

**LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
November 28, 2017**

Present

Kevin Matthews, Chair; Radha Gargeya; Nancy Marshall; Patty Mostue. Craig Gruber arrived at 8pm and Gerald Quirk was absent.

Also Present

Bella Wong, Superintendent/Principal; Sherry Kersey, Director Business and Operations; Caroline Singler, TA President; Aida Ramos, Director Student Services; Stephanie Kunst, Clinical Counselor; Kayla DeWees, Clinical Counselor; Andrew George and parents; Samantha Cheung and parents; Kerri Johnson, Student Senate President; Tamara Andrews and Diedre Lewis, METCO Parent Organization.

Call to Order

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

Approval of Minutes

Approval of Minutes for November 7, 2017 tabled until next meeting as there was no quorum.

Presentation

Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents' Award

Students Andrew George and Samantha Cheung were awarded certificates for the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents' Award. They are both excellent students. Andrew has taken the highest level of classes in his 4 years at LS and has a GPA of 3.97. His teachers report that he approaches all assignments with mastery and reflection and has a passion for music. Andrew is co-President of the Model UN Club at LS, is fascinated with science, has coached middle school students for the Science Olympiad, and has earned the respect of his peers and teachers for his genuine enthusiasm for learning and his collegial approach to all his endeavors.

Samantha Cheung is a high-powered student who combines compassion for others, community service and rigorous academics, never earning a grade lower than an A. She is a valued member of the LS Volleyball team. She has participated in Destination Imagination since 2010 and coaches a team of elementary students for spring competitions. Samantha is also a talented artist with 50,000 Instagram followers and a busy social media account. Her academic and creative strengths, combined with her ability to foster a love of learning in younger students, has earned her the praise of her counselor and teachers.

Third Reading of Therapy Animal Policy

LS Counselors Kayla DeWees and Stephanie Kunst reported on their experience with therapy animals in high school classrooms. The clinical counselors' review of relevant literature indicates that the presence of a therapy animal in certain classrooms brings with it a variety of health benefits within 5 to 24 minutes of introducing the therapy animal. Given that the 2016 Metrowest Youth Health Survey indicates an increase in stress levels among students, a decrease in students happy to be at school, and an increase in suicidal tendencies in students as well as a growing number of emotional disabilities, Ms. Kunst and Ms. DeWees felt a therapy animal offered another method of successfully accessing students experiencing difficulties. They pointed out that a number of area schools have already incorporated therapy pets. Ms. Mostue argued strongly against having therapy animals at LS because the school is too big, some students are afraid and/or allergic to animals and that the school system would be liable if a student were bitten or otherwise harmed.

Kevin Matthews inquired if a pilot program had been defined and expressed an interest in providing equity and fairness for all students. He would prefer to proceed with a pilot program, should the School Committee support this proposal. He suggested the Committee revisit the discussion again once the School Committee members have had an opportunity to learn more about programs in peer Districts and their policy development for having a therapy animal program. Ms. Wong also spoke to the school's responsibility to provide access to excellence for our students and the need to always be open to providing innovative services to assist this goal.

Virginia Blake presented MCAS results, Accountability Level and Class Size Report.

Ms. Blake reported that overall class sizes have gradually decreased. LS's total enrollment for 2017-2018 is 1529. In general, students have been scheduled for their first choices more often than in the recent past. New course offerings include: AP Computer Science Principles; Mandarin II; Shakespeare II; History of Art - Global Perspective; Street Law; Year-long Calculus; Black/White film photography as a year-long course; Graphic Design, and Transition Skills.

The Science and Math median class size is 24, which means that more than half the classes are larger than 25. Math and Science medians include classes purposely kept smaller to accommodate students who must be in smaller classes. Percentages of students getting their first choice classes is now at 62% which is a much higher percentage than in previous years. In History, 95% of 11th and 12th graders got their first choice. In FATA, 74% of 9-12th graders got their first choice.

Sherry Kersey reported on class size projections. This year, there are 41 fewer students at LS than last year. The projected numbers for next year and years following may increase as a result of the Avalon development on Route 20 in Sudbury. It is predicted that a total of 65 additional students K-12 will enroll in Sudbury. Overall, it is projected that LS will experience a decrease in enrollment in the next 5 years.

Virginia Blake reported that the current 10th graders at LS will take the “Legacy” MCAS during Spring 2019. LS will pilot the next generation computer-based MCAS in either Math or ELA with 25-50% of our 10th graders. Ms. Wong added that this is the first time that LS has had to pilot a test. The Science MCAS will be given in 2020 or 2021 with students being held to an interim passing standard. Of LS students taking the ELA, Math and Science tests, some of whom were out of district, 98% were proficient or advanced and only 1% were categorized as “needs improvement.” With the outcome of the Spring 2017 MCAS LS is currently designated as a Level 1 school.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Recognitions

The undefeated LS Football team will compete against King Philip Regional high School in the Division 2 High School Super Bowl game on December 1st at 7:30pm, Gillette Stadium. It promises to be an exciting game under the lights at Gillette! Go Warriors!

