

**LINCOLN-SADBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
Tuesday, October 13, 2015**

Present

Elena Kleifges, Chair; Nancy Marshall; Radha Gargeya; Gerald Quirk. Kevin Matthews and Patty Mostue were absent.

Also present

Bella Wong, Superintendent/Principal; Peter Rowe, Interim Director of Finance and Operations; Steve Desrosiers, METCO Director; Steve Roderick, TA President; Carly Gordenstein, Student Senate Representative; Brad Avery, Metrowest News.

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 pm

Approval of Minutes

On a motion from Gerald Quirk and seconded by Nancy Marshall, the Minutes for September 29, 2015 were approved. There was no discussion. All were in favor.

Presentation

Steve Desrosier, Director of the METCO Program at Lincoln-Sudbury presented information regarding new initiatives and trends within the METCO Program. The program is celebrating its 50th anniversary. L-S has had a significant role in the success of the program. It was created to provide students with educational opportunities to enrich their academic, personal and interpersonal experiences as well as to increase diversity and reduce racial isolation. The METCO staff includes Andrew Nyamekye and Carmen Rodi, Academic Advisors, and Jamie Silberzweig, Administrative Assistant. METCO Advisors at LS are Paul Sarapas, Danielle Weisse, Caroline Han, Ariel Cox, Lori Hodin, Chris Herbert, and Tracie Lopez. Mr. Desrosiers acknowledged the support of LS-Boston Parent Council Chair Ed Walker and Friends of Boston.

For School Year 2015-2016, there are 91 METCO students enrolled at LS (40 male, 51 female) whose home communities are Boston, Dorchester, Hyde Park, Brighton, Mattapan, and Roslindale. Approximately, 33% of current students are new to Lincoln-Sudbury and were not enrolled in the program in Lincoln nor Sudbury.

The METCO Department at LS is engaging its students in conversations about future careers to help manage their course choices while at LS. Data collected from testing shows that in ELA, the proficiency levels of METCO students has increased over the past four years. Data shows that METCO students continue to benefit from assistance to match overall district improvement scores in Math.

The METCO Department believes that its students would benefit from increased parental capacity. Students in the 9th grade face a daunting transition and must learn to advocate for themselves and navigate the scheduling system. The department intends to assist students in making the transition to LS. First steps have included providing study carrels with computers in the METCO Offices so that students can complete homework while at school. The staff is enforcing quiet time from Monday to Thursday. Student conversations can be held outside the study area during quiet time. Teachers are encouraged to engage the students in conversations and study help beyond the classroom.

Strategies are in place to increase the level of METCO student engagement by:

- 1) welcoming families to orientation for parents and increasing communication between LS and students' homes;
- 2) staff are visiting 9th grade classrooms to observe the students' relationship to the classroom and to the teacher to find where stressors occur;
- 3) strategic skills course that is mandatory for 9th graders during their 1st semester. The skills include organizational skills, note-taking skills, and learning to partner with students who are doing well in the class;
- 4) acquiring additional laptops;
- 5) holding a homework cub on Tuesdays and Thursdays attended by LS teachers and peer tutors;
- 6) using the services of Sylvan Learning, a Boston-based company;
- 7) tapping into the resources of METCO Student services in Boston for academic and emotional support of students and accessing services sooner rather than later to assist and support students.

Bella Wong reported that the overarching goals of LS concerned what students should be able to do before graduation and how to achieve equity and excellence for all students. She stated that what Steve Desrosiers has presented is a microcosm of these goals in how to help students reach benchmarks that may become a pilot for all 9th graders at LS. The strategic skills class is currently taught by Michael Hickey. She acknowledged that parental engagement was another important factor that leads to improved student learning. One of Steve's strengths, from his career working in the Boston schools, is the ability to engage and communicate with the students' family.

Bella Wong complimented Mr. Desrosiers on the modeling of leadership roles through having teachers run mentor programs, working on visions, supporting peer tutoring. Steve would like to add shared leadership on another level by developing a parent-to-parent line of communication. Ms. Wong commented that Mr. Desrosiers has a lot of support within the building and that his ideas are sound. He intends to focus on Mathematics this year to elevate students' performance in Math. Another initiative is to welcome past graduates into the school to speak with current seniors and to share their stories of failure as well as success. Mr. Desrosiers believes that educating students well provides an extraordinary return on investment. An area to be worked on is to find a way to bring cohesion to the male student groups and that engagement in small groups would soon raise students' achievement levels.

Public Comment

There was no public comment

Recognitions

State Championship banners were presented to the LS Girls' Swim and Dive team and the Boys' Varsity Lacrosse Team at half time of the LS vs. Cambridge football game on Friday Oct 9th, 7pm at Myers Field in Cambridge.

