

**LINCOLN-SADBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
January 23, 2018**

**Present**

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

**Also Present**

Bella Wong, Superintendent/Principal; Sherry Kersey, Director of Finance and Operations; Caroline Singler, TA President; Lauren Kim, Student Senate Representative; Carole Kasper, Lincoln parent; Laurence Baize, Chair Friends of Music and Sudbury parent; Parents and Students supporting Michael Bunting - Carla and Hannah Lievano, Noah Green, Rebecca Chizzo, Erin Einzig, Amy Rose, Carol Kinney, Sana Szwarc, Dawn and Eric Solowey, Amy Paquette, Sandy Gold, Maryann Tabola, Brenda Shepard, Mara and Liam Huston, Mary Hardwick.

**Call to order**

Kevin Matthews called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

**Approval of Minutes**

On motion from Patty Mostue, seconded by Nancy Marshall, the Minutes of January 9, 2018, were approved. All were in favor. There was no discussion.

**Presentation**

Ms. Wong presented the FY19 Budget to the Sudbury Finance Committee on Monday, January 22nd, will present the FY19 Budget to the Board of Selectmen this evening (January 23, 2018), and will present the FY19 Budget to the Lincoln Finance Committee on January 24, 2018. The FY19 Budget supports school values, school goals for improvement, and those skills students should learn by the time they graduate as well as continues access to equity and excellence for all students.

In creating the FY19 Budget, certain assumptions have been made and include forecasting state aid and revenues, decreasing federal aid, estimating out-of-district costs and associated specialized education costs. We have strived to sustain appropriate academic and social-emotional supports to reach and teach a wide range to student learners; maintain current and relevant technology supports; continue the academic improvement of students on IEP's; monitor class size; and ensure a safe school environment. The FY19 Budget includes funding for the OPEB liability, a conservative capacity for new program development, a level funded utility rate, thanks to the support of our local legislators; and rising health insurance costs.

The FY19 Budget includes the recently negotiated Teachers' Contract compensation; a net 0.58FTE increase for science and math; and a reduction to anticipated state circuit breaker reimbursement. In addition, there is the impending increase in transportation costs caused by changes to the Sudbury Public Schools' change in their early release schedule. The LS School Committee members were unanimous in not supporting an LS contribution to the added transportation costs. Ms. Wong stated that she would follow-up with Superintendent Anne Wilson.

Ms. Wong revisited the current median class sizes and noted that continued improvement in decreased class sizes in Science and Math, in particular, were still necessary. 80% of our current 9th graders are in Earth Science classes greater than 25, and 45% of graduating seniors are affected by the large class sizes in AP Physics. Proposed adjustments to the education program include: 0.25 FTE in Science; 0.25 FTE in Math; 0.25 FTE in Instructional Technology; and a 0.17 FTE reduction in Wellness for a net increase of 0.58 FTE. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education provides a guideline for Instructional Technology that is 1.0 FTE per 60 to 120 instructional staff. LS currently has 0.75 FTE. Mr. Matthews suggested that attention should be directed to increasing FTE's by whole points rather than fractional increases. Mr. Gruber agreed, stating that additional FTE's would rectify the issue with the music program.

Ms. Wong pointed out the gap in funding for FY19 Budget, given the guidelines given to LS by the Towns of Lincoln and Sudbury. She plans to suggest that LS use funds from Excess and Deficiency Fund to close the gap. If LS is not permitted to use funds from Excess and Deficiency, additional reductions in staff would be required in all academic disciplines, which would increase class sizes.

### **Public Comment**

Laurence Baize, mother of 3 LS alumni and Chair of LS Friends of Music addressed the School Committee. Mrs. Baize stated that everyone agreed that study of music contributed to the development of well-rounded individuals with skills for the 21st Century, and that decreasing enrollment in the music program at LS was cause for concern. She thanked Ms. Wong for creating a task force to study the issue and posited that perhaps if music courses were included in GPA calculations, as they are in other area schools, perhaps enrollment would remain strong. Mrs. Baize believes that reconsidering the technology requirement and scheduling limitations including the possibility of scheduling music before school should be examined.

Mrs. Baize pointed out that perhaps the enrollment figures for music courses should be looked at differently since in the Fall 2017 Musical there were 56 students, and 100 students named in the last LS choral event, which means that more students are participating in choral activities than the enrollment in Chorus would suggest. Sadly, the newly formed task force will not find an answer before voting on the FY19 Budget nor is it likely that they will be able to recruit the number of students necessary to bring the class size to 80 in two months. Other jarring notes to the LS schedule are the fact that there are 5 different computing classes, 14 fine arts classes,

and several drama classes. In addition, other area high schools have numerous classes in music.

