

**LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
October 7, 2014**

7:30 pm

Conference Room B

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

Also Present: Bella Wong, Superintendent/Principal; Patrick Collins, Director of Finance and Operations; State Senator Mike Barrett; State Senator Jamie Eldridge; Chris Knightley, Student Representative.

Welcome

The Meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was requested to approve the Minutes of September 16, 2014. Patty Mostue moved that the Minutes of September 16, 2014, be approved and Kevin Matthews seconded the motion. All were in favor.

A motion was requested to approve the Minutes of September 30, 2014. Patty Mostue moved that the Minutes of September 30, 2014, be approved and Elena Kleifges seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Presentation – Legislators Round Table

State Senator Mike Barrett and State Senator Jamie Eldridge joined the School Committee for a Round Table discussion. Senator Eldridge provided the Committee with an FY15 Budget and a description of methods to calculate foundations budgets and recommendations for potential changes in the calculations. Both legislators stated a need to be vigilant in the equal treatment of all schools in the state.

The School Committee members expressed their concern at the number of state mandates that have been issued and the resultant cost to the District in terms of time and money. Bella Wong mentioned the mandated need for fingerprinting of all staff members at the high school and the requirement that a percentage of teachers become certified in Sheltered English Immersion, in particular because LSRHS is a school with very few English language learners. She emphasized that this was not an appropriate allocation of funds for the Lincoln Sudbury School District. In this particular case, Ms. Wong suggested that on-line modules be permitted. Senator Eldridge recommended that the School Committee present a specific list of mandates that the School Committee deemed redundant or non-relevant to the L-S School District because that will enhance the lawmaker's ability to effect change at a legislative level.

Radha Gargeya informed the legislators that Sudbury has the highest percentage of households sending children to public school and Sudbury experienced

considerable pressure to fund the school system. He expressed the opinion that Sudbury therefore needed state aid to reflect this reality. Senator Barrett was cautiously optimistic that the state's increasingly healthy economy will permit additional dollars being made available to towns. Patrick Collins brought to attention the need for redistribution for communities that are contributing more than their fair share of funds because of the lack of commensurate state aid.

Radha Gargeya also pointed out that the delayed State Budget timeline created problems for regional school districts such as Lincoln-Sudbury that must present their budgets before knowing the Governors Budget.

The state legislators acknowledged the increase in Special Education expenditure and the burden they place on local school systems and the growing challenge in finding funding to alleviate this burden.

Another issue brought to the legislators' attention was the membership in Minuteman Vocational Technical School and funds required by that membership not being commensurate with the number of Lincoln and Sudbury students that attend the school. Mike Barrett acknowledged that changing demographics will require a reexamination of vocational training in the state.

State Senators Mike Barrett and Jamie Eldridge were thanked for participating in the Round Table and Radha Gargeya indicated an intention for the dialogue to continue in the future.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Recognitions

Back to School Night was a great success despite parking limitations. Music was provided by students in the music department and many parents commented on the pleasures of hearing students play as they passed from class to class following their student's schedules. Bella Wong thanked Virginia Blake for being the Master of Ceremonies in her absence.

Joan Campbell, Department Chair of World Languages and German Teacher, has been elected as the North East Regional Representative on the Executive Council of the American Association of Teachers of German. This is an elected office in a national election. The representatives will be preparing national exams, teacher training programs, and a forward looking vision for the profession. It is a great honor and was announced on October 2nd, 2014.

Bella Wong thanked Buildings and Grounds for creating a beautiful crosswalk in front of the school for access for students living in the Sawmill Road neighborhood.

Todd Punturaumporn's good-bye celebration was held on Friday, October 17, 2014. Todd is always brimming with goodwill and happiness. He has worked with the Buildings and Grounds crew and the REACH program. Todd and his family are returning to their extended family in Thailand. He will be sorely missed at L-S and we are all grateful for the opportunity to have become his friends.

Eleanor Burke, Tracy Burke, Desiree Butter, Nancy Carbutt, Nicole Digenis, Laura Fair, Phil James, Carol Padden, and Suanne Peterson have all received teacher appreciation cards from parents who have donated to FELS in their honor.

Tom Danko, David Hosford, and Annalise Notaro have received ACE Awards from the SERF organization. LS parents donate to SERF as a means of thanking teachers who have made a significant difference in their student's life.

