

**LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
January 9, 2018**

Present

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

Also Present

Bella Wong, Superintendent/Principal; Sherry Kersey, Director of Finance and Operations; Caroline Singler, TA President; Kerri Johnson, Student Senate Representative; Carole Kasper, Lincoln parent; Phil James, Shawn Lingley, Conor Hanover, History Teachers; Fred Aponte, candidate for District Treasurer.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion from Patty Mostue and seconded by Nancy Marshall, the Minutes for December 14, 2018, were approved. There was no discussion. All were in favor.

Presentation

Sherry Kersey introduced Fred Aponte, candidate for District Treasurer at L-S. Mr. Aponte has worked for the Town of Sterling, MA, since 2014; as District Treasurer at Ayer-Shirley schools and at Groton Dunstable. Previously, Mr. Aponte was the treasurer for the Town of Harvard for 19 years. All in all, Mr. Aponte has 27 years of experience in municipal government and regional schools. Mr. Aponte spoke of his work experiences and answered questions posed by the Committee.

Presentation by Phil James, Department Coordinator of History Department; Conor Hanover and Shawn Lingley, History teachers.

Phil James introduced the proposed new 9th grade History class which will teach history from a truly global perspective. In the past, 9th graders chose either Modern European History or Modern World History. The History Department is developing a unified history course for all 9th graders which will expose the entire class to a shared content that would be an important intellectual building block for the remainder of their high school careers. To date, a majority of students have taken Modern European History, which provides a linear approach to history in Europe beginning in 1600 AD but does not include history from a non-western perspective nor details non-western events. Modern World History teaches the history of multiple regions on the globe.

The new Global Studies course would unify western and non-western perspectives and would better address the growing need for global literacy by giving students a broader historical framework. The focus will be on global interactions and globalization beginning with a survey of the world at 1500 AD and then examining what were the advantages and disadvantages of cultures existing at that point in time. It will examine way in which the entire globe was involved in various events. It will be a full year course taken only by 9th graders.

The idea of a unified history course was discussed during ED&E workshops in 2016, followed by department meeting discussions, and a one-day retreat in October, 2017, to expand the framework of the course and to determine course units. Once the course is offered in 2019-2020, there will be peer observation visits and an annual review/reflection of the course. Mr. Hanover stated that one of the driving factors was for students to move into U.S. and other history courses with a common vocabulary and experience, which will create a more level playing field.

Ms. Wong stated that she has been impressed by the History Department's process in developing the new course. The members of the department have initiated a thoughtful process of distilling what is most important for students to learn about history. She believes that this new approach is ground-breaking and should become a model for other school districts.

Public comment

There was no public comment.

Recognitions

Our thanks to B&G for their admirable snow cleanup on Thursday and Friday, January 4-5! It was a 24-hour job to keep the parking lots and roadways clear - Well done, gentlemen!

Professional Development Workshops were offered on January 3rd for teachers. Among the workshops offered were: Build Your Digital Toolbelt--Class-tested Tools and Best Practices; Become a Google Certified Educator; Best Practices of Working with Students in Crisis; Examining Personal Identity Practicing Strategies Around Conversations about Race, Gender and Social Orientation; Project LS: 2018 and Beyond. Professional Development Workshops will be offered again on February 28th, 2018.

Many staff members have participated in conversations regarding the racial incidents and issues that have taken place at LS. The LS Racial Climate Task Force (RCTF) has been created to continue working on this issue. The current team includes Martha Wall, Leslie Patterson, Sandra Walters, Phil James, Caroline Han and Lori Hodin. They are considering ways to develop the cultural proficiency of staff, and build staff capacity and comfort to address racial issues as they arise at LS. Student voices will be included in this initiative.

Peter Elenbaas and Brian Fauvel will be training staff members in De-Escalation Techniques on Wednesday, January 10th.

