

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

Tuesday, September 26, 2017

7:30 p.m.

LS Conference Room B

Present

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

Also Present

Bella Wong, Superintendent/Principal; Sherry Kersey, Business Manager; Caroline Singler, TA President; Kerri Johnson, Student Senate President; Dan Schuler, Guidance Counselor; Charlotte Trim, LS parent; Jennifer Glass, Lincoln Selectman and LS Parent.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:33pm

Approval of Minutes

On a motion from Patty Mostue, seconded by Radha Gargeya, the Minutes for September 12, 2017 were approved pending edits. Nancy Marshall and Gerald Quirk abstained.

Presentation

Dan Schuler, LS South House Guidance Counselor and co-liaison for the Counseling Department, introduced the new LS School Profile to the committee members. A more detailed and thorough School Profile will assist college admissions offices when evaluation applications from LS students. Of particular interest is the section on Advanced Placement courses and comparison of the higher scores of LS students compared to students in other schools that might have a higher number of AP classes available to them. It illustrates the rigor of LS courses. The expanded profile also permits LS guidance counselors to create a narrative regarding each student without having to add information about the general format of available courses at LS. The new school profile in combination with the student's transcript will give colleges a very clear picture of the academic strength of our candidates. Charles Despotopoulos, our AV Technician, was instrumental in giving the profile a very professional look.

During the past summer, there were 83 ED&E workshops in which LS faculty taught or took part in. Bella Wong reported on the dedication of the LS Faculty to continually improve course offerings, teaching strategies, as well as learning to incorporate technology into their teaching and developing new course offerings. Summaries are provided at the end of each workshop which includes a list of participants. Funding is provided as part of the Teachers' Contract but is

usually insufficient to cover all participants. Existing funds are supplemented by grants applied for by faculty members.

Public Comment

Charlotte Trim, LS parent, expressed concerns regarding Project LS and a student organization that she felt had a political agenda. Kevin Matthews indicated that the School Committee will keep her concerns in mind.

Recognitions

Back to School Night, September 13th, 2017, was a very successful evening thanks to many participants. Special thank you to Thomas Grandprey for organizing the student musicians who elevated the evening with music to delight the parents while in transit from one class to another. Members of the violin ensemble (Emma Christman, Eugenia Zhang and Shirley Ren) played near East House; Max Zuo and Veronica Guo played the piano outside West House; Asher Cohen on piano/guitar, Simon Abdal-Khabir on drums, Chris Manente on bass, and Andrew George on alto sax performing jazz and rock near South House.

Thanks also to Buildings and Grounds for preparing the building for the evening – everything looked perfect!! Thanks to Barb O'Connell for organizing the student volunteers who guided parents to their destinations. Patty Gogan and Debbie Aiello created the schedules that parents followed. Counselors and Associate Principals were on hand to welcome parents.

A special thanks to the Sudbury Police Department which assisted in safely expediting the parent exodus at the end of the evening. Thanks also to the LSPO for providing a delicious dinner for faculty and staff on hand for the event. It was deeply appreciated!

On Tuesday, October 17th, at 12:36pm, Dr. Kirsty Kerin will be addressing LS 9th and 10th graders on the science of sleep. Dr. Kerin is a research scientist who specializes in the subject. She will be talking about the importance of sleep to our overall health and wellness and will share strategies to optimize sleep.

Michael Isakov and Samantha Cheung will be attending the Harvard Book Award Breakfast on Wednesday October 4th at 8am which will be held at the Harvard Club of Boston on Commonwealth Avenue. The speaker for this occasion will be Sister Barbara Rogers, Headmistress of Newton Country Day School of the Sacred Heart. Colleen Demers, guidance counselor for both students, will attend the breakfast.

LS has 18 National Merit Semifinalists each of whom has an opportunity to continue in the National Merit Scholarship competition. They are: Matthew Bayer, Hannah Brodsky, Samantha Cheung, Blake Danziger, Ronabelle Fang, Kenneth Ho, Lucy Huo, Michael Isakov, Michael Kossuth, Sydney Merrill, Rachel Pellegrino, Tiffany Qin, Hannah Quirk, Connor Reinhold, Daniel Stutman, Edward Truex, Ernest Wallace and Megan Wei. Congratulations to these students!

LS has 29 National Merit Commended Students for the 2018 National Merit Program. They are:

David Abraham, Nicholas Alfonso, Christopher Beeler, Maya Belge, Hannah BenDavid, Benjamin Blackman, Michael Cadogan, Ruby Carmel, Catherine Chuang, Emily Chuang, McKendree Densel, Michael Farren, Reshawn George, Harrison Gross, Liam Huston, Richard Kornblum, Avraham Lepsky, Preeya Patel, Shirley Ren, Adam Rose, Emma Segel, Anderson Shew, Catherine Solakian, Julia Solowey, Annamelora St. George, Alexander Tam, Brandon Waddill, Benjamin Xie and Eugenia Zhang. Congratulations to all!!

Faculty and Staff have completed the mandated trainings required each year, including becoming adept with the Epi-pen, thanks to guidance from the nursing staff. Aida Ramos had collected the training sites for staff and recorded compliance.

Donna Cakert, Registrar; Leslie Patterson, Associate Principal; and Danielle McAuliffe, Student Services, will be attending a training class entitled "Combating Fraudulent Enrollment in Massachusetts." The class is taught by Attorney Patrick Michael Rogers of the Commonwealth Police Service and will take place on Wednesday, September 27th in Marlborough.

