

**LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
NOVEMBER 7, 2017**

Present

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

Also Present

Bella Wong, Superintendent/Principal; Sherry Kersey, Director of Finance and Operations; Caroline Singler, TA President; Kerry Johnson, Student Senate Representative; Aida Ramos, Director of Student Services; Patricia Moyer and Katherine Pinciotto-Lyons, SEPAC Co-Chairs; Carole Kasper, Lincoln Parent; Lucie St. George, Sudbury School Committee.

Call to Order

The Meeting was called to order at 7:35pm.

Approval of Minutes

Nancy Marshall offered a motion to approve the Minutes of October 24th, seconded by Gerald Quirk. All were in favor, there was no discussion.

Presentation

Aida Ramos introduced LS parents Patricia Moyer and Katherine Pinciotto Lyons who are co-chairs of the Sudbury Parent Advisory Council which represents parents of LS students with disabilities. The Sudbury Parent Advisory Council is a State mandated organization which represents special education families from Boston, Lincoln, and Sudbury. Currently, students from the ages of 14-22 with disabilities are eligible for special education services from LS. The purpose of the advisory council is to review special education programs for students with disabilities, to provide workshops for parents and to act as liaison between parent and LS school officials. The SEPAC was formed in the Spring of 2017. The governing members have attended "Advancing Parents in Professional Leadership in Education" developed by the Federation for Children with Special Needs.

Ms. Moyer and Ms. Pinciotto Lyons initially prepared a parent survey to solicit relevant topics and needs to be addressed, established a parent resource center, attended monthly meetings with the LS Special Education administrators, set up monthly general board meetings and have offered monthly events/workshops for parents. A brochure has been created as well as a website involving LS student participation as well as a calendar of events for 2017-2018. Additionally, the SEPAC seeks to facilitate parent meetings regarding post-secondary college and employment options for students with disabilities.

Plans for the future include recruitment of leadership and active members, development of a public relations campaign and awareness programs and creating committees to help meet the goals of the organization. They hope to build a strong collaboration between the LS School Committee and LS Administration and the parents and guardians of students with disabilities.

Aida Ramos, Director of Student Services, thanked them for their work in organizing the SEPAC and looks forward to collaborating with the organization.

Aida Ramos then presented her report on trends within the Department of Student Services. There have been an increase in students with IEP's attending LS. There are an additional 14 students with emotional disabilities. LS embraces full inclusion, which means that students with IEP learning plans are out of general education less than 21% of each day. Thirty-six students are partially included which means they are out of general education more than 21% but less than 60%; and six students are away from general education more than 60% of the day. There are a total of 57 students in out of district schools, slightly less than the past three years. One hundred forty nine students are on Section 504 plans, a slight increase from last year. The ACE program restructuring has continued to improve service to our students as has the Beacon Program which has been instrumental in reintegrating students who have experienced an extended absence from school. Ms. Ramos commended the efforts of Martha Wall, Director of the ACE Program and Chris Schutzer who manages the Beacon Program.

The Strategic Skills program, piloted two years ago, is fully implemented this year. It is offered to 9th graders only during Semester 1. During Semester 2, the program will be open to 9th, 10th, and 11th graders. The Student Support Team is chaired by a school psychologist, Stephanie Kunst, and has been providing valuable support to students. Virginia Blake has noted a reduction in warnings among students who have completed the Strategic Skills Program.

The Student Services program will undergo a coordinated review this school year culminating in an exit meeting with administration of LS in March 2018. Ms. Ramos commended Rebecca Reitz and Martha Wall for their efforts after hours in preparing for this review.

Ms. Ramos also informed the committee members of a mandated request from the Massachusetts Department of Health for Screening Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) to assist students in avoiding experimentation with drugs. All 9th graders will be encouraged to participate but it is not mandatory. LS students will be scheduled to take the survey during their wellness classes later this year, with the screening administered by the Nursing Department. An email has been sent to parent/guardians informing them of the purpose of the survey.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Recognitions

The Sudbury-Wayland-Lincoln Domestic Violence Roundtable held "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 performed for the event.

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 whom 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 was 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***.

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, Anjali 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. 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. The 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 sponsored 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.

Student Senate Representative Report

Kerri Johnson reported that the Student Senate is moving forward with the food drive in collaboration and competition with Concord-Carlisle High School in conjunction with the Warriors4Warriors on December 16, 2017. The senate will begin preparations for the Santa Fundraiser.

METCO Parent Representative Report

There was no METCO Parent Representative Report.

