

**LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Tuesday, November 4, 2014**

7:30 p.m.

Conference Room B

Present

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

Also Present

Bella Wong, Superintendent/Principal; Patrick Collins, Director of Finance and Operations; Shawn Lingley, TA Representative; Chris Knightley, Student Representative; Linda Bournival, KMS Actuaries; Brian Fox, from Murphy, Hesse, Toomey, Lehane; Andrew Weber, SunEdison; Clara Cousins and Michael Dawson, students; Mr. and Mrs. Cousins, Mr. and Mrs. Dawson.

Welcome

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

Presentation

Radha Gargeya welcomed Clara Cousins and Michael Dawson and their parents to the School Committee Meeting. Bella Wong presented the Massachusetts Association of Superintendents' Award for Academic Excellence to Clara Cousins and Michael Dawson who have distinguished themselves in pursuit of excellence in their high school careers.

Andrew Weber, Project Manager for SunEdison, delivered an update on the Solar Canopy Project. He acknowledged that the project is behind schedule as a result of an under-performing contractor followed by the loss of a construction manager. They have hired a local contractor who will begin on November 6, 2014. Mr. Weber assured the School Committee that the project would now move forward expeditiously. SunEdison will be responsible for improving the parking situation and that the contractors would put in extra hours to keep to a schedule that would ensure that the project would be completed by January 1, 2015. The School Committee expressed their dissatisfaction with the progress

of work to date. Mr. Weber assured the Committee that he would maintain communication with the Committee and that the work would proceed quickly. Mr. Weber will attend all future School Committee meetings and submit written progress reports.

Linda Bournival of KMS Actuaries presented the actuarial valuation for the L-S OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits) Trust. Ms. Bournival is the sole owner of KMS and has performed the GASB (Government Accounting Standards Board) 45 evaluation for L-S, which focuses on medical, dental, and life insurance for retirees. Her effort aims to assist L-S in developing the Annual Required Contribution to the OPEB Trust. To determine the amount to invest into the L-S OPEB account, a number of assumptions must be made including the discount rate used to calculate the present value of expected future benefit payments, the long-term rate of return on General Fund assets used to satisfy obligations. Also factored in are Health Care Cost Trend Rates (HCCTR) and demographic assumptions. Ms. Bournival estimates that the LSRSD OPEB liability as of July 1, 2013 is \$27.23 million. Funding options are Pay-as-you-go and prefunding. In FY14, the L-S PAYG amount is \$743,000. If the District chooses to fully prefund this liability, then the Annual Required Contribution (ARC) is \$1,626,000 assuming a 7.5% discount rate. Ms. Bournival recommended that the school review health care choices, including ensuring that eligible retirees be switched to Medicare.

Brian Fox, attorney with Murphy, Hesse, Toomey, Lehane, presented the OPEB Trust document and the methods for maintaining compliance with the law. The School Committee must vote to adopt Chapter 32B, Section 20, in order to establish the Trust Fund. It must then assign a Trustee to the Trust. The Trust Agreement sets up a Board of Trustees, lays out the rules and purposes for the trust. Trustees of the trust are subject to fiduciary duties and can be held personally liable for malfeasance. GASB 45 requires irrevocable employer contributions and the assets can only be used for providing OPEB benefits, payment of reasonable costs for maintaining the trust, and protection of assets from creditors of the employer.

The School Committee must approve appropriations to the Trust and may or may not provide annual contributions. The Trustees must work

for the exclusive purpose of providing benefits to retirees and their beneficiaries. Regular meetings with minutes are required, which will be evidence that the Trustees are good stewards of the assets of the Trust. Disclosure is an important aspect of the Trust and it should be audited yearly with that expense deducted from the Trust assets.

Patrick Collins noted that at the November 18, 2014 School Committee meeting there will be a second reading of the draft of the Trust Agreement. This will be preceded by a vote by the School Committee to adopt Chapter 32B, Section 20. Once the Trust is created there will be an organizational meeting of the trustees to name a Chairman of the Trust.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Recognitions

The Class of 2015 Steering Committee and Advisors, MVP Students and Advisors prepared the Seniors for a successful, well-managed and enjoyable Senior Dress-Up Day.

Brian Bakerman will be awarded the Daughters of the American Revolution Award for Good Citizenship. Brian was elected by his peers from faculty nominations.

Austin Lessin is a finalist for the U.S. Senate Youth Scholarship Program in Massachusetts.

Nancy Carbutt, South House Assistant, and Heather Dwyer, Guidance Counselor, will be leaving L-S for jobs elsewhere.

On October 30th, the L-S Orchestra visited different areas of the school and played an impromptu mini-concert featuring Mozart.

Brendan Wimberley and Lori Hodin worked with the students in Intersections – an LS diversity club. The club held a Mix-it-up at lunch day to encourage students to mingle and break down social barriers.

A fund-raiser for the Jamtse Gatsal Children's Community Center in Tibet will be held at L-S on November 15th with a screening of the movie "Tashi and the Monk", an Indian/Tibetan bazaar, and dinner. Tickets will be \$35.00.

Environmental Science teachers Christopher Collins has invited professionals in the environmental field to address his students on

invasive plant species, deer management, ecosystem restoration, endangered animal species and energy efficiency.

The MLK Action Project's Jimmy Mack Rock Concert raised \$750 for AIDS education and research.

Chicago will open in the LS Auditorium on November 19th, 2014 presented by the talented students in LSB Players and directed by Carly Evans.

Student Representative Report

The Student Senate has formed 4 new subcommittees: Library, Space, Advertising, and Extracurricular Support. The Library subcommittee will address increased study space in the library and work to improve relations with the librarians. The Space Committee will work to increase study areas in school. The Advertising Committee will update the Student Senate website and will broadcast Senate activities through emails. The Extracurricular Support Committee will encourage students to join extracurricular clubs.

TA Report

Shawn Lingley reported that First Quarter has ended. Senior Dress-up Day was a great success this year. Radha Gargeya addressed the students of the Financial Literacy Course and made the L-S budget process interesting to the students. The deadline for early applications to college has passed; consequently, teachers have been busy writing recommendations in the past few weeks.

Chairman's Report

Radha Gargeya reported that the FY16 budget process has begun in earnest. The Lincoln and Sudbury FINCOM liaisons will meet on November 7, 2014 at 7:30am. The Massachusetts Association of School Committees is holding its annual meetings and Mr. Gargeya encouraged other members of the School Committee to attend the meetings.

Liaison Report

There were no liaison reports.

Superintendent's Report

Bella Wong reported that a survey of L-S families regarding preference of receiving "robo-calls" to communicate school closings revealed that parents who responded to the survey overwhelmingly preferred to receive the calls. The results were true for Boston, Lincoln and Sudbury families.

Ms. Wong recognized the efforts of staff, students, and families in accommodating the disruption caused by the Solar Canopy Project. She reminded the School Committee that the LSB Players would present the musical *Chicago* from November 19-22, 2014.

Director of Finance and Operations' Report

Patrick Collins had nothing to report.

Action Items

Warrants were presented to the School Committee for signature.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Calendar

Veteran's Day	November 11, 2014
LS School Committee Meeting	November 18, 2014
Chicago	November 19-22, 2014
Senior Citizens Thanksgiving	November 26, 2014
Thanksgiving Recess	November 27-28, 2014
LS School Committee Meeting	December 2, 2014
Special Town Meeting	December 3, 2014

Adjournment

Elena Kleifges moved that the meeting be adjourned. Gerald Quirk seconded the motion and the LS School Committee Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Francy Zingale