

**LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Tuesday, November 18, 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; Susan Shields, TA Representative; Tara Mehta, Student Representative; and Virginia Blake, Curriculum Director.

Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 7:37 p.m.

Presentation

Virginia Blake, Director of Curriculum, presented information on MCAS results, Coordination with the Middle Schools in Lincoln and Sudbury, and staffing/course information.

The results for 2014 MCAS testing showed that for the 10th grade ELA tests, 97% of L-S students ranked in the advanced/proficient range, 2% Need Improvement, and 1% Failing. For the Math MCAS, 94% of L-S students achieved advanced/proficient scores, 4% in Needs Improvement and 2% Failing. All students must reach proficiency in Math and ELA in order to complete their graduation requirement. L-S has programs in place to assist students in the Needs Improvement and Failing categories reach proficiency.

Results for Science and Technology/Engineering MCAS which includes testing in Biology, Chemistry or Technology/Engineering, revealed 85% of L-S students in the advanced/proficient category; 12% in Needs Improvement and 2% Failing. This coming year, all students will be taking the Biology MCAS and students must achieve a score of Needs Improvement or higher. The Science Department is examining whether curriculum alignment efforts are necessary.

The Composite Performance Index is used to measure progress toward the goal of narrowing proficiency gaps. The indices for L-S are: ELA 98.8%; Math 96.9%; and Science 93.9%. The Cumulative Progress and Performance Index incorporate progress toward narrowing proficiency gaps, student growth percentiles for Math and ELA, graduation rates, drop-out rates and MCAS participation rates. Progress toward narrowing proficiency gaps must be evident. For L-S, the aggregate numbers of high needs students and students with IEPs draws L-S down to a Level two. DESE requires such districts to review their improvement plans. Out of a total of 383 school districts, 60% are Level 2. Of the school districts designated Level 1, 33% are Charter Schools, 25% are vocational/technical schools, 25% are K8 schools leaving 9 schools which are “regular” school districts at Level 1.

Ms. Blake indicated that there are a number of student support initiatives: Café Mathematica, the Tutoring Center, Academic Support Center, a Title 1 grant focused on math and literacy, METCO independent academic study and homework clubs. L-S also has a number of teaching and learning initiatives: increased use of teaching assistants, increased use of teaching assistants from Special Education in content area classes, increased staffing and training for teachers of ELL students and increased use of common assessments.

Mr. Gargeya pointed out that L-S is a high performing school and that the MCAS scores are always in the 90+ percentile. It is relatively impossible to meet a target which is a percentage increase every year. There should be a threshold, above which there are no “targets”.

Ms. Blake continued her presentation with a report on the coordination efforts between the high school and the middle schools. There are a number of initiatives to facilitate 8th graders transition to the high school. The scheduling offices visits the middle schools to assist with course request sheets, the music department visits the middle schools and arranges joint concerts with the middle school musicians, L-S peer leaders visit the middle schools regularly, and the language, math and science departments coordinate closely with middle school faculty to ensure correct course level placement. Additional areas of collaboration are Common Core alignment, especially in the math curricula, with a

focus on curriculum and assessments. The Special Educators meet in the spring to ensure proper student placement. L-S focuses analyzes student performance throughout students' high school career to provide feedback to the middle schools to guide their preparation of students for high school.

Virginia Blake provided the staffing/course information report for 2014-2015. The packet included enrollment by grade, house, and within programs for the past 5 years. Student enrollment and staffing by department for the last 15 years, class sizes and educator loads for the current year, and distribution of class sizes by department for the past 5 years. English and Science Departments have the preponderance of class sizes over 25. History and Wellness have the most classes under 25 students per class. Gerald Quirk noted that L-S still did not have enough educators given the size of the student body – that the school is still down 7 FTE's from 2011-2012.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Recognitions

The musical *Chicago* opens Wednesday, November 19th and plays through Saturday, November 22, 2014 in the auditorium. It is directed by Carly Evans and has a talented cast, crew, and musical assistance from the Orchestra conducted by Thomas Grandprey. Choral direction was provided by Michael Bunting.

The L-S Model UN Club hosted an all-day in-school conference which serves as an opportunity for new and returning members to become acquainted with the formalities of the Model UN and to prepare for the National High School Model UN Conference in NYC and the Boston College Model UN Conference – both are held in March 2015. Approximately 120 L-S students will be representing more than 50 countries on topics related to ISIS. JK Park is the advisor and coordinator of this event.

Gail Nozik, Joan Gaumnitz, and Jan Cavallo arranged a Flu Shot Clinic for the convenience of Faculty and Staff. Nurses from the

Minuteman/Nashoba Health Group were on hand to administer the vaccine.

The MetroWest Adolescent Health Survey was distributed to students during block 7 on Thursday, November 13th. The survey collects valuable information on the health and risk behaviors of our students. Distribution and collection of data from the survey has been handled by Emily Phillips.

The L-S Boosters will be holding L-S Comedy Night on December 12, 2014 at 8PM in the Auditorium. Proceeds will go to the L-S All Sports Boosters Club.

The Counseling Department announced that as of November 14, 70% of the current senior class has applied to college. The next major deadline is January 1st, 2015.

A fundraiser for the Jhamste Gatsal Children's Community Center was held on November 15th at L-S and included a screening of "Tashi and the Monk". Preliminary tallies indicate that a large donation by a Sudbury resident was matched by funds raised during the course of the evening. Sandy Crawford was instrumental in organizing this event.