The Civic Orchestra concert took place as scheduled on Sunday, January 7th, in the LS auditorium. The program included works by Haydn, Smetana and Schumann. Despite the frigid temperatures, the concert was well attended.

CONNECTIONS will be hosting *The Yin and Yang of Adolescent Stress* on January 11th at 7:30pm in the Lecture Hall. Psychologists from McLean Hospital specializing in the research and evidence-based treatments of anxiety disorders in youth will discuss ways in which anxiety and stress may present in high school students, and will provide instruction in broad-based coping strategies to help manage stress. This seminar will also address how to differentiate normative anxiety from more impairing anxiety disorders, and will highlight treatment strategies and resources for those students and families struggling with elevated anxiety. There will be ample opportunity for questions after the presentation. Based on the Metrowest Youth Health Survey, 41% of LS students reported that life was very stressful. This is an issue that hits very close to home. Our thanks to David Bloom and Sarah Greeley for organizing the event.

Cafe Cabaret will be held on Friday, January 12 at 7:30pm. The cafeteria is transformed into a cafe (\$5 admission; food/snacks sold by Friends of Music). The Symphonic Jazz Ensemble, Concert Jazz Ensemble and Vocal A Cappella Groups will provide the music.

SERF Holiday ACE Awards 2017 were given to Nathaniel Armistead, Charli Asta-Ferrero, Gail Baker, Stephanie Benash, Jim Berry, Michael Bunting, Rebecca Carr, Dan Conti, Cesar De Diego-Martinez, Greg Gammons, Jennifer Garfield, David Grace, Thomas Grandprey, Mike Guanci, David Hosford, Alissa Jarvis, Tim Jason, Shawn Lingley, Lisa Lupinacci, Mary Lou Marion, Laura Rotondo, Kim Schultz, Lisa Weiss, and Seth Weiss. Congratulations to all!!

Art Reilly reports that there are 15 winter athletic teams which will have about 225 games/meets/matches taking place this winter. Both girls and boys basketball teams are off to a good start with 5 wins, 1 loss each. The wrestling team has a number of new team members that makes the matches more exciting - they will host Boys Latin on Wednesday, January 10th at 6pm. The snow is great for Alpine and Nordic skiing. There are 60 team members on the Swim/Dive Team competing at Atkinson Pool. Track and Field has approximately 120 student-athletes on the team - they race twice per week at the Reggie Lewis Center or Boston University. Finally, Girls and Boys Hockey are both having good seasons to date. The Warriors 4 Warriors was a great event and all three LS teams (JV Boys, varsity boys and varsity girls) won their matches.

Student Representative Report

Kerri Johnson reported that funds raised from the Santa Photos was donated to the LS Cambodia School. She mentioned that the student senate was aware of negative feedback from some faculty members regarding the nature of the fundraiser and there were plans to meet with faculty members to understand their point of view more completely. In addition, the student

senate has been in discussions with students who are unhappy with proposed changes to the Music Department staffing to learn what role the student senate might play.

METCO Parent Report

There was no METCO parent report as the METCO parents were holding a meeting in Boston.

Teacher's Association Report

Caroline Singler reported that the January 3rd Professional Development workshops were well attended and that the faculty appreciated the opportunity to learn from fellow faculty members. It is the last week of the semester with exams immediately following. The staff enjoyed the winter party held off site in Maynard. Staff were also treated to the annual B&G holiday luncheon, a much anticipated yearly event!

Chairman's Report

The next meeting of the LS School Committee on January 23rd will not take place in Lincoln as stated on the calendar but will take place at L-S in Conference Room B at 7:30pm. There is a conflict with a town forum being held in Lincoln that evening.

Kevin Matthews expressed his gratitude to LS Building and Grounds crew and the Town of Sudbury Department of Public Works for their work in clearing snow after the most recent storm.

