

**LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
Tuesday, December 2, 2014**

7:30pm

LS Conference Room B

Present: Radha Gargeya, Chair; Elena Kleifges, Vice-Chair; Kevin Matthews; Nancy Marshall; Patty Mostue; Gerald Quirk

Also Present: Bella Wong, Superintendent/Principal; Patrick Collins, Director of Finance and Operations; Shawn Lingley, TA Co-President; Chris Knightley, Student Senate Representative.

Welcome

The meeting began at 7:30 pm.

Approval of Minutes

Radha Gargeya requested a motion to approve the minutes of November 18, 2014. Nancy Marshall moved to approve the minutes and Patty Mostue seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Presentation

FY16 Budget Presentation

Bella Wong presented the FY16 Budget. Work on the budget began as soon as Patrick Collins started work at L-S in mid-August. This year, because there is a change in administration on the state level with a newly elected Governor, the Governor's budget will not be issued until late February/early March which will require some adjustment to the budget after it is issued.

The budget reflects the L-S core values and school goals and follows the recommended guidelines from the Towns of Lincoln and Sudbury of level-service, 2% increase and 2.5% increase from FY15. Lincoln does not include pensions and insurance costs within its guideline. Sudbury does request that pensions and insurance be included within theirs.

The level service budget reflects maintaining the level of service currently offered at the high school but in a conservative fashion. This budget does not include the impact of current negotiations with the Teachers' Association. All services are level-funded unless otherwise noted. We have adjusted down from FY15 based on anticipated FY15 9c cuts in state aid by the Governor Patrick. L-S is impacted in regional transportation reimbursement, circuit breaker reimbursement and funds contributed to the METCO budget. The Budget for FY16 assumes that Health

premiums will increase by 6%, that non-teacher pension rate will increase by 6%, a reduction in utility fees as a result of the efforts of Kevin Rossley. The recommended level service budget is \$29,535,044 and that is an increase of \$1,422,390 from FY15 or a 5.1% increase.

The total spending plan for FY16 is \$32,125,431, this the total cost to operate the district as a whole. The difference between the level-service budget and the total spending plan is \$2,590,387 and that sum is covered by grants, special revenue funds and revolving funds that we receive from the state but that are restricted funds that can only be expended for certain functions.

Trending up are budget allocations in out-of-district tuitions. As a percent of the total budget, it is increasing by 1.3% from 11.2% to 12.5% of the total budget. In absolute dollars it is \$535,679 more than budgeted in FY15. Contractual services (transportation) is trending up by 3%.

Trending down is the L-S debt service by 0.3%. Utilities are trending down by 0.3% of the budget. Total amount for employee insurance is trending down by 0.8%. In the proposed FY16 budget, Ms. Wong is recommending that \$100,000 come from the Excess and Deficiency Fund. Of the general fund revenue, most significant is the assessment – the combination of funds received from Lincoln and Sudbury.

Regional transportation reimbursement is assumed to be \$295,000 which is slightly higher than the FY15 figure.

Patrick Collins presented the enrollment projection and it will be essentially the same for FY16 as it was in FY15. Over the next 5 years, the enrollment numbers are projected to trend down by approximately 150 students. L-S enrollment has been a growing proportion of the K-12 enrollment total at 32% yet relative funding has remained flat. Gerald Quirk pointed out that it is more expensive, per student, to educate high school students.

Median class sizes across departments illustrate that L-S must maintain level-staffing for FY16 from FY15. Gerald Quirk pointed out that L-S continues to remain below optimal staffing levels.

In October 2014, the official count of out-of-district students is 60, a steady increase from 2010. We will be receiving 4 additional out-of-district students who are currently out of district in the K-8's. We have commissioned a report by the Walker Group (the report will be presented to the School Committee on December 16th). The results of the report show that L-S is doing all it can do to educate student in-house when possible.

In-district per pupil cost relative to our peer districts is on the low side. Many of our peer districts are K-12 districts so the per pupil cost is slightly lower because of the averaging of K-8 relative to 9-12 costs.

Minor budgetary adjustments within the level service budget are recommended to address safety and useful support of the technology system at the school. This includes an increase of 0.4 FTE for the nursing staff and an increase of 0.25 FTE for instructional technology and for technical support we recommend an increase of 0.50 FTE.

Additional staff needs which are not included in the FY16 budget are 0.125 FTE in Math to relieve the high class sizes in Math, 0.25 Mandarin Language, 1.0 for Building and Grounds, and 1.0 in Student Services administration. The infrastructure needs that are critical to the upkeep of the building include a 1.0 for Building and Grounds. This department has been working hard to maintain the building while the school population has been increasing which has resulted in increased maintenance requirements.

Student Services administration requires grant writing, audit reports, compliance issues – the level of work and oversight required is nearly impossible for one person to fulfill. The model for evaluation is that the student service administrator must evaluate all counselors, tutors, and special educators.