Rebecca Chizzo, LS parent of an alumna, spoke on behalf of Michael Bunting and the importance of music in many students lives. Liam Huston, LS'18, commented on the importance of having the flexibility of two classes of chorus to permit scheduling with singleton AP classes. He finds his participation in the music program relaxing and enjoyable and it has provided him with strong friendships. Mrs. Huston, Liam's mother, reminded the School Committee that the last time there were 80 students in chorus, the total enrollment at LS was 1600 students. Currently, there are just over 1500 students, so it is unrealistic to require an 80 student minimum for running a second class in chorus.

Mr. Matthews responded that the School Committee will examine the phenomena that have reduced class sizes. Mr. Quirk opined that FATA may wish to re-examine their curriculum to encourage student participation in music. Faculty throughout LS are continually adjusting their curricula to meet the needs of students. Mr. Matthews and Ms. Mostue agreed that perhaps it was time to reconsider the technology requirement since technology is now infused into all classes.

### **Recognitions**

Exams are taking place this week. Thank you to all the parent volunteer proctors for the exams. We are fortunate to have an active and willing parent group.

The LSPO held their Stress-Busters event yesterday and today in the cafeteria. There were treats including a cotton candy machine, a popcorn maker, a basketball game, giant jenga, ping-pong, four-square, bean bag throws, therapy pets, music, assorted goodies such as granola bars, candy, and beverages. Approximately 750 students visited the cafeteria each day. Our thanks to the LSPO for planning this event for students.

The Student-run Forum for D.E.A.R. will be held February 1st and 8th, 2018. D.E.A.R. stands for Depression Exists, Ask for Relief. This is a student run group that meets weekly during ACA block. This group focuses on raising awareness about depression and other important issues surrounding mental health and supporting students who have in the past, or are currently struggling themselves. During the forum, students will share their own personal experiences and important information about getting help. Stephanie Benash has organized this event.

The upcoming LSB Players production, ***The Emperor's New Clothes***, opens immediately following exam week and is a show for ALL AGES! The LSB Players will present The Emperor's New Clothes on Friday January 26 at 6pm, Saturday January 27 at 2pm (sensory friendly) and 6pm, and Sunday January 28 at 2pm in the Kirshner Auditorium. This will be a more casual theatre-going experience for our youngest audience members to introduce them to the magic and excitement of live theatre! There will be arts and crafts in the lobby before the show and during intermission, prizes at the door, kid-friendly snacks sold at intermission, and lots of

opportunity for audience participation during the performance! And this year, for some extra excitement, our audience will get the chance to watch some of our excellent visual art students create our scenic designs right onstage! Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$8 for students and senior citizens, and \$5 for children ages 5 and under, and FREE for all LS staff. To make reservations, please email the ticket mailbox at [lsbtickets@gmail.com](mailto:lsbtickets@gmail.com).

On January 14th, in the Huffington Post is an article entitled "...The Influence of a high school teacher." is mention of Judy and Bill Plott. See the quote below or follow this link for the full article.

[https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/soul-teacher-myrrl-byler-the-influence-of-a-high\\_us\\_5a5aeca6e4b01ccdd48b5d2d](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/soul-teacher-myrrl-byler-the-influence-of-a-high_us_5a5aeca6e4b01ccdd48b5d2d)

"Let me tell you why the work you do as a Humanities teacher is so important." She told me about her own high school teachers. "Mr. and Mrs. Plott — Western Civilization. A husband and wife team at my high school in Massachusetts. Lincoln Sudbury." "Even though I became a science person," she told me, eyes intense in the bright lights, "I still remember their names. I don't remember any of my professors' names in four years of college, four years of dental school, and a three-year residency. "But I remember their names. They changed my life and gave me a love for learning."

Virginia Blake has announced to LS parents that the new LS Document Viewer is available to parents. It is an online account for parents and guardians which offers them a view of their student's schedule, report cards, transcript, biographical information, warnings, discipline reports and course recommendations/requests. Parents with more than one student at LS will be able to access documents about each student using the parental account.

### **Student Senate Representative Report**

Lauren Kim, Vice-President Student Senate, informed the School Committee that the Student Senate is preparing to discuss faculty concerns with the yearly Santa and his elves Photographic fundraiser. The Senate has also discussed the proposed budget cuts to the choral program. They hope to meet with Ms. Wong for suggestions on this matter.