The School of the Museum of Fine Arts is holding a sale of artwork by students and teachers from November 20 to 22nd. Paul Sarapas has five pieces on display.

The Clinical Counselors and Counseling Department ran the Depression Workshop in which all L-S students participate. The workshop teaches students to recognize symptoms of depression and the resources available to students who may suffer from it.

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 to encourage 9th grade students to run for senate election to represent their class. The Extracurricular Support Committee will encourage students to join extracurricular clubs and will work to find ways that, in particular, METCO students can join after school activities such as the LSB Players.

TA Report

Susan Shields reported that the TA has been extremely busy completing recommendations for early action/early decision candidates and Quarter 1 grades. The TA members were happy to hear that, at the state level, the Commissioner for Education is proposing that student progress will not be linked to teacher licensure.

Chairman's Report

Radha Gargeya reported that the FY16 budget process has begun in earnest. The Lincoln and Sudbury FINCOM liaisons have met. There are 5 new members to the Sudbury FINCOM out of a 9-member panel. The outlook for FY16 Budget does not look good at the moment. Mr. Gargeya reminded the joint FINCOM liaisons that 21 months ago, after completion of the last contract negotiation, the Towns of Lincoln and Sudbury would have to increase their support of the school.

Liaison Report

Elena Kleifges reported that the Wellness Policy Committee is working to put together a report from information regarding the L-S wellness policies, including nutrition, mental health, etc.

Elena Kleifges is also a liaison for the committee investigating vocational schools to better determine if the Town of Sudbury should continue its membership in the Minuteman Vocational School organization. They will prepare a report for the Sudbury Board of Selectmen.

Kevin Matthews reported that the OPEB committee is getting close to a draft proposal to the Board of Selectmen's December meeting.

Superintendent's Report

Bella Wong mentioned the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education announcement that the proposed link between student

performance and licensure has been rescinded. The Massachusetts Teachers' Association has been very active in promoting this rescission and the Superintendents' of the Commonwealth have also spoken out eloquently in opposition to the proposal. Ms. Wong also reported that the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents has been a vocal opponent to tying district determined measure assessments to teacher evaluations as it will undermine the fruitfulness of the assessments. The real benefit of the district determined measures is to use them to measure student growth. School superintendents have also communicated to Secretary of Education Malone their concerns regarding state mandates resulting in over-testing students.

The New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) is facing growing resistance from Massachusetts school districts who find that the self-study requirements are unnecessary and time-consuming – taking time from the work of educating students. There is a growing theme of school districts pushing back against the stream of state-mandated educational initiatives because they are, at bottom, a disservice to the students.

Within L-S, a great deal of work has been accomplished on a revisiting of the L-S Core Values. Based on in-house surveys and faculty conversations, the working group is prepared to present to the School Council. By mid-year, Ms. Wong will be prepared to present their findings to the School Committee.

The EDCO Collaborative offers a program called IDEAS which explores access to equity and excellence for all students. A number of L-S faculty will be participating in seminars offered by the IDEAS program. Steve Desrosiers, the new METCO Director, is working to increase METCO parent engagement with L-S by encouraging a partnership with parents.

Work continues on the subject of what L-S students should know by the time they graduate. One focus is in the area of technology. Nancy Errico has been working diligently with faculty to acquaint them with new applications for technology and is assessing the ongoing evolution of the technology upgrade at L-S.

Director of Finance and Operations' Report

Patrick Collins presented the Other Post Employment Benefit (OPEB) Trust to the School Committee and recommended that the School Committee vote to accept the provisions of this Trust as the action will pave the way for future contributions to the trust through its regular budget process.

Gerald Quirk moved that it be resolved: "That the Lincoln Sudbury Regional School District accept the provisions of Chapter 32B, Section 20, of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended by Chapter 68, section 57 of the Acts of 2011 (the "Act") , and establishes an Other post Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund ("OPEB Trust Fund"); and that the attached document shall serve as the Trust document." Nancy Marshall seconded the motion and all members of the School Committee were in favor.

A second vote was requested to designate David Leary, LSRSD Treasurer to serve as custodian to the Trust.

Gerald Quirk moved that it be resolved: "That, in accordance with the Act, the School Committee hereby designates the LSRDS Treasurer to serve as custodian of the LSRSD OPEB Trust Fund." Kevin Matthews seconded the motion. All members of the School Committee were in favor.

Patrick Collins presented an updated FY16 Budget calendar. An overview of the FY16 Budget will be presented to the L-S Faculty on December 1st. It will then be presented to the L-S School Committee on December 2nd, 2014. Mr. Collins pointed out that the new governor of Massachusetts will have an additional month to submit the state's budget which will delay information on state aid into the month of February. He pointed out that the final budget was due in Lincoln on February 10, 2015.

The exterior lighting project is due to begin at the end of November and will be completed before the end of December. Total electrical consumption for exterior lighting will decrease from 90,000 kwh to 25,000 kwh with new LED lighting with consequent savings annually of \$10,000.

Action Items

Warrants were presented to the School Committee for signature.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Calendar

<i>Chicago</i>	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
Town of Lincoln Budget Workshop	December 10, 2014
2 nd Meeting with Joint FINCOMs	December 12, 2014

Adjournment

Patty Mostue moved that the meeting be adjourned. Nancy Marshall seconded the motion and the LS School Committee Meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Francy Zingale