On November 20th, LS hosted the Art Opening and Gallery Walk for the new METCO art display, the Math Mobile, and the Project LS Mural entitled “You Are Important.”

Music for Art Gallery Opening and Walk was provided by pianists Veronica Guo and Ryan Martin and by the LS Chamber Singers under the direction of Michael Bunting (Sofi Block, Kelly Durning, Bella Kacprzyk, Caroline Schlessman, Jenn Clinicola, Kendra Keelan, Hannah Lievano, Sadhika Sampath, Kate Solowey, Erin Einzig, Avi Lepsky, Henry Roche, Adam Rose, Liam Huston, Declan Morris, Pierre Regensburger, Keaton Silsby and Jackson Wallace.

FELS sold a record breaking 351 pies this Thanksgiving - nearly 100 over their past high water mark! LS is grateful to FELS’ generosity as many staff members have benefitted from the support of FELS grants.

Lincoln-Sudbury has for many years honored the senior residents of both Lincoln and Sudbury by providing a **Thanksgiving Dinner** on the Wednesday before the holiday. One hundred individuals feasted on food cooked and prepared in the LS kitchen. Thirty-six pies were donated to the dinner via the FELS organization. Beginning at noon on Wednesday fifty students served the meal with kindness and smiles. The Jazz Band provided live music. LS METCO students put together the goodie bags. It was a nice day of magic, for both young and old together. Special thanks and appreciation to Tom Danko for annually organizing the event, Shelly McClellen and her staff in the kitchen, to Thomas Grandprey and his jazz musicians, and to Susan Frommer and Danielle Weisse in the MLK office.

The LSB Players performed ***The Secret Garden*** November 15-18, 2017 in the LS Auditorium. The play reached deep into the psyche of characters overburdened by death and the past. The production was graced by the remarkable Haley Lopes, as Mary Lennox, whose voice and spirit refused to be pulled down into the quicksand of all those dark feelings around her. The

outstanding voice of Charlotte Dezen, as Liliias Craven, is one of the threads which links the story, along with those marvelous ghosts who seem to know exactly where to float on stage. The "Come Spirit, Come Charm" routine works magic on both the stage and the audience. Adam Rose and Jack Troiano play brothers whose wonderful voices are seeking something more from the world, but they don't know what it is. Adam Rose superbly creates a broken man whose resolution lies in the magic Haley offers him. Tim Lucey was the perfect Ben and got laughs from the audience. Erica Cordischi, as Margaret, almost stole the show in her duet with Alex Hanselmann. Jacob Anthony, 7th grader, played Colin Craven and was superb. The LS Orchestra performed the complicated score beautifully under the direction of Thomas Grandprey and Michael Bunting directed the choral aspects of the play. Director Carly Evans wrote a heartfelt "Note from the Director". ***The Secret Garden*** still speaks to the "heart and soul" and offers a chance for renewal and growth. Something we can all use right now. Review by Tom Danko.

The Outreach Club offered a Movie Night on November 9th for Curtis and Lincoln Middle School 8th graders. The students enjoyed watching ***Spiderman*** and having pizza. The 8th grade students expressed interest in attending a future movie night. Caroline Schineller, and Zoe Belge organized the event.

Nineteen LS students volunteered at the Greater Boston Food Bank in early November. Tracy Burke reported that the students really reflected many of our school's core values when engaging with other volunteer groups, food bank staff, and a few clients. The students worked hard sorting, weighing,, and packing fresh squash for the benefit of many! Thank you to Tracy for organizing the student trips to the Food Bank.

The Pasche Hip-Hop Battle Boston will take place in the LS Auditorium on November 30th. Hip-Hop, with its focus on the spoken word, on exploring rhythm, sound and pronunciation, is a wonderful instrument for language learning, particularly for young learners. Students of German at New England high schools take to the stage for the grand hip-hop-finale to perform their own rap-text – IN GERMAN! This event is sponsored by the Goethe-Institut Boston. Preparations for the Hip-Hop Battle Boston begin in October with the rap groups from participating high schools contending against one another while their fellow students decide which group wins. The winning group of each school (max. 5 students) will participate in the great hip-hop-finale on November 30 at Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School in Sudbury, MA. Rappers and dancers from Berlin will offer workshops for the students which will enable them to perfect their performance. The final performances will take place in the afternoon: the different groups will compete against each other and a jury will announce the winner. Four prizes will be up for grabs, the first prize being a professional studio recording of the students' rap. The day will end with a performance by the German artists themselves. Thank you to Joan Campbell for bringing the event to LS!

The Science Department would like to announce the opening of a lunchtime Science Academy, where any and all students can come for drop-in help from a Science teacher.

The Science Academy will begin on Nov.16th and will be open Mon, Tue, & Thurs every week during first and third lunch, in classroom A416.

The ACE program students completed community service working at the Minuteman National Park in Concord. They helped clear and seed a newly discovered area off the Battle Road on the Lincoln-Lexington town lines. Nancy Childress, Diana Phillips, David Bloom, and Michael Hickey accompanied the students.

Nia Williams has been nominated as this year's Daughter of the American Revolution Good Citizen Award. She was chosen by her peers in the Senior Class from among names voted on by the faculty. Thank you to all staff who participated in the initial survey and Congratulations to Nia!!