Teachers' Association Report

Caroline Singler reported that Quarter 1 has ended so teachers were involved in grading. The Wellness Department hosted its annual Halloween Breakfast for faculty and staff on October 31st. Ms. Singler complimented the class advisors and staff that assisted in making Senior Dress Up Day safe, fun, and successful. FELS organization is holding their annual Thanksgiving Pie sale fundraiser. Rami Alwan and Chris Collins are working with the LS Environmental Club to continue to support the plastic bottle/plastic bag ban initiative. Finally, Ms. Singler reported that field trips begin to pick up this time of year. Teachers involved in field trips to enrich students' learning experiences outside the classroom spend a great deal of time organizing, coordinating and making up for absence from their regular duties.

Chairman's Report

Kevin Matthews reported that negotiations for contract renewal with the LS Teachers' Association continue. Mr. Matthews informed the committee members that there may be opportunities for student transportation reimbursement available from the state, and that advocacy with our elected officials would be worthwhile. He also informed the members that funds were available to support regional schools and that perhaps partnering with Sudbury Public Schools could be advantageous to Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School.

Liaison Report

Meetings of the Joint Finance Committee have begun with Lincoln and Sudbury representatives of respective Capital Planning committees in attendance. LS is preparing Capital Planning requests for timely consideration by the Town of Lincoln and the Town of Sudbury. The Lincoln State of the Town meeting took place on Saturday, November 4, which provides the town with a mid-year snapshot of relevant issues that are likely to be brought to Annual Town Meeting. The agenda this year focused primarily on the Lincoln School Campus, both the school building project and early discussions about the community center design and process.

Superintendent/Principal Report

Bella Wong reported that the annual Depression Workshop for 10th graders and any students new to LS will take place on November 16th. Ms. Wong commends Emily Phillips and the Clinical Counseling team for organizing this annual event.

Ms. Wong will be leaving Thursday, November 9th, with 13 LS Students and Science Teacher Chris Collins on the Cold War/World War II trip. The program will offer many illuminative experiences such as speaking with a German citizen alive at the time of divided Germany, visiting the Bundestag, Auschwitz and Burkina, and Schindler's factory as well as visiting cities of Prague, Krakow and Budapest. The students will also enjoy a number of cultural events.

Ms. Wong informed the committee members of an amendment to the discipline code regarding a vaping policy. The policy amendment is designed to prevent vaping on school property. Massachusetts state law prohibits tobacco products on school campuses and prohibits the sale of vaping paraphernalia but does not prohibit vaping itself. Municipalities/cities have the power to prohibit vaping as do school districts. Ms. Wong requested that the School Committee members endorse the change to the discipline code after which it will be presented to the faculty and an announcement of change will be made.

Director of Finance and Operations Report

The proposed fees for usage of Turf Fields 1 and 2 were presented for review. The fees would be in place for spring usage of the fields and will be posted on the website. The fees are in line with comparable fees at other schools. Since Turf Fields 1 and 2 have been replaced with LS E&D funds, future usage fees will be dedicated to the upkeep of the fields. Kevin Matthews the proposed fees would permit LS to become better stewards of the fields.

The FY17 End of Year Report has been submitted. At the close of FY17, the anticipated Excess and Deficiency fund total to be certified will be \$956,637.

The Business Office is currently interviewing for a District Treasurer. No candidates have responded yet. Sherry Kersey reported that the cooling tower request for bids has been sent out with a mandatory walk through scheduled for November 15th and a bid opening on November 28th. The project is on track for repair in late December.

Information and Discussion

There was no information and discussion.

Action Items

Vote: Nancy Marshall offered a motion "The Lincoln-Sudbury School Committee recommends that the following items be presented to the Lincoln Capital Committee and the Sudbury CIAC: A water heater (cost \$57,500); additional CCTV cameras (cost \$55,000); and replacement of the LS telephone system (cost \$80,000)." Gerald Quirk seconded the motion. All were in favor, none opposed.

Vouchers were signed.

Other Business

The LS School Committee meeting scheduled for November 21st has been changed to November 28th, 2017.

Calendar

Connections Film " <i>If Only</i> "	November 7, 2017
Veteran's Day	November 10, 2017
Musical <i>Secret Garden</i>	November 15-18, 2017
Senior Citizen Thanksgiving	November 22, 2017
Thanksgiving Recess	November 23-28, 2017
Q2 Warnings	December 7, 2017

Adjourn

Radha Gargeya presented a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Gerald Quirk. All were in favor and there was no discussion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:22pm

Executive Session

Nancy Marshall presented a motion for the School Committee to repair to Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Craig Gruber. The motion was voted unanimously by role call.

Respectfully submitted, Francy Zingale