### **Teachers' Association Report**

It is midyear exam week and Semester 2 begins on Friday, January 26. The TA thanks Tracey Lyon and Ginny Blake for the extra work that went into developing a functional schedule. Faculty used time during exam week to meet with students, meet with colleagues and plan curriculum, do equipment maintenance, and for teachers of semester and quarter courses to get ready for their new courses.

Student Services held a potluck department lunch during exam week to promote collegiality among teachers and staff within each department.

The LS Variety Show opens on Thursday, February 1 at 7:30 p.m. in the Kirshner Auditorium. The show, originally conceived by former LSRHS Housemaster Iain Ryrie, who passed away in

2011, and dedicated to his memory, features staff and students in acts that include musical performances (vocal and instrumental), dance, film, a lip-sync contest, and maybe a few surprises. Dave Bloom, Ken Kimura, Paul Sarapas and Kathleen Thompson are the main organizers of the event, supported by most of the FATA department with participants from all departments in the school. Everyone is working hard to prepare a fun and entertaining evening. Tickets are \$8 for students & senior citizens; \$10 for general public. The show is a fundraising event for the LSTA Paul Vernon Scholarship and for FELS (Foundation for Educators at LS).

### **Chairman's Report**

Mr. Matthews thanked the parents and students who are part of Friends of Music. He greatly appreciates their passion and support of the program. The School Committee is committed to working to provide support for the music program at LS.

### **Liaison Report**

Nancy Marshall has been working with Radha Gargeya on a draft E&D and Stabilization fund policy. They will have a draft available for a first reading at the next School Committee meeting after which the Finance Liaisons will meet with the FinCom Liaisons for their comment. The policy will act as a guideline for the Committee going forward beginning FY20

### **Superintendent's Report**

Ms. Wong presented a mid-year update of the LS School Goals. Regularly scheduled Faculty meetings address school goals, mandated training, review of LS Core Values, and a coordinated program review. Currently, the Faculty Advisory Council has conducted meetings regarding concussions and their impact on student attendance with a view to best handle long-term student absences. Overarching school goals involve what we want students to learn before they graduate, and developing a portrait of an LS graduate in terms of skills and attributes as well as habits of mind, growth-mindset, self-awareness, curiosity, creativity, empathy, and compassion. Another school goal is access to equity and excellence for all LS students. The faculty and administration continue to develop culturally responsive and inclusive all-school learning events. This year will include broad-based discussions of use of the N-word, a racial climate task force, expansion of the academic support center, and review of the cheating policy and academic integrity to ensure equitable implementation. The addition of an intervention specialist has resulted in improved GPA's among participating students and a decreased number of mid-quarter warnings. A review of curriculum offerings for cultural relevance is underway and reinforcement of the practice of high expectations for students continues.

Faculty continue to discuss their response to the school start/sleep question which has been deferred pending the completion of a traffic study. Faculty will review the homework pilot for vacations that the student senate introduced. Work is underway to develop a social media policy, to develop strategies for meeting issues of the current political climate, and review our current crisis response plan.

This year the focus at LS is on the Core Value of pursuing academic excellence. LS is committed to educating the whole student and defines academics in the broadest sense possible to include all disciplines and programs at LS. While high achievement for each student on his or her own terms is the ultimate objective, excellence may also describe the growth of student experiences. In a recent survey of 725 students, when asked what habits led to excellence, students highlighted a willingness and ability to collaborate - teachers highlighted inquisitiveness.

### **Director of Finance and Operations**

Sherry Kersey requested that the School Committee members vote on the appointment of Alfred Aponte as District Treasurer and on the approval of the 2018-2019 LS School Calendar.

***VOTE: Gerald Quirk made a motion “to appoint Alfred Aponte to the position of District Treasurer for Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School, effective immediately.” Nancy Marshall seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All were in favor.***

***VOTE: Gerald Quirk made a motion “that the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional School District School Committee approve the 2018-2019 School Calendar.” Nancy Marshall seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All were in favor.***

### **Other Business**

There was no other business.

### **Action Items**

Vouchers were signed.

### **Calendar**

Teachers' Workshop	January 25, 2018
LSB “The Emperor’s New Clothes	January 26-28, 2018
Faculty Variety Show	February 1, 2018
College Admissions Seminar	February 6, 2018
Jazz Concert	February 8, 2018
One-Act Plays	February 9-10, 2018
LS School Committee Meeting	February 13, 2018

### **Adjourn**

Mr. Matthews requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Patty Moste offered a motion to adjourn, seconded by Craig Gruber. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 10:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Francy Zingale