Beginning Tuesday, October 14th, the World Language Department welcomes students from our partner schools in Germany and France along with their teacher/chaperones. 24 French students from Le Havre, France arrive on October 12 to stay with host families from Lincoln and Sudbury until Tuesday, October 21st. L-S students will visit France in April to stay with the families of their French partners. 20 German students from the Gymnasium Vilshofen will be in school with their exchange partners until Friday, October 31, with a 4-day excursion to New York City from October 21-24. In June, L-S German students will travel to Germany to stay with their German partners' families and attend school in Vilshofen.

National Merit Semi-Finalists 2014 from L-S are: Clara Cousins, Logan Engstrom, Elise Hinkle, Gregory Howard, Austin Lessin, Krystal Phu, Eric Qin, Andrei Rakitin, Samuel Robiner, Rohan Shankar, Mark Tentarelli, and William Ye. These academically talented students will continue in the competition for 7,600 scholarships worth approximately \$33 million.

This year LS has 46 National Merit Commended Scholars are:

Brian Bakerman, Alexander Benton, Jonathan Berlowitz, Matthew Bowler, Justin Brown, Benjamin Cannistraro, William Davenport, Kent Davies, Michael Dawson, Gregory Derecho, Peter Finnegan, Alyssa Fishbein, Margaret Flaherty, Kathryn Flanagan, Kyra Fryling, Rick Gangopadhyay, Aaron George, Alex Ghorishi, Vikram Gopal, Elizabeth Hardwick, Emily Hong, Henry Huntley, Joshua Julian, Natasha Kadlec, Kristin Kimble, Cameron Kenney, Julia Laferrera, Katherine Lawson, Justin Liu, Caleb Longtine, Fahim Mahmud, Tara Mehta, Sydney Miller, Nathan Pan-Doh, Stephanie Pilavin, Julia Reinhold, Thomas Rhines, Amanda Rose, Yelizaveta Sapozhnikov, Reilly Shew, Tara Smith, Savannah Snell, Bradley Stevenson, Jason Suter, Samantha Ward, and Nicole Wilkinson.

Paul Shultz served on the Assessment Development Committee for the Tech/Engineering MCAS for 2013-2014 and has just been notified that his term has been extended another year.

Student Senate Report

Hand-dryers have been installed in the bathrooms in B Building and the Student Senate is planning to fundraise to provide new hand-dryers in C Building. The Student Senate website is being updated to include names of students on various subcommittees.

TA Report

Shawn Lingley reported that Back-to-School night was a great success. On Thursday morning the LSPO and LSTA are co-hosting a coffee for parents from 7:30am to 9:00am. SEI classes have begun for 7 teachers this semester, 25 teachers over two years. Certification in SEI is now a part of license recertification for all faculty except the Wellness faculty. The training is provided at the expense of DESE for the next two years.

Chairman's Report

Radha Gargeya distributed the liaison subcommittee and working group assignments which will be considered final unless objections are brought to his attention. There are two vacancies on the Sudbury Capital Committee for school committee members. Mr. Gargeya has revised and updated the School Committee procedures. Mr. Gargeya also brought to the Committee's attention a meeting at the Newton Marriott of the Suburban Coalition with Tom Conroy and Michael Widmer of the Massachusetts Taxpayer's Association.

Superintendent's Report

Bella Wong reported that her trip to Helsinki, Rovaniemi, and London was very educational. The group visited many different schools in diverse environments including a teacher training school. Rovaniemi is the largest settlement within the Arctic Circle in Finland. She will present a full report of her experiences at the next School Committee meeting.

Liaison Report

Bella Wong and Elena Kleifges will attend the first Vocational Education Options Committee meeting on Thursday.

Director of Finance Report

An annual audit for FY14 will be conducted by Powers and Sullivan in November, and the results will be provided to the School Committee when available. Rates for senior health insurance plans will increase by 4 to 9.2%. Health insurance continues to be a budgetary concern.

Information and Discussion

There was no information or discussion.

Action Items

Approval was requested for a Field Trip to Peru during February vacation 2015. This field trip will replace the Field Trip proposed for Cuba during February vacation. Elena Kleifges moved to approve the field trip to Peru and Kevin Matthews seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Calendar

Columbus Day	October 13, 2014
Financial Aid Night	October 21, 2014
LS School Committee Meeting	October 22, 2014
First Quarter Ends	November 4, 2014
LS School Committee Meeting	November 4, 2014

Adjournment

Patty Mostue moved to adjourn the meeting and Nancy Marshall seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:14pm.