Student Representative Report

Kerri Johnson, Student Senate President, reported that 9th Grade Elections were coming up and the current senate members were encouraging 9th graders to run for election. The pilot program regarding no homework during break that was approved last year, will take effect this year with Thanksgiving. The student senate is looking forward to its implementation.

METCO Parent Report

Tamara Andrews and Nikki Fortes reported that they had met with Bella Wong to work on bringing the resident community and boston communities together and will look forward to continuing the discussion as the year progresses. Ms. Wong has indicated that she will attend METCO Parent Meetings in Boston and School Committee members encouraged METCO parents to attend and participate in LS School Committee meetings and to send in information to be read into the record for meetings they were unable to attend. Mr. Matthews and Mr. Quirk welcomed them to the meeting. Mr. Gargeya and Mr. Matthews encouraged METCO parents to reach out whenever there were logistical or academic issues to be addressed.

Teachers' Association Report

Caroline Singler thanked the LSPO on behalf of the faculty for the Back to School Night dinner provided on September 13th. It is mid-quarter 1 and time for teachers to send out warnings where necessary. The Activity Shop Around took place September 14 and 15, many faculty members are club advisors. Hurricane relief efforts are being coordinated through the MLK office and Susan Frommer and Danielle Weisse. Over 200 students attended an assembly featuring former NASA astronaut Dr. Massimino from Columbia University and were encouraged to explore STEM careers. The Math Mobile project and Mural project will be unveiled in late October.

Chairman's Report

Mr. Matthews reported that letters were being sent to Representative Thomas Stanley, and Senators James Eldridge and Michael Barrett regarding the proposed net-metering decrease for the LS solar array. The new proposed rate would significantly reduce the savings accrued to LS. Representative Carmen Gentile has provided a letter of support for LS. It is hoped that the Department of Public Utilities will grandfather the LS rate.

Liaison Reports

Mr. Gargeya reported that the Budget Strategies Task Force was creating a schedule for the coming budget season. Mr. Matthews indicated that currently there was no school committee member liaison for the CIAC and that liaison assignments should be addressed at the next scheduled meeting.

Superintendent/Principal's Report

Ms. Wong reported that 24 Spanish exchange students and 2 chaperones have arrived for their Sudbury/Lincoln/Boston host family stays. The students are from Grado, Spain, and will be attending classes with our students as well as some sightseeing in Boston and New York City.

Guidance Counselor John Flynn has been organizing college visits in the Career Center - the visits are a great time for students to meet regional admissions personnel to ask questions and generally learn more about the colleges represented. Mandated training for faculty and staff is nearly completed including training on the use of Epi-pens. Thanks to Aida Ramos for providing the power points to assist staff in the process.

Director of Finance and Operations' Report

Ms. Kersey and Brandi Mahler attended a health insurance meeting last week and will continue again on October 4th. Health options for faculty and staff will soon include a new high deductible health plan for interested employees.

Meetings regarding capital planning have begun, focusing on FY18 Town Meeting items. FY19 requests for capital planning are due October 6th in Lincoln and by October 13th in Sudbury. The Tri-District meeting will take place on October 23rd. Sudbury Special Town Meeting is scheduled for October 16th.

Transportation issues continue to abate. All buses are now arriving before 7:40am. There are now 24 buses in daily use. Last year we employed 21 buses.

Ms. Kersey distributed a draft Budget Calendar for FY19.

Information & Discussion

Second Reading of the Therapy Pet Policy.

Patty Mostue responded to the First Reading of the Pet Therapy Policy. Ms. Mostue spoke with two veterinarians and the Chairman of the Lincoln Board of Health Office. They did not know of

any studies supporting improved student academics. Caution was urged in beginning such a program because there are no state or federal guidelines for the animals used for pet therapy. In addition, there is a danger of infection from E. Coli and Salmonella as well as the possibility of dog bites. While there may be benefit to certain students, other students may suffer from allergies or fear of the animals. Mr. Matthews suggested contacting Lincoln Public Schools to see how the program has been evaluated before convening for a third reading.

Ms. Mostue volunteered to do some groundwork on developing a cell phone policy for Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School.

The subject of Union Superintendency was discussed. Mr. Matthews informed the members that Sudbury Public School was exploring the option of a shared superintendent for LSRHS/Sudbury K-8. They are also considering initiating a full search for Superintendent to replace Anne Wilson, hiring an interim Superintendent, or sharing a Superintendent with LSRHS. Mr. Matthews has spoken with School Counsel Marc Terry about positive and negative aspects of various solutions. Mr. Matthews suggested that the LS School Committee members think about the issue and decide in the near future on whether to explore the subject or not. Mr. Gargeya reminded the members that the LS School Committee needed to keep the welfare of LS students foremost in their minds when thinking about this possible change. Mr. Matthews added that other regional high schools had successfully evolved into a unified school system and was in favor of exploring options.

Jennifer Glass, LS parent and Lincoln Selectwoman, appreciated the rational and nuanced discussion of the school committee and suggested that the exploration include attention to process and communication with stakeholders as well as a search for answers to specific questions. Mr. Matthews suggested that the committee work together to form a map for the process they would like to engage in and speak about it again at the next meeting.

Action Items

Vouchers 1074-1086, 1000-1011 were signed.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Calendar of Events

Warnings	October 3, 2017
Columbus Day	October 9, 2017
Financial Aid Night	October 19, 2017
LS School Committee	October 24, 2017
End Quarter 1	November 2, 2017

Adjourn

On a motion from Ms. Mostue and seconded by Mr. Gargeya, the meeting was adjourned at 9:42 pm. All were in favor.