

**Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School  
School Committee  
April 10 2018**

**7:30pm**

**Conference Room B**

**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; Kerri Johnson, Student Senate; Kathleen Thompson, LS Math Teacher; Shari Idelson, LS Math Teacher; Marisa Singh, Aniko Springsteel, and Josh Rawlinds, LS Students; Claudine Coulon, Sudbury Parent; Carole Kasper, Lincoln parent; Ellen Joachim, Sudbury Parent.

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 p.m.

**Minutes**

A motion was offered by Patty Mostue to approve the minutes of March 15, 2018. The motion was seconded by Nancy Marshall. There was no discussion, the minutes were approved unanimously.

A motion was offered by Craig Gruber to approve the minutes of March 27, 2018. The motion was seconded by Patty Mostue. There was no discussion, the minutes were approved unanimously.

**Presentation**

Kathleen Thompson and Shari Idelson, together with students Marisa Singh, Josh Rawlinds, and Aniko Springsteel reported on their recent trip to Tanzania. During the February recess, 13 L-S students travelled to Tanzania on a service trip accompanied by teachers Kathleen Thompson and Shari Idelson. They travelled under the auspices of the ME to WE Program. The service aspect of their visit involved building the foundation for accommodations for teachers in the Maasai village of Arusha.

Students Josh Rawlands, Marisa Singh and Aniko Springsteel spoke eloquently about their experiences on the trip learning about daily life in Arusha which was in stark contrast to their own lives in the United States. They learned that in Africa there are 345 million people without access to clean water. The women in Arusha spend hours each day walking to a clean water source with containers weighing 50 pounds when full. The students in the school have a great desire to learn and do not take the opportunity for granted. In addition, the LS students visited the local market with the equivalent of \$5.00 to spend to provide food for a family of 7 for one week. The students were exposed to the Maasai culture and enjoyed getting to know the students of the school. Marisa, Josh and Aniko described the impact of the trip as life-changing. Despite the vast differences in lifestyle, the LS students were particularly struck by the similarities in human experience such as friendship, humor, curiosity, and interest in others that they shared with the Africans they met in Arusha.

## **Public Comment**

Claudine Coulon, Sudbury parent, requested increased transparency from the LS School Committee and Administration with regard to a statement of the overall goals of the school particularly with regard to preparing students for the future. Ms. Coulon also requested that the School Committee website be up-to-date insofar as timely publication of minutes and meeting materials, as many of the links are not current. She expressed an interest in learning about the measures by which the stated goals would be evaluated. In addition, she inquired about the methods to assist educators in reinforcing their skills. Ms. Coulon requests that the LS Superintendent create a list of goals to improve the quality of education at LS.

## **Recognitions**

The French Department hosted the French exchange students and teachers from Notre-Dame de Bellegarde, Lyon, France. The students arrived Sunday, April 1st and will depart on Wednesday, April 11th. LS Student hosts are: Jacqueline Liu, Felipe Carvalho, Greer Fried, Hannah BenDavid, Alicia Poulin, Nick Alfonso, Katie Ostrow, Monica Ciaffi, Georgia Berry, Siobhan Frey, Camille Slattery, Elena Christenfeld, Sarah Klein, Brooke Findlay, Ashley du Toit, and Deven Verma.

The Jazz Night 2018 concert was held on Thursday April 5th, featuring L-S jazz groups and special guest groups- the Curtis Middle School Select Jazz Band and the Lincoln Jazz Combo. April is global Jazz Appreciation Month.

On Saturday, March 30th, LS students competed against 30 area high schools in the annual Tenacity Challenge, an academic scholarship competition, at Bedford High School. This year's theme was "Hate Speech vs. Free Speech." According to Tenacity Challenge advisor Caroline Han, the competition requires a level of preparation that is difficult to meet. The LS team made it to the finalist round and placed 2nd in the History Argument event! Participating students were Damoni Cooper, Haley Lopes, Kares Mack, Elcie Merck, Christelle Saint Louis and Nia Williams. Congratulations to all!