Mr. Matthews addressed the emails and letters he has received from parents and students concerned about Music Department. He wants to assure everyone that music program will be protected and is not in danger of diminishment. Students and parents are clearly passionate about the subject. He firmly stated that the School Committee will not permit the department curriculum to be hurt and it shares concerns regarding the declining enrollment in music. In the choral program, student enrollment has decreased from 81 to 75 to 49 students over three years. This school year there are 49 students in two sections. The LS School Committee feels that having one section will preserve the quality of instruction. Nancy Marshall added as a parent of four musicians and former LSFOM President, she has experienced and understands the value of the program, and the quality of the programming offered by the music department. She understands the support, but the District, Administration and School Committee are also tasked with balancing resources throughout LSRHS and she appreciates Mr. Matthews' comments. Mr. Gargeya stated that the issue is the current enrollment and that scaling back to one section does not harm the overall program.

Liaison Report

Radha Gargeya reported that the recent Budget Strategies Task Force meeting involved the FY19 budget pressures and impacts. One topic discussed is Sudbury Public Schools' decision to move their early release professional "ILAP" day from Wednesdays to Fridays and what financial impact that might have on LS. The larger question is, of course, who bears the cost when one school system makes a unilateral decision that impacts another school system. The

\$11,000 added cost in LSRHS transportation because of such a shift should be the responsibility of Sudbury Public.

Another topic of discussion was the OPEB liability and a strategy for funding it for each cost center. It was discussed at BSTF that perhaps it would be best for cost centers to work together to come to some level of consistent commitment to funding OPEB. Nancy Marshall offered that each cost center has differing budget pressures and that perhaps LSRHS should begin with a discussion with the LS OPEB Trustees and District Treasurer about what's appropriate, whether it be an adherence to FinCom guidance such as 2.5% per year, or something else, but that a longer lens of capacity and sustainability was an important piece of the discussion.

Transportation costs for Minuteman and Assabet have increased because students are being transported to both districts. However, the overall transportation cost increase is still less than the fees for being a member of Minuteman.

The next meeting of the Budget Strategies Task Force will be on January 31st at 8am in Flynn Building.

Superintendent/Principal Report

Ms. Wong introduced the 2018-2019 School Calendar and will ask the School Committee to approve it at the January 23rd meeting. The proposed calendar has an extra day for professional development based on the negotiated agreement with the Teachers' Association. The calendar committee has placed the extra professional day immediately after Thanksgiving break resulting in no school that day for students. Teachers are now contracted for 185 days of school.

Ms. Wong reviewed the FY19 Budget, which level funds the curricular program with a modest increase to improve class sizes in math and science. There will be an increase from the non-override budget of \$450,000 including a significant contribution to the OPEB liability. Despite the funds necessary to fund the OPEB Trust, Ms. Wong believe the priority must be funding of the educational program. It has been suggested that perhaps the Town of Sudbury should fund the liability for each cost center one at a time. Ms. Wong will present the FY19 Budgetary issues again on January 23rd.

Director of Finance Report

Sherry Kersey reported that the auditors came in mid-December. They will submit a draft document review at the end of January.

Information and Discussion

There was no information and discussion.

Action

Vouchers were signed.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Calendar

Connections: Yin and Yang of Stress	January 11, 2018
Cafe Cabaret	January 12, 2018
Martin Luther King Day	January 15, 2018
Mid-Year Exams	January 17-23, 2018
LS School Committee Meeting	January 23, 2018

Adjourn

Kevin Matthews requested a motion to adjourn the regular meeting and move into executive session: To review and approve executive session minutes related to collective bargaining, contract negotiations with union and non-union personnel and/or litigation issues because to do so in public session would be detrimental to the District's position. To discuss strategy with respect to contract negotiations with union and non-union personnel and/or litigation because to do so in public session would be detrimental to the District's position.

Nancy Marshall offered a motion to adjourn the regular meeting and to not return to regular session, seconded by Radha Gargeya. There was no discussion and a roll call vote was taken and was unanimously in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Francy Zingale