

**LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

Friday, July 10, 2015

**8:30 a.m.
Offices**

Donaldson Room, Lincoln Town

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

Also present: Bella Wong, Superintendent/Principal; Peter Rowe, Interim Director of Finance and Operations; Chief Kevin Kennedy, Lincoln Police; Virginia Blake, Director of Curriculum; Eleanor Burke, Sandy Crawford, Leslie Patterson, and Jason Medeiros, Housemasters; Peter Elenbaas, Athletic Director; Aida Ramos, Director of Student Services; Margaret McLean, Unibank; Dennis Kohane, Powers and Sullivan.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 8:39 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the Minutes for June 16, 2015 will be delayed until the next LS School Committee Meeting.

Presentation

Chief Kevin Kennedy, Lincoln Police

Chief Kevin Kennedy reported that the police appreciated that the open lines of communication between the department and the high school were beneficial and that the Community Based Justice monthly meetings had been well attended. Officers Ian Spencer (Lincoln) and Al Hutchinson (Sudbury) were the contact officers for LS. Chief Kennedy valued the health curriculum interface with the Wellness Department at LS. He reported that NEMLEC representatives were extremely impressed with the manner in which counselors and staff at LS handled the tragic deaths of Jane and Ken Young.

Powers and Sullivan Audit

Dennis Keohane, CPA at Powers and Sullivan, reported on the yearly audit of LS financials. There were no deficiencies and no material weaknesses. A new general ledger system called Infinite Visions has been in use beginning with FY15. The transition to the new system will improve end of year reporting. Mr. Keohane recommended clarifying budget line item transfers, improved fixed

asset account maintenance, improved documentation policy for petty cash, and preparation for the new GASB requirements for pension liability.

Unibank Bond Rating Renewal

Margaret MacLean from Unibank presented documents for the School Committee members to sign representing the bond refinancing that will save the district approximately \$680,000 over the next 10 years. The current debt service savings will accrue beginning in FY17.

VOTE: Gerald Quirk moved “That in order to reduce interest costs, the District Treasurer is authorized to issue refunding bonds, at one time or from time to time, pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 21S of the General laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, to refund all or a portion of the District’s \$11,000,000 General Obligation School Bonds dated October 1, 2005 maturing on and after October 1, 2016 (collectively, the “Refunded Bonds”) and that the proceeds of any refunding bonds issued pursuant to this vote shall be used to pay the principal, redemption premium and interest on the Refunded Bonds and costs of issuance of the refunding bonds.”

VOTE: “That the sale of the \$5,175,000 General obligation School Refunding Bonds of the District dated July 15, 2015 (the “Bonds”), to FTN Financial Capital Markets at the price of \$5,554,873.70, plus accrued interest, if any, is hereby approved and confirmed. The Bonds shall be payable on October 1 of the years and in the principal amounts and bear interest at the respective rates, as follows:

Year	Amount	Interest Rate	Year	Amount	Interest Rate
2016	\$545,000	3.00%	2021	\$515,000	3.00%
2017	540,000	3.00	2022	510,000	3.00
2018	535,000	3.00	2023	500,000	3.00
2019	530,000	3.00	2024	495,000	3.00
2020	520,000	3.00	2025	485,000	3.00

FURTHER VOTED: “*that in connection with the marketing and sale of the Bonds, the preparation and distribution of a Notice of Sale and Preliminary Official Statement dated June 26, 2015, and a final Official Statement dated July 7, 2015 (the “Official Statement”), each in such form as may be approved by the District Treasurer, be and hereby are ratified, confirmed, approved and adopted.*”

FURTHER VOTED: “*that the District Treasurer and the Chair of the Committee be, and hereby are, authorized to execute and deliver a continuing disclosure undertaking in*

compliance with SEC Rule 15c212 in such form as may be approved by bond counsel to the District, which undertaking shall be incorporated by reference in the Bonds for the benefit of the holders of the Bonds from time to time.”

FURTHER VOTED: *“that we authorize and direct the District Treasurer to establish post issuance federal tax compliance procedures in such form as the District Treasurer and bond counsel deem sufficient, or if such procedures are currently in place, to review and update said procedures, in order to monitor and maintain the tax exempt status of the Bonds. Further Voted: that each member of the Committee, the District Secretary and the District Treasurer be and hereby are, authorized to take any and all such actions, and execute and deliver such certificates, receipts or other documents as may be determined by them, or any of them, to be necessary or convenient to carry into effect the provisions of the foregoing votes.”*

Kevin Matthews seconded the motion. There was no discussion, all were in favor.

