen's mathematically influenced mobile will be hanging in the Math Department's lightwell. And finally, a community mural supported by artist Alex Cook, whose "You are Loved" project strives to bring messages of affirmation and support to school buildings and other public spaces throughout the country. These projects were made possible through the support of the Ogden Codman Trust, SERF, Massachusetts Cultural Council, Lincoln Cultural Council, Sudbury Cultural Council and the LSPO.

Middlesex Partnership for Youth is sponsoring a conference on ***Mindfulness for Youth: Removing Barriers to Connection & Community in Schools*** in Lowell, MA on Wednesday, October 25th. LS Teachers Chris Collins, Susan Shields, Shawn Miller, Art Reilly, Angela

Medeiros, Mary Brunson, Peter Elenbaas, Kayla DeWees, Sarah Greeley, Rebecca Platt, and Maureen Bolton will attend the conference and hear National Basketball Association (NBA) Sports Psychologist George Mumford tell his deeply moving personal story and explain how mindfulness is a powerful tool to build resiliency and reduce stress. Adapting the practice of mindfulness in schools and law enforcement has the potential to bring calmness, self-regulation and focus into classrooms, families, and the community.

### **METCO Parent Report**

Tamara Andrews and Diedre Lewis had nothing to report.

### **Student Senate Report**

Kerri Johnson reported that the senate had met with the newly elected 9th grade members of the senate. Senior dress-up day is Tuesday, October 31st. The next student senate meeting will be in mid-November. The senate members have been in discussion with the Concord-Carlisle student senate regarding a friendly food drive competition in association with the yearly CC v LS Hockey Game on December 9th. Proceeds from the food drive will be donated to the Concord Food Pantry.

### **Teachers' Association Report**

Caroline Singler thanked Brandi Mahlert for organizing the annual flu shot clinic in Conference Room A. Teachers are writing recommendations for early decision college applications. Aida Ramos has organized professional development to fulfill the new state mandate for 15 hours of Special Education training for all teachers in the state of Massachusetts. A certified behavioral specialist will come to LS to provide a series of afternoon training sessions to learn strategies for teaching students with special needs. Teachers at LS recently worked together to prepare the Jane and Ken Young garden for the winter.

### **Chairman's Report**

Kevin Matthews reported on the Tri-District Forum which took place on October 23rd in Lincoln to discuss diversity and inclusion. It was well-attended and provided fruitful discussion to be continued at future meetings. Mr. Gargeya indicated that it was very interesting to hear attendees perception vs. reality. Gerald Quirk remarked that the challenge moving forward was to develop trust and increase the strength of new and existing relationships. All agreed that Mr. Christenfeld, Chair of Lincoln School Committee, organized a very productive meeting.

### **Liaison Report**

Radha Gargeya and Nancy Marshall attended the Budget Strategies Task Force meeting on Monday, October 23rd. The full schedule and agenda's for future meetings will soon be established. The Lincoln and Sudbury Capital Plans have been approved for FY18.

Gerald Quirk reported that structural work on 420 Lincoln Road will commence in November. Mr. Quirk commended Kevin Rossley, Director of Facilities, for working assiduously on the project.

## **Superintendent Report**

Ms. Wong recently met with Samantha Greenfield at Goodnow Library to tour the Maker Space being created there for project-based learning. The space is full of natural light and when finished in February will be spacious and beautiful. Use of the Maker Space has a protocol in place so that projects will be close-ended with a start and finish. The proposed center for innovation at the high school, while similar, would involve more open ended learning. Renovations to the Goodnow Library space have come from fund-raising.

On October 25, 2017, there will be a press release regarding current MCAS results. Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School will return to being a Level 1 school. Students did well in math, science and ELA. Ms. Wong reminded the school committee members that this result reflects all students who are part of the LS community and includes students who are currently out of district. The new MCAS test will be administered to LS students in the class of 2021.

Ms. Wong requested that the School Committee vote to amend the LS Staff Handbook so that it aligns with the Teachers' Contract in regard to extended sick leave.

***VOTE: Nancy Marshall moved "that 120 calendar days per sickness or injury shall be guaranteed to each staff member. No residual benefits shall accrue from unused sick days. This policy will be reviewed annually to assess its costs and benefits to the faculty members and to the Committee. In order to be eligible to take sick leave, a staff member must (a) report the illness or injury to the Superintendent/Principal or his/her designee as soon as practicable and no later than one (1) hour prior to such staff member's scheduled reporting time on the first day of absence, except in extreme emergency; and (b) upon request, in the event of an absence of five (5) days or more or if the Committee believes that there may be abuse, provide medical evidence satisfactory to the Committee that the staff member was actually prevented from working due to personal illness or injury." Gerald Quirk seconded the motion. All were in favor, there was no discussion.***

## **Business Report**

Sherry Kersey reported that the FY18 Capital Items with amended assessment letters must be sent out. The operating budget has been certified as has the debt budget. She requested that the School Committee certify the Capital Budget of **\$160,000**.

***Vote: Gerald Quirk made a motion "that the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional School Committee approve the FY18 Capital Budget at \$160,000 funded by member community assessments of which \$22,448 is assessed to the Town of Lincoln and \$137,552 is assessed to the Town of Sudbury, per the enclosed Assessment Schedule." The motion was seconded by Nancy Marshall. All were in favor, there was no discussion.***

The FY19 Capital Planning Budget has been submitted to both towns for consideration. The Town of Lincoln is considering the FY19 Capital Planning Requests at its spring Town Meeting. Sudbury will consider items during the Spring Meeting in May and others during the Special Town Meeting in October. Three projects have been proposed: A new Water Heater at \$57,500; CCTV security cameras at \$55,000 to increase coverage outside of the building; and, lastly, a new telephone system at a cost of \$80,000.

Ms. Kersey also proposed a 60-month lease on a new postal machine from Pitney Bowes. The old machine has broken down. The new machine's cost will be \$305 per month for 60 months. Pitney Bowes is a state certified provider.

***VOTE: Gerald Quirk offered a motion to enter into a 60-month lease for a new postage machine from Pitney Bowes at a cost of \$305 per month. Patty Mostue seconded the motion. There was no discussion, all were in favor.***

Ms. Kersey has requested quotes from five (5) traffic engineers for a traffic impact study of four major intersections in Sudbury that are problematic for bus transportation. Since there is a possibility that LS may need to organize bus transportation for strictly LS students, it is important to understand how that will impact traffic within the Town of Sudbury. The School Committee members agreed that soliciting a traffic logistic study made sense.

### **Action Items**

The third reading for Therapy Pet Policy has been tabled until the November 21, 2017, meeting. Current warrants and vouchers were signed.

### **Information and Discussion**

There was no information and discussion.

### **Other Business**

There was no other business

### **Calendar**

Senior Dress-Up Day	October 31, 2017
First Quarter Ends	November 2, 2017
HOPESudbury Telethon	November 4, 2017
LS School Committee	November 7, 2017
Connections Film "If Only"	November 7, 2017
Veterans Day	November 10, 2017
Fall Musical "Secret Garden"	November 15-18, 2017

### **Adjourn**

On a motion from Patty Mostue, seconded by Radha Gargeya, the public session meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm. All were in favor, there was no discussion.

On a motion from Gerald Quirk, seconded by Nancy Marshall, the LS School Committee members proposed meeting in Executive Session. All were in favor, there was no discussion.

Respectfully submitted,  
Francy Zingale