Other budgetary stresses are the low E&D Reserve, low Stabilization Fund Reserve, and the OPEB liability at \$27.2 million. As part of the OPEB liability, the FY16 retiree health insurance budget liability is \$801,000. Each year, we have more retirees, higher insurance rates, and our retirees are living longer lives.

Areas in which L-S is saving money is in one-time grants like the grant for the Beacon Program, Department of Energy grants, NStar incentives, a review of student services via the Walker Report; membership in an insurance collaborative; membership in Case and EDCO, two educational collaboratives; and membership in two additional Professional Development collaboratives.

The FY16 budget will be posted on line. We are trying to manage our FY16 line items as best we can. The FY16 budget at 2.5% and 2% are included in the overall budget package. The 2.5% budget increase would require a reduction in 7.0 professional FTE, \$75,000 reduction to instructional capital, a \$25,000 reduction to department budgets, \$100,000 from CB reserves, and \$10,000 reduction to memberships and conferences.

The 2% budget increase would require an additional \$75,000 reduction to instructional capital; an additional \$50,000 reduction from CB reserve and an additional \$10,000 reduction to departmental budgets.

Budget assumptions for FY16 include departmental budgets that are level-funded, level staffing with critical adjustments, level-funding of state aid adjusted for 9C cuts, level-funding of federal and state grant revenues, fee revenues remaining at current levels, health insurance premium increase of 6%, non-teacher pension rate increase

of 10%, a line item contribution to the OPEB Trust. To be determined would be the impact of negotiations.

In terms of Capital Funding, LS would benefit from an upgrade in the Fire Alarm Panel of \$125,000.

The School Committee members recommended looking into ways in which the money would follow students from the K-8 system to the high school to support services as the students progress through the school system.

SunEdison Update

Andrew Weber from SunEdison presented the Solar Canopy Update. Issues with contractors and financing have been resolved. There was an error in the length of the solar panel sheeting as each panel fell short of the desired length by 3 inches. SunEdison has decided to re-order all sheeting for the project so that it is the correct length rather than permitting an adjustment required by the existing on-site materials. The new contractor has made great progress. The project, however, will not be completed within this calendar year. We presume delays due to weather to ensure safety of working staff. All structures will be up before the end of the year. The remaining question is the length of time it will take to place the panels on the supports. Additional parking spaces will be released in the coming week and in subsequent weeks.

The wiring to the grid will be completed by the time the last panels are installed. Bella Wong stated her renewed confidence in SunEdison now that Mr. Weber and the new contractor were managing the project. She expressed regret for the current year's seniors, that their parking expectations had been disappointed. Mr. Weber expressed an interest in SunEdison making amends to the current year's seniors.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Recognitions

The Class of 1978 has graciously donated a granite bench to LS – the bench is exactly 78 inches long! It has been placed near the beginning of the Parent Pick-Up Line and is quite beautiful! In the spring, brick work with a compass rose included will be added in front of the bench. We are very grateful to the Class of 1978 for this beautiful and useful bench.

CHICAGO was performed to a packed house each evening from Wednesday, November 19 to Saturday, November 22. The show was marvelous!!! superb!! fantastic!! Between cast, tech crew and orchestra, there were approximately 80 students involved in the 8-week process leading up to the production. Thank you to all for a memorable and enjoyable evening! The show brought back a number of alums of LSB Players who were there to support and enjoy the performances of

their fellow actors. Kudos to CARLY EVANS, TOM GRANDPREY, and MICHAEL BUNTING, the LSB PLAYERS and LS ORCHESTRA.

FELS has delivered awards to 24 L-S Faculty members from appreciative parents! KRISTIN BODKIN, PAT BURKHART, JOAN CAMPBELL, JEAN COLE, RACHEL COOKE, DAVID GRACE, STEVE DRISCOLL, NICOLE FRATTAROLI, KATIE GARLAND, JEN GARFIELD, NANCY GOLDSTONE, MARYANN GRADY, TOM GRANDPREY, BARBARA GRANT, CHRIS HERBERT, AMANDA KLEIN, SHAWN LINGLEY, LISA LUPINACCI, NANCY MALLOY, JEFF MAZZA, ANGELA MEDEIROS, JK PARK, ALLISON RICHARDSON, MARCI STODA, SETH WEISS. Congratulations all!

On Saturday, November 22nd, BRENDAN WIMBERLY accompanied seven students (Robert Wilkins, Dillon Lavari, Sabrena Hairston, Sherri Grant, Ben Chunias, Megan Chunias, and Tiauna Walker) from the Intersections club, which is a club at LS that explores the complexities of identity formation and cross-cultural interaction. The students attended the Initiatives for Developing Equity and Achievement for Students (IDEAS) Conference at Wheelock College in Brookline. There were approximately 80 students from clubs similar to Intersections from 11 eastern Massachusetts high schools. The conference is designed to give students an opportunity to share their knowledge with one another so that they may return to their schools and participate in conversations and activities designed to notice and challenge injustice in the school.