Educator Evaluation Summer 2015 Upgrade

Sandy Crawford reported on the current state of the Educator Evaluation Program which is now in its second year with all teachers on cycle. It has represented a big learning curve for all faculty and for the evaluators. Concerns expressed by teachers were how to achieve an exemplary status and the effectiveness of short observation visits. Evaluators' concerns involved the amount of time required to accomplish the evaluations. On the positive side, the new evaluation system has resulted in clear feedback to faculty and opportunities for growth, insight and accountability.

Members of the School Committee inquired about the protocol for dismissing teachers who fail to improve despite evaluations that included a directed growth program. They also wondered what programs suffered as a result of the increased time commitment required by the new evaluation system. The Administrative Team responded that the increased time commitment cut into time at home and time to be proactive in instructional leadership.

Ms. Wong added that the educator evaluation program was an integral part of the overarching goals of the school, which included: access to equity and excellence for all students, an understanding of what students should learn by the time they graduate, and a way to increase family engagement in the educational process. She believes that collaboration is the key to success in these areas and that with common vision comes common strategy. In order to foster collaboration, it is important to develop trust within the educational community and that is dependent upon open and honest communication. She

expressed her concern for the well-being of faculty and staff who have worked hard this year to incorporate mandated changes in evaluations systems as well as strived to teach all students in the manner they can best learn. Meetings held in the weeks following end of school year have involved taking a step back to assess progress and issues.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Chairman's Report

Elena Kleifges reported on her meeting with Scott Nassa of Sudbury Public Schools School Committee and with Jennifer Glass of Lincon Public School Committee. They plan to meet regularly with respective superintendents beginning in September 2015. Ms. Kleifges reminded the School Committee members to email their superintendent evaluation forms to her by mid-August.

Scheduling a School Committee meeting for August was recommended. Gerald Quirk suggested that the School Committee discuss goals for the coming year and plan presentations by LSRHS Department Coordinators through the coming year. Mr. Quirk also recommended revisiting the subject of weighted GPA's in order to inform the school community at large regarding the LS position on the subject.

Liaison Reports

Radha Gargeya reported on the Budget Strategies Task Force meetings. Mr. Gargeya, Ms. Mostue, Selectmen Haarde and Woodward, Susan Berry and Fred Floru of Sudbury Finance Committee, Interim Sudbury Town Manager Maryanne Biodeau, SPS School Committee members Ellen Joachim and Lucie St. George, Superintendents Bella Wong and Ann Wilson are on the task force. The purpose of the task force is to explore cost-sharing possibilities between cost centers. One point of interest is the amount of funds expended on out of district expenses education. The next meetings will be held on August 4 and September 1, 2015.

Superintendent/Principal's Report

Bella Wong reported on the Global Scholars Program. Over 70 students have submitted Statements of Interest. Six LS students attended the Global Summit Meeting in Davos, Switzerland where they were among 1,100 students. LS students found it a remarkable experience to be part of a student led conference whose members are working toward changing the world. Ms. Wong

would like to assemble a group of 24 students to travel to the Global Student Summit at the Hague, Netherlands next year.

Twenty-four LS students have signed up for the Cold War trip (Berlin, Krakow, Prague, Budapest) scheduled for November 2015. The Sudbury Foundation has donated \$15,000 and the LSPO has donated \$3,600 to defray the travel expenses for students interested in this trip.

Ms. Wong reported the death of Jo Crawford who initiated the Martin Luther King Action Project at LS. This led to the adoption of community service hours as a requirement for graduation from LS. A memorial service for Ms. Crawford will be held on July 25 at First Parish Church in Lincoln.

Director of Finance and Operations' Report

Mr. Rowe reported on the satisfactory close of FY15. Despite rising costs for regional transportation and out of district expenses, a higher than anticipated revenue and increased appropriations for regional transportation have resulted in a positive balance to the LS budget.

Information & Discussion

There was no further information or discussion.

Action Items

Warrants and Vouchers were signed.

Other Business

No other business.

Calendar of School Events

Teacher Workshop Day	August 31, 2015
9 th Grade Orientation	September 1, 2015
All Students Return	September 2, 2015
Labor Day Weekend	September 4-7, 2015
9 th Grade Parents Night	September 8, 2015
Back to School Night	September 16, 2015

Adjourn

On a motion from Gerald Quirk the meeting was adjourned at 1:49pm. Radha Gargeya seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Francy Zingale