Students receiving the Atkinson Scholarship from the Class of 2018 are:

David Abraham, Hannah BenDavid, Toni Brennan, Tiffany Chin, Victor Figueroa, Kenny Ho, Lauren Kim, Michael Kossuth, Josephina Mitchell, Connor Reinhold, Michael Rodriguez, Osmani Rodriguez, Rebecca Skedros, and Dan Stutman - Our heartiest congratulations to these students.

LS Students Anjuli Das, Julia Concannon, Nicole Garay, Kerstin Kelley, and Lucy Bergeron will be honored at the 2018 Green Difference Awards which will be held on April 13th in the Massachusetts State House Great Hall, at 10am. The students are being honored for their successful efforts in campaigning for the ban of single use plastic bottles and plastic bags in Lincoln and Sudbury.

The MLK Assembly was held on Friday morning, April 6th. The speaker was Antonia Hylton, LS'11, who is now a reporter for Vice News Tonight, an HBO Show. The annual MLK Assembly is organized by Danielle Weisse and Susan Frommer.

Rachel Cooke, Melissa Gray, and Mike Guanci will be our new First Adventure Coordinators. We thank our outgoing coordinators Chris Herbert, Amanda Klein, and Jeff Mazza who have led the program for the past 5 years.

The Student Senate held a Staff Appreciation Breakfast for Faculty and Staff on Friday, April 6th. It is a delightful treat and we thank the Student Senate for the delicious spread!

The FELS talk "What's the Buzz about Our Health and Wellness" will be held on Thursday, April 12th, at 7PM in the Auditorium. The panel discussion will be moderated by Chris Collins and will include local experts on beekeeping, organic personal care and home products, acupuncture and organic farming.

Twenty-four LS students will depart for Grado, Spain, on Wednesday, April 11th with chaperones Kim Schultz, Alfonso Abadia and Angela Medeiros. The students will be staying with local families, attending school, touring towns in the region and will end the trip with 2.5 days in Madrid. We look forward to their return and thank Angela, Alfonso and Kim for organizing and supervising the trip.

Thirteen LS Latin students will be spending April vacation at the Paideia Institute in Rome with Alissa Jarvis and Lisa Lupinacci. Each day the students will combine visits to ancient roman sites with reading selections in Latin regarding those sites. The students will also enjoy a day trip to the ancient port of Ostia and explore a bit of the Appian Way, which was built in 300 BC. The historian Procopius said that the stones of the Appian Way fit together so securely and closely that they appeared to have grown together rather than to have been fitted together. We look forward to their return and thank Alissa and Lisa for organizing and supervising this trip.

### **Student Senate Representative**

Kerri Johnson reported that the senate had planned the Annual Staff Appreciation Breakfast and received positive feedback from faculty and staff. Cyberbullying would be the topic of discussion at the next Student Senate meeting followed by planning for the upcoming elections to prepare for next year.

### **METCO Parent Report**

There was no METCO parent report.

### **TA Report**

Caroline Singler thanked the Student Senate for their kind words of appreciation and wonderful breakfast. The 9th Grade Diversity Workshop recently took place with 60 student leaders and 30 staff providing support for the workshop which is now in its third year. Organizers for the workshop were Lori Hodin, JK Park, Melisa Shen, and Tracy Burke. Faculty and staff were invited to attend the Self-Defense graduations last week. Susan Shields and student Lizzy Murphy organized a showing of a film on the dangers of drug use entitled "*If They Had Only Known.*"

### **Chairman's Report**

Kevin Matthews thanked all who volunteered to be a part of the LS Safety Review Subcommittee. He commended the Music Department on its recent Jazz Concert and appreciated the inclusion of Curtis and Lincoln Middle School Students.

### **Liaison Reports**

There were no Liaison Reports.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Ms. Wong reported that teachers in Wellness, World Languages, and Science Departments were involved in hiring committees to prepare for the next school year. The Racial Climate Task Force meets weekly and has expanded its membership to include all stakeholders at the school. An assessment of needs is currently in progress among faculty. Work will continue during the summer to work toward a proposal in the fall. Work on the N-word policy continues following feedback and the faculty and staff will be updated at the Wednesday faculty meeting. The music working group has been established to address issues raised by Laurence Baize on behalf of LS Friends of Music. Its purpose is to evaluate impediments to music enrollment at LS. A student survey has been sent out regarding safety concerns to support the work of the LS Safety Review Subcommittee. So far, 1200 students have responded and their responses will be shared with the faculty and the subcommittee.