Monday evening, November 20th, was an enchanting time to be at LS "after dark" for the Art Opening and Gallery Walk. Music provided by Veronica Guo and Ryan Martin on piano wafted through the halls - no doubt sending beautiful currents of sound aloft to the marvelous math mobile hanging 40 feet above. The evening closed with the LS Chamber Singers directed by Michael Bunting singing for the enjoyment of the audience before everyone departed for a last look at the new installations. Muralist Alex Cook, Mobile Artist Melissa Rocklen, LS Art Teacher Shea Justice and past METCO Director Steve Desrosiers spoke about the installations. 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.

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

Middlesex Partnership for Youth sponsored a conference entitled ***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 attended the conference and heard 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 Juniors will be taking a practice ACT test. Jamal Jackson and Kevin Greene will be administering the practice test to give the students experience.

LS Music will be holding their sixth annual mattress sale on Saturday, December 2nd in the LS Cafeteria from 10 to 4pm. Proceeds will benefit the LS Music Program.

Lastly, a most heartfelt Thank You to the Building and Grounds Team for working on the art projects' installations, for preparing the cafeteria for the Senior Citizens Thanksgiving and setting the cafeteria to rights afterward, for maintaining the building and grounds perfectly despite the wear and tear we all inflict on it. They are always on call, always ready and willing to help, and always always indispensable!

Student Senate Report

Kerri Johnson reported that the students are collecting food for the competitive food drive with Concord-Carlisle. Parents and students are distributing shorts and bringing in items to be collected in bins in each House Office. Items will be delivered to the Open Table Food Pantry in Concord, MA. The students are hoping this will be an annual tradition.

TA President Report

Caroline Singler reported that the guidance counselors have initiated the 9th Grade Seminars. The Depression Workshop was offered the week before Thanksgiving week to all 10th graders. Winter sports have begun with the numerous staff who also coach student sports teams. The Science Department has opened the Science Cafe during lunch blocks to assist students with homework help. The LSTA will hold a silent auction on December 13th to benefit the Paul Vernon Memorial Scholarship for one or more graduating seniors. Staff will donate goods and services along with gift cards from local community businesses. It will be held in the cafeteria.

METCO Parent Organization Report

There was no METCO Parent Report.

Chairman's Report

Kevin Matthews reported the status of the shared superintendency possibility. Sudbury Public Schools are now looking for a permanent successor for Anne Wilson, outgoing Superintendent. Sharing a Superintendent is a possibility legally but the Sudbury residents will have to indicate their interest in the subject. Sharing services remains a possibility. The School Committee Chairs meet once monthly and will continue the discussion of shared services.

Liaison Report

The Budget Strategies Task Force meetings are underway. Cost Centers will attend separate meetings to present their budgets. The next meeting will be a discussion of assumptions and alignment of budget presentations.

Superintendent's Report

Bella Wong informed the School Committee members that the 2018 Graduation Ceremony will be held at 2pm rather than 4pm. Advantages are that Jamaica Jammin' will have additional time for setup and families will have more time to celebrate after graduation and before Jamaica Jammin' begins. Parents/guardians of LS parents have been notified.

Ms. Wong reported that the Cold War/World War II field trip (November 9 to 19) was a great success. Students learned a great deal of history regarding that time period and visited the cities of Berlin, Krakow, Prague, and Budapest. The group was fortunate to have an experienced and knowledgeable guide, Aidan Bartley of Education First.

Director of Finance and Operations Report

Sherry Kersey presented committee members with an updated budget timeline for their calendars. There are 9 applicants for the current District Treasurer posting. The bid for the cooling tower was opened November 28th. Kevin Rossley is checking references for the 2 vendors that have submitted bids. It is planned to have the repair completed this winter. Ms. Kersey requested that the LS School Committee vote to authorize her to enter into a contract.

Vote: Craig Gruber offered a motion “that the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional School Committee authorizes the Director of Finance and Operations to award the cooling tower repair bid to Williamson New England, pending completion of evaluative criteria, and enter into a contract with said vendor.” Kevin Matthews seconded the motion. All were in favor, there was no discussion.

Ms. Kersey also requested that the LS School Committee vote to accept a donation of a volleyball Acusprike apparatus. The device has been donated by an LS family.

Vote: Craig Gruber offered a motion “that Lincoln-Sudbury Regional School Committee accept the generous donation of volleyball equipment called AcuSprike from Bob and Heather Myron.” Radha Gargeya seconded that motion. All were in favor, there was no discussion.

Action Items

Vote: Radha Gargeya offered a motion to approve the new LS field and gym fees as listed on the LS website, effective immediately. Nancy Marshall seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All were in favor: none opposed.

Other Items

There were no other items.

Calendar

Mattress Sale, Music Fundraiser	December 2, 2017
Choral Concert	December 7, 2017
Q2 Warnings	December 7, 2017
Choral Concert	December 7, 2017
Speech and Debate Tournament	December 9, 2017
LS School Committee	December 12, 2017
TA Silent Auction	December 13, 2017

Instrumental Concert

December 14, 2017

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