

**LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
December 14, 2017**

Present

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

Also Present

Bella Wong, Superintendent/Principal; Sherry Kersey, Director Business and Operations; Caroline Singler, TA President; Amy and Madelyn Paquette; Jack Troiano; Michael Ensley;

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:32pm.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion offered by Patty Mostue and seconded by Radha Gargeya, the Minutes for November 7th, 2017, were approved. All were in favor. There was no discussion.

On a motion offered by Nancy Marshall and seconded by Patty Mostue, the Minutes for November 28th, 2017, were approved. All were in favor. There was no discussion.

On a motion offered by Craig Gruber and seconded by Nancy Marshall, the Minutes for the Tri-District Meeting of October 23rd, 2017, were approved. All were in favor. There was no discussion.

Presentation

Ms. Wong presented the FY19 Budget to the School Committee members. She began by highlighting areas that are still being worked on. The budget supports LS Core Values, the school goals for improvement of student education, the capacity to recruit high quality staff, and an educational program that provides social and emotional support for students. Factors affecting budget assumptions are: forecasting state aid and projected revenues; decreasing federal aid; variability of Out of District placements/tuition/specialized education costs; monitoring class sizes; maintaining current and relevant technology supports; expectation for high performance outcomes (re-gained Level 1 status); ensuring a safe school environment; conservative capacity for new program development; providing adequate OPEB fund contributions; rising health insurance costs (12%); and a potential utility rate increase. Although there are many financial pressures, Ms. Wong remains optimistic that goals will be met.

An overview of the FY19 budget includes incorporation of the new teacher compensation guidelines; maintains current educational program; reallocation and increase of FTE's to

enhance STEM and balance current median class sizes; as well as addressing the Towns of Lincoln and Sudbury budgetary guidelines. The newly agreed upon COLA compensations for teachers will increase twice per year with small increments. There will be no adjustment to the student fees.

Salary allocation of total budget is 61% for FY18, with benefits and pensions the total is 74%. Incorporating the new agreement with the Teachers' Association, the total budget for salaries, benefits and pensions will be 73%. Many school districts' budgets are above 80%. Out of District costs will increase despite there being fewer students needing out of district placement. Consequently, our circuit breaker reimbursement will be less than last year. There will be a modest contribution to the OPEB trust. Transportation will be increasing by 5%. Debt service continues to decrease and we are waiting for the net change to the utility offset.

The minimum contribution rates for FY19 will come out at the end of January. The apportionment ratio is based on the Regional Agreement and is 87% for Sudbury and 13% for Lincoln in FY18. Capital requests are for the telephone system upgrade, cooling tower, and additional security cameras for FY19.

The budget has been presented to Staff, FINCOM, and LS School Committee. The Sudbury FINCOM presentation is on January 22nd and second Lincoln Budgetary Workshop is on January 24th. The Governor's Budget will come out on January 31st. Nashoba Minuteman Insurance numbers will not be available until mid-February.

Public Comment

LS parents and students asked to speak to the School Committee in defense of Michael Bunting and the LS music program. LS parents Amy Paquette, Mrs. Goldman; LS Alum Antoine Baize, current LS students Madelyn Paquette, Jack Troiano, and Alanna Gold spoke eloquently about their appreciation for Michael Bunting, specifically, and the LS music program in general.

Michael Ensley from the Sudbury Park and Recreation Department asked for background information regarding the field use fees for use of LS athletic fields. He encouraged the LS School Committee and other entities in the Town of Sudbury to work cooperatively on this subject.

Recognitions

Andrew Marshall was featured in a Boston Globe article as a three-season athlete (rugby, football, and wrestling) whose true passion lies with wrestling. In Spring 2016, Andrew won the New England trophy for wrestling. "It was one of the best moments I've ever had," Marshall said. "Since I was a freshman, the coaches told me that was the goal I was aiming for and it felt like everything had come full circle from all the work I had put in." Andrew is looking forward to his final high school season.

The LS Winter Instrumental Concert is being held tonight, December 14th, in the LS Auditorium at 7:30pm. The concert features chamber groups as well as the orchestra and both bands. The culmination of the evening will be a performance of "Sleigh Ride" with all members of the instrumental program united on stage.

The Annual Speech and Debate Tournament was held at LS on our first snowy day - Saturday, December 9th. The tournament finished a bit early in deference to the weather but still accomplished getting in 4 full rounds in and still get the students out the door by 3pm. 512 students participated from 33 schools in either debate or one of 13 different speech events. Junior and Senior Speech and Debate Club leaders acted as tournament assistant directors all day. They received many compliments from the visiting teams. Kenneth Ho, Sandeep Shankar, Kerri Johnson, Spencer Semple, Dan Çigale, Connor Orr, Connor Lachman, Jessica Ye, Matt Perricone, Chris Manente, and David Ma were the LS students who were assistant directors for the event. Tim Nikula was the faculty advisor and in his first year as advisor.