L-S and SPS have announced that the position of METCO Director will no longer be shared by the two schools. Current METCO Director Sandra Walters will remain with Sudbury Public Schools. A new METCO Director will be sought for Lincoln-Sudbury. The position has been shared by the two schools since 2010 but it has proved difficult for one Director to establish relationships with all the students in the program. Mr. Gargeya expressed his approval of the change. Mr. Quirk opined that the new METCO Director for LS should be active in instructional aspects for the METCO student population and have a broader presence in the building. Ms. Marshall agreed with this point.

Ms. Wong reported that the comprehensive changes made to the 9th grade experience were having a positive impact. The initiative to provide supports for METCO students so that they can achieve a 3.0 GPA was also showing positive results. Ms. Coulon, a member of public, commented favorably on the change in METCO Directorship at LS and hopes that the new position will result in a benefit to all LS students and that the new Director can create cross interaction among students.

The New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) accreditation process is gearing up for 2022. LS must develop a growth plan, implement it and evaluate its progress on goals. Patty Mostue volunteered to be the Liaison for this process.

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

Sherry Kersey reported that the end of year financial report had been issued by auditors Powers and Sullivan. A recommended correction has already been implemented involving student activity balances being included in revenues. Currently the Business Office is working to get the Excess and Deficiency Policy certified.

### **Information and Discussion**

The School Committee members discussed the Excess & Deficiency Guideline. Ms. Marshall requested comments from the members about the recommended percentage of operating capital to be earmarked for the Excess and Deficiency Fund. Furthermore, the proposal suggests that 25% of any unexpended funds in Excess and Deficiency above the prescribed E&D threshold would be directed to the Stabilization fund. The Stabilization Fund can be used to support capital asset projects for LS.

The Excess & Deficiency fund should be reviewed annually at the time of certification of E&D for the prior fiscal year, and guidelines for this process are included in the policy. With the new policy, Ms. Marshall expects there will be a disciplined approach for unexpended Excess and

Deficiency funds to be directed to the Stabilization fund to provide for funding or shared support with our towns for future capital investments in the building.

### **Action Items**

Vouchers were signed.

Gerald Quirk presented the votes for 2018-2021 Teachers' Contract and thanked the Teachers' Association negotiating team - Sandy Crawford, Shawn Lingley, Lisa Weiss and Seth Weiss. During Executive Session, Sudbury Board of Selectmen Representative Susan Iuliano unanimously recommended that the LS School Committee endorse the contract. In parallel, Mr. Quirk reported on changes to the district's health insurance plans to maximize savings and to create incentives for faculty to move to high deductible plans.

***VOTE on Teachers' Agreement: Gerald Quirk offered a motion "that the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional School District Committee ratify the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional Teachers' Association for the school years 2019-2021." Nancy Marshall seconded the motion. The roll call vote was unanimous.***

***VOTE on Administrator's Contract: Gerald Quirk requested that the vote on the Administrators' Contract be tabled until the April 24th LS School Committee meeting.***

***VOTE on Memorandum of Agreement on Health Coverage: Nancy Marshall offered a motion that "the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional School District Committee approve the Memorandum of Agreement with the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional Teachers' Association regarding Health Coverage." The motion was seconded by Craig Gruber. The vote was unanimous.***

***VOTE to Appoint Alternate At-Large Members of the LS Safety Review Subcommittee: Radha Gargeya offered a motion "that the Lincoln-Sudbury School District Committee approve the appointment of Paul Hambelton and Kelly Finn as Alternate At-Large Members of the LS Safety Review Subcommittee." Craig Gruber seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.***

Ms. Marshall recommended that work be done during the summer months to place the School Committee Policies on the school's website.

### **Calendar**

FELS Talk	April 12, 2018
Patriots' Day	April 16, 2018
Spring Recess	April 17-20, 2018
Connections "Parties,Proms,Parked Cars"	April 24, 2018
LS School Committee Meeting	April 24, 2018
Spring Show, "She Kills Monsters"	April 25-27, 2018

### **Adjourn**

Gerald Quirk offered a motion to adjourn the meeting. Craig Gruber seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted, Francy Zingale