Elizabeth McClung was honored by Stanford University with a Teacher Tribute Initiative Certificate after being named by Nathan Pan-Doh as a teacher who played a significant role in his intellectual, academic, social and personal development. Congratulations, Bunny! Nathan Pan-Doh wrote, "To the teacher who helped me go from timidly answering unit circle questions to confidently mastering topics; I thank you. I still remember the stress of junior year with the many research applications. You were there to write recommendations console me, and ultimately celebrate with me. This whole process repeated itself senior year. So thank you again, and here is to another successful season of boys volleyball!"

MIT congratulates Peter Elenbaas for having been named as especially influential in the development of Logan Engstrom who is currently attending MIT. "It is a remarkable honor to change a life, so we congratulate you on being named this year by Logan Engstrom."

Seniors Adam Thompson, Jasmine Lewis, Caleb Geitz, Connor McCarthy, and Lizzie Alwan demonstrated student leadership at the annual Senior Dress-up Day assembly held Wednesday, October 7th. On short notice, they agreed to speak about core values to their peers. Adam led the group by clearly and carefully describing target and non-target groups. To illustrate intent and impact, Jasmine shared the personal impact if a white student came to school in

a costume that involved black face. Caleb and Connor encouraged students to be sensitive to MVP themes by avoiding demeaning messages about women. MVP leader Lizzie Alwan, wrapped up by encouraging her peers to keep our school motto in mind to ensure that the class of 2016 leaves a positive legacy. We appreciate the many student leaders who have modelled respect for their peers.

Congratulations to students Isabel Anderson, Sarena Ho, and Andrew Lee who are our 2016 Semifinalists in the National Merit Scholarship Competition. These students must fulfill several requirements to advance to the Finalist level of the competition at which point they will be considered for a Merit Scholarship award. There are approximately 7,400 National Merit Scholarships.

Congratulations also to the 35 Commended students in the 2016 National Merit Program. Commended students are around the top 5% of the 1.5 million students who entered the competition. The LS students are: Sara Bennett, Aaron Corin, Jillian Cusick, Zacharie Day, Alexandra Du Toit, Aaron Epstein, Jasmine Falk, Andrew Fasciano, Emily Gorman, Caroline Goswami, Sarah Hausmann, Ariel Keklak, Jessical Keller, Indrani Kharbanda, Sara Kimble, Madeleine Kline, Katerina Matjucha, Gavin Mays, Samira Mehta, Samuel Mlawer, Eve Montie, Regan Murray, Samuel Neil, Nicole Pellegrino, Catherine Pinto, Katherine Quirk, Katherine Rautiola, Rudhra Raveendran, Katherine Semple, William Sheldon, Matthew Short, Alina Strileckis, Claire Telfer, Adam Thompson, and Tiger Zhang.

The World Language Department welcomed the Spanish Exchange group from Tineo, Spain from September 24 to October 8. Eighteen students and 2 chaperones will be enjoying home stays with LS students in this exchange. The students attended classes, visited New York City, and sites in Boston. Twenty-four LS students were involved in the exchange, either by hosting, traveling or both. LS students will be going to Spain in April 2016.

Student Representative Report

Carly Gordenstein reported that the Student Senate has had few meetings this year as a result of the days out of school. The Student Senate MVP's and Steering Committee have teamed up to get posters to spread word on proper Senior Dress up day and to recognize student cultural varieties. The Senate continues to work on voter registration and having a presidential debate.

TA Report

Steve Roderick, TA President, reported that the first LSTA/LSPO coffee was held on October 13th and was a great success. The Faculty Variety Show will be held

on October 23rd and is sponsored by the Teachers Association. The TA is currently brainstorming ways of bringing the administration, faculty and community together for constructive dialogue. The SEI requirement continues to be a matter of discussion among the teaching staff. Nancy Marshall suggested encouraging the Massachusetts Association of School Committees to recommend an online SEI course to better accommodate teachers' schedules.

Chairman's Report

Elena Kleifges reminded the committee that the Tri-District Public Forum would be held on October 21st in the LS Library. The meeting will begin with three presentations: School Start Times, CRANE, and the importance of civic engagement among students in the k-12 system. The presentations would be followed by a brainstorming session among the public, School Representatives and School Committee members from the three districts. Ideas generated during that evening will be addressed again during a meeting in the spring.

Liaison Report

Radha Gargeya reported that meetings with the Budget Strategy Task Force and with the Lincoln FINCOM to discuss FY17 Budget are underway.

Superintendent/Principal Report

The PSAT will be held during school on Wednesday, October 14, 2015. This year the College Board is only offering a Wednesday testing date. The regular school day will begin at 11:00 am.

Ms. Wong reported that at the last faculty meeting, student data of GPA's for seniors that are 2.5 or below have been tracked to see if there is something in the profiles to target for interventions. There are discussions within the building to provide assistance to help students succeed. Department meetings later this month will continue the conversation.

Director Finance Report

Peter Rowe reported that he had sent copies of questions asked by the Budget Strategy Task Force regarding FY17 Budget to the School Committee members. Internally, information regarding current budgets has been requested from