

**LINCOLN-SADBURY REGIONAL DISTRICT  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
RETREAT MEETING  
July 11, 2014**

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

**Also Present:** Bella Wong, Superintendent/Principal; Aida Ramos, Director of Student Services; Virginia Blake, Curriculum Director; Shawn Lingley and Susan Shields, TA Co-Presidents; Housemasters Sandy Crawford, Eleanor Burke, Jason Medeiros, and Leslie Patterson; Sudbury Police Chief Scott Nix; Lincoln Police Chief Kevin Kennedy.

**Welcome**

The meeting began at 9:00 am.

**Presentations**

**Public Safety Update:**

Police Chiefs Nix and Kennedy thanked L-S for its cooperation in a number of initiatives that they believe will make L-S a safer school. Specifically, they were appreciative of the extensive work done by faculty and staff in planning and executing the A.L.I.C.E. protocol at L-S. They also praised the staff involvement in the monthly Community Based Justice meetings held at L-S. The open communication and cooperation between school and police force benefitted the students of both Sudbury and Lincoln. Nix and Kennedy reminded the attendees at the meeting that during the summer months, all the support systems provided by the school were unavailable to students and families in need and that the police force of each town was the only resource available year-round. Because of the open nature of relationships between the police and school, the police were better equipped to deal with issues presented.

Police Chiefs Scott Nix and Kevin Kennedy spoke about initiatives taking place in their respective towns that are relevant to the high school. Chief Nix and the Sudbury Police are promoting a program to urge Sudbury residents to dispose of prescription drugs they may have in

their homes to remove the temptation from the community's youth. In their experience prescription drug use leads to illegal substance abuse. Lincoln has a drug kiosk for the same purpose. Chief Nix also spoke of seeking funding to provide self-defense classes for high school girls before they left for college. He lauded the efforts of the LS Wellness Department and the Mentors in Violence Prevention program in educating students in methods of avoiding conflict and boundary setting. Both towns are looking into continuing the D.A.R.E. program into all grades, providing skills and awareness that are age-appropriate.

Gerald Quirk inquired about the dangers that might be presented by the construction of the solar canopy project. Chief Nix said that the benefits clearly outweighed the risks and that their research had shown no problems at the REI parking lot that has a similar canopy. They police will continue to survey the parking lot as part of their routine.

Bella Wong thanked Chief Nix and Chief Kennedy for the support of the police force. She stated that they were always accessible to L-S with an empathetic response and an instinct to help as needed. Radha Gargeya thanked both gentlemen on behalf of the School District.

### **MCAS/PARCC Update**

Virginia Blake reported that School Districts have been given option to choose between the two tests for next year. LS 10<sup>th</sup> graders will continue to take the Math, Science, and ELA MCAS through 2018 as a requirement for graduation.

Problems with the PARCC testing is that it occurs for 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> graders; takes place during March and May – optimal teaching time and conflicts with SAT and AP testing in the spring. Ms. Blake reported that the LS Academic Council had examined the issue keeping in mind what is best for L-S students and has concluded that PARCC testing is not beneficial to our curriculum and will cost all three grades approximately 25 hours in lost classroom time that will adversely affect the existing curriculum. It is unclear what value, if any, PARCC will provide for a high-performing school such as L-S. Bella Wong pointed out that the decision-making surrounding PARCC rests with the Board of Education. The School Committee plans to reach out to area legislators to make known the concerns expressed by L-S educators. Resources dedicated

to delivering PARCC testing to all districts in Massachusetts could be better directed toward low-performing school systems.

### **Administrative Updates**

Sandy Crawford reported on the status of the new Educator Evaluation system at L-S. One of the benefits of the evaluations was the thoughtful discussions and communications occurring between Faculty and Administration. Student data and feedback will eventually become part of the evaluation process.

Patty Mostue commented on the bureaucratic demand this placed upon each school system. Bella Wong pointed out the difficulty in assessing the impact of individual teachers on a student's learning.