On Thursday, November 20th, THOMAS GRANDPREY and MICHAEL BUNTING took 70 music students and 10 chaperones to observe a rehearsal of the Boston Symphony Orchestra at Symphony Hall. The event included a pre-rehearsal talk by new BSO Music Director Andris Nelson and featured guest performer Yo-Yo Ma.

Ten L-S students were selected to participate in the Senior District Music Festival in January that will take place at Boston Latin School. Matthew Bowler, Emily Chuang, Jasmine Falk, Peter Jubenville, Zak Kaye, Ben Pelon, Eric Qin, Nick Smith, Claire Telfer, Eugenia Zhang. The auditions were held at Milton High School on Saturday morning, November 22nd. TOM GRANDPREY and MIKE BUNTING accompanied the students to the auditions.

Thanksgiving was served in the LS Cafeteria on November 26th for Sudbury and Lincoln Older Adults. Despite the uncertain weather, our guests were served turkey with all the trimmings. Approximately 100 senior citizens attended the event. It was a very festive event with music provided by the L-S Jazz Ensembles (dancing encouraged), and two members of the Class of 2015, Ezra Truneh and Rick Gangopadhyay, played piano for everyone's enjoyment. Nearly 65 L-S students volunteered to act as hosts at the event and serve dinner. Joan Campbell's Dance Troupe performed and several older adults who have enjoyed the weekly dance classes run by the L-S Dance Troupe were included. Each place setting was graced with goody bags made by the METCO students. The Bridges Together Program founded by L-S Alum Andrea Weaver, honored ADOLPH BAHIKOW, who has worked

with the program since its inception. CHRISTY FOSTER, Class of 2015, who has filmed videos of intergenerational experiences within our community, was honored for her work. Thank you to the Aramark Staff, Tom Danko, Susan Frommer, Joan Campbell, Tom Grandprey, Dani Weisse and Vicky Caburian for their efforts in supporting this event.

The Winter Choral Concert will be held on Thursday, December 4th, at 7pm in the Auditorium. The Winter Instrumental Concert will be held in the L-S Auditorium on Thursday, December 11th at 8pm. Various musical groups will perform at the Hosmer House Christmas Open House and at Lincoln Library on the afternoon of December 14th.

FELS presents: BRUCE MILLET's Photography Exhibit entitled "Boston to Bar Harbor: Coastal Shots and Portraits." in the Black Box on Wednesday, December 10th from 12:30pm to 3:30pm and again from 6:00pm to 9:00 pm.

The LS Boosters will be hosting the LS Comedy Night on December 12, 2014 at 8PM in the Auditorium. The proceeds will go to the LS All Sports Boosters' Club.

Every year the boys (and now girls) hockey team hold a Warriors 4 Warriors Benefit Hockey Game to benefit the Lt Scott Milley Ranger Foundation. The teams are in full swing promoting this year's games (Dec. 13th at 3 pm girls and 5 pm boys) to be held at the New England Sports Center.

Student Representative Report

Chris Knightley reported that the Student Senate had met with the Library staff to discuss more space for group studying and socializing in the library. They will also discuss dividing the library into a more social side and a quiet side.

Teachers' Association Report

Shawn Lingley reported on the Depression Workshop put on by Counselors for the 10th graders. Every year they organize a 2hour workshop for students, run by 11th and 12th grade students. The older students teach the 10th graders how to recognize the symptoms of depression and resources for guiding students to assistance if they are suffering from depression.

Chairman's Report

This is budget season with numerous meetings to attend.

Liaison Reports

There were no liaison reports.

Superintendent/Principal's Report

Bella Wong had nothing additional to report.

Director of Finance and Operations' Report

Patrick Collins reported that there was new information on regulations governing regional transportation amendments that would include a revolving fund based on estimates on transportation costs. This would act as a budget stabilizer. Mr. Collins recommends that L-S participate in this revolving fund and will present the paperwork to the School Committee when the state finalizes the program.

Information and Discussion

There was no information and discussion.

Action Items

There were no action items but there were warrants to sign.

Other Business

No other business.

Bill Schedule

Calendar of Events

Special Town Meeting	December 3, 2014
Winter Choral Concert	December 4, 2014
Speech and Debate Tournament	December 6, 2014
Warnings	December 10, 2014
Winter Instrumental Concert	December 11, 2014
LS Boosters Comedy	December 12, 2014
Warriors 4 Warriors	December 13, 2014
LS School Committee	December 16, 2014
December Recess	December 24-Jan 2, 2015

Adjournment

Mr. Gargeya requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Patty Mostue moved that the meeting be adjourned and Elena Kleifges seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Francy Zingale