The French Club will be stationed in the A/B connector during lunch on Friday 12/15 and 12/22 to collect donations for Haiti. They are collecting: toothbrushes, children's vitamins (without iron and no gummies please), toothpaste, shampoo, school supplies (writing utensils, notebooks) and soap (bars not liquid please). Julia Keith is the advisor for the French Club.

After 5 years of tremendous leadership, Amanda Klein, Jeff Mazza, and Chris Herbert will be resigning from their positions as First Adventure Coordinators. HUGE thank you to them, for all they have done to make this program such a success. First Adventure provides an introduction to LS for incoming 9th graders during their orientation day. The coordinators train older students to guide and answer questions for the new students during their orientation day.

Atkinson Scholarship applications are now available for students. The deadline for submission is February 1, 2017. The Atkinson Scholarship program was provided by a bequest from the Atkinson Family of Sudbury whose generosity has helped more than 300 students attend college since the program began in 1996. Students awarded the scholarship will receive a monetary sum each of the four years they are in college/university.

The LS Football team finished their season on Friday, December 1st, at Gillette Stadium. Despite losing to King Philip Regional High School 10-7, the team enjoyed a spectacular year with Coach Tom Lopez.

Art Reilly reports that over 500 student-athletes have tried out for LS winter athletic teams. Boys and Girls Basketball, Skiing (Alpine and Nordic), Swimming, Boys and Girls Indoor Track, and Wrestling have all fielded teams and have begun practices. Late buses have been arranged for all students Monday through Friday at 5:45pm.

The LSTA Silent Auction was held in the cafeteria on Wednesday, December 13th. An amazing array of treats, steals and deals were available. The sum of \$4900 was raised to support the

Paul Vernon Scholarship sponsored by the LSTA. Kudos to Kathleen Thompson and Annalisa Notaro for organizing this all-day event!

Students will be selling little bags of cocoa decorated like deer to raise money for the LS Memorial School in Cambodia. Distribution for orders will be on December 20th, 2017. Danielle Weisse is the faculty advisor for this effort.

Amnesty International annual write-in takes place December 12, 13, and 14th in Conference Room B. Amnesty International's Write for Rights Global Write-a-thon is the world's largest letter writing event. Letters are written on behalf of prisoners of conscience, human rights defenders, and torture survivors. Last year 200 letters from LS were among the 4.6 million that helped free Albert Woodfox, Phyo Phyo Aung, Yecenia Armenta, and Fred Bauma from prison. Additional info can be found at <https://www.amnesty.org/en/get-involved/write-for-rights/>.

METCO will be holding a Holiday Potluck lunch on Wednesday, December 20th during ACA in the Staff Dining Room and Conference Room B. All are invited and contributions for the lunch are welcome. Amy Jacobs, History, and Jamal Jackson and Kevin Greene, METCO Advisors, have helped the students organize this event.

Wednesday, December 13th, the LS Model UN Club hosted its annual Fall In-School Conference in the Lecture Hall and Rogers Theatre. The conference provides new and returning Model UN members an opportunity to become acquainted with the formalities of Model UN and effectively prepare for the National High School Model UN Conference in NYC and the Boston College Model UN Conference - both are held in March. JK Park supervise 40 students from grades 9-12 who will be representing countries ranging from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe on the topic of cyber warfare.

This Friday, Accent A Cappella is hosting the Berklee College of Music's premier coed a cappella group called Pitch Slapped. The group, founded in 2006, is the champion group in the International Competition of Collegiate a Cappella groups. They have been featured on America's Got Talent, and have kindly lowered their fee for Accent to bring them to LS. Both Accent and Pitch Slapped will be performing. The concert is from 7-8pm in the LS Auditorium and tickets are \$6.00.

Student Senate Report

Kevin Matthews reported that the Student Senate had collected food for the competitive food drive with Concord-Carlisle in advance of the Warriors 4 Warriors game on December 16th, 2017. Plans are underway for the Santa Fundraiser that will take place on December 22nd near the cafeteria. Photographs with Santa will cost \$1.

TA President Report

Caroline Singler reported that the LSTA's Silent Auction and Bakesale was a tremendous success. Its goal was to raise money for the LSTA Paul Vernon Scholarship for LS Students.

Ms. Singler thanked Kathleen Thompson and Annalisa Notaro for their organizational skills and to the many others who donated items for the auction and bake sale. Friday, December 7th, the Wellness Department hosted a Conference of Wellness Departments throughout the state of Massachusetts.

METCO Parent Organization Report

There was no METCO Parent Report.

Chairman's Report

Kevin Matthews reported on the successful ruling from the Attorney General's Office on a complaint submitted by Jonathan Dame and the Metrowest News Organization regarding violations of Open Meeting Law.

Mr. Matthews thanked those involved with the recent negotiations for the Teachers' Contract 2018-2021. Gerald Quirk, Rahda Gargeya and Nancy Marshall for the LSSC and teachers Seth Weiss, Lisa Weiss and Shawn Lingley, successfully engaged in a collegial and cooperative process that has resulted in a satisfactory contract for all. Craig Gruber (LSSC) and Matthew Warner (LSTA) were alternates for the negotiations process.

Liaison Report

Nancy Marshall, Radha Gargeya, Bella Wong and Sherry Kersey attended the Budget Strategies Task Force meetings for the Town of Sudbury. The School Committee was asked to draft a policy for the use of ED&E funds.

Superintendent's Report

Bella Wong reported that the *Warriors4Warriors* hockey tournament would take place on December 16th at the New England Sports Center in Marlborough. Ms. Wong and Shea Justice will "drop the puck" to begin the event. The *Warriors4Warriors* event benefits the Scott Milley Scholarships offered to LS graduating seniors each year. It is a great event with participation and attendance from the greater community and LS alumni.

Work continues on use of the n-word by an administrator. Ms. Wong and Staff continue dialog with students regarding this issue as well as use of other hurtful vocabulary within the building. Ms. Wong is also exploring third party organizations that may help LS to provide an assessment and advice on ways to deal with this issue.

Ms. Wong presented a recap of use of the LS Turf Fields which were installed in the fall of 2004. To date, the Turf Fields have been used for 24 seasons of play through FY17. The typical life expectancy for a turf field is 10 years. We were fortunate to be able to replace the field during the summer of 2017. The fields are used by LS girls and boys soccer, LS girls and boys lacrosse, LS field hockey, Town Youth Sports (Sudbury Youth Football, Sudbury Youth Soccer, Lincoln Youth Soccer, Sudbury Girls and Boys Lacrosse). Other users are private renters such as Federation Lacrosse, REAL Field Hockey Camp, DCL Soccer PreSeason Camp, Flag

Football, Girls Youth Lacrosse Jamboree, Youth Soccer Tournaments, and Boys Youth Lacrosse Jamboree. It is the most highly used capital asset by LS and town youth organizations. Historically, private renters are the only entities that have been charged a fee. Use by LS sports teams amounts to half of the use of the fields, the other half of the time it is used by Town Youth Sports and by Private Renters. The total estimated cost of replacing the fields was \$875,000. The actual cost was \$795,000 as a result of competitive bidding and uncomplicated installment. To fund field replacement, the LS Athletic Revolving Account (gate receipts, athletic user fees minus transportation and coaching stipends) contributes approximately \$100,000 for general upkeep of the fields including nets, goal posts etc. The LS field rental revolving account has \$7,500. The only rental fees are for the turf fields. The LS All Sports Boosters contributed \$10,000 to replacement of the turf fields. LS contributed \$117,500 to mitigate the total project cost. LS ED&E funds covered the remaining \$677,500.

The Town of Sudbury supported the use of ED&E funds for replacement of the turf fields but requested that LS financially plan to underwrite next replacement. Consequently, LS has drawn up a field use fee schedule with an aim to accumulate funds for the next turf field replacement. There is an interest to assess the users of the fields. The new field fee schedule is intended to collect funds for future field replacement and be held in a restricted account to that end. Discussions with representatives of the youth groups and private renters will be conducted to reach an agreement on the field fee schedule. It is important to find a way for the turf fields to self-fund themselves. Nancy Marshall added that the Capital Planning Committees for both towns supported actions that would make the fields self-funded.

Ms. Wong stated that although the field is on our campus, it is not an asset that should solely be the responsibility of LS for maintenance and associated costs. It may be a challenge for the town sports' teams to begin to pay for field use. Kevin Matthews sees this as an opportunity for the Town to assess this as a community field and that responsible stewardship of the asset is important. Ms. Wong stated that the towns of Sudbury and Lincoln were very clear in expecting LS to proactively work to plan for field replacement.

Ms. Wong stated that the Therapy Pet policy had been withdrawn from School Committee consideration by the Student Services department.

Director of Finance and Operations Report

Sherry Kersey reported on follow up for the Cooling Tower will be replaced and work will begin in late winter. Ms. Kersey announced that she would be interviewing candidates for the position of District Treasurer.

Information and Discussion

Craig Gruber wanted to return to the Music Department question. While he expected to hear from parents and current LS students, he did not expect to hear from an LS alumnus and the impact that the program has had on him. As the School Committee considers what was being said, he now agrees that despite the focus on STEM, the arts and music are subjects that should not be overlooked. He was particularly impressed by the idea that the FATA department

provided a safe place and safe community within a large school. Nancy Marshall has also had continuing thoughts about the value of this department especially regarding the opportunities for independent study. She said that she had some questions she would like to explore further with Bella. Ms. Wong is happy to answer questions any School Committee member may have. Kevin Matthews is concerned about the reason for a drop off in chorus. Nancy Marshall suggested that it might be a function of fewer blocks during the day for electives. Mr. Gruber indicated his interest in continuing to discuss this issue.

Action Items

Vouchers were signed.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Calendar

TA Silent Auction	December 13, 2017
Instrumental Concert	December 14, 2017
Accent ACapella	December 15, 2017
December Recess	December 26-January 1, 2018
Civic Orchestra Concert	January 7, 2018
LS School Committee	January 9, 2018

Adjournment

Craig Gruber offered a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Nancy Marshall. The meeting was adjourned at 10:14pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Francy Zingale