Peter Elenbaas reported on a workshop he attended with Brian Fauvel to learn how an institution can respond in crisis intervention and methods of non-violent restraint methods. They found the workshop very instructive and will train LS campus aides as well as other essential staff interacting with students.

An Administrative Team attended the Harvard Graduate School of Education Conference on Closing the Achievement Gap. It was very instructive and provided the team with many ideas to ensure access to excellence at L-S.

### **Program Update**

The Beacon program has been funded by a grant from Metrowest Health Foundation for three years. The program will provide assistance to students transitioning to L-S from being out of L-S for long absences due to concussions, hospitalizations, or extended evaluation placements. The grant provides for a full time clinical psychologist who has been hired for September. Peter Elenbaas added a side note that of the majority of the 60 concussions among L-S students in the past school year did NOT take place at L-S or as a result of L-S athletics.

### **Hiring Update**

Virginia Blake reported that hiring had begun in March and that 8 teachers have been hired, one clinical counselor, 2 teaching assistants, 1 campus aide.

## **TA Report**

Shawn Lingley reported on a successful end to the school year. There have been many professional workshops during the first two weeks following the end of school. The Executive TA will attend a retreat in mid-August and a Massachusetts Teachers Association conference at the end of August.

## **Liaison Report**

Kevin Matthews reported on a recent OPEB meeting with the Town of Sudbury. Committee members were instructed in L-S liability to OPEB by an auditing firm hired by the Town of Sudbury. He will continue to report on the progress of this committee to the School Committee.

## **Chairman's Report**

Radha Gargeya reported on the School Committee's Goals for 2014-2015. The School Committee will endeavor to strengthen coordination with the K-8 Districts of both Lincoln and Sudbury. It will consider models for teacher assignments, loads and class sizes. The School Committee would like to protect teachers from class management of large class sizes so that they may provide the best classroom instruction.

Subcommittee, Working Group, and Liaison Assignments were distributed to the School Committee members.

## **Superintendent/Principal Goals for 2014-2015**

Bella Wong will work on a self-assessment as well as overarching school goals such as:

Revisiting Core Values – uniting core value statements and making sure that all members of the LSRHS community share the same understanding of them as they will inform the guidelines for ethical dilemmas faced by staff on a regular basis.

Educator Evaluation – still a work in progress in terms of its implementation.

Excellence in Education – evaluate LS students to insure that they have access to excellence whether the obstacle is language, mental issues, or learning disabilities.

Guidelines for what students should learn before leaving high school – what content, what skills and attributes?

Technology Vision – What is the breadth of what LS will be able to offer and how can the teachers implement it?

Global Education – when LS students graduate, they will be joining a wider world and must be able to communicate effectively. What can LS teachers do to prepare students to become global citizens?

### **Business Manager Update**

Peter DeRoeve has been assisting the District since Mr. Fratto's departure in closing out FY13 and FY14. LS has been fortunate to have conscientious and meticulous budget managers within the building that have made this task more easy.

Bella seeks to find a partner to assist Peter DeRoeve who is part time. A midwinter posting for hiring a new Business Manager is optimal.

### **Technology Infrastructure Update**

The work for the technology infrastructure improvements is on schedule and will be completed before students return. From July 16<sup>th</sup> to July 22<sup>nd</sup> there will be no computer service within or without the building. Student schedules and summer mailing communications have been held off until after the technology work is completed.

### **Solar Canopy**

The Solar Canopy will not be completed until late September. Kevin Rossley and Jason Medeiros are aware of this and will communicate with the community as school opening approaches as this will affect student and staff parking.

### **Walker Report**

The final copy has not yet arrived from the Walker Group which assessed the L-S Department of Student Services. Student Services Department will see the report first. Bella Wong and Aida Ramos have been working on recommendations included in the draft of the report. The Beacon Program is one such recommendation from the Walker Group.

This concluded the July 11 School Committee Retreat Meeting. All participants were thanked for their time and information.

Elena Kleifges moved that the meeting be adjourned. Nancy Marshall seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 12:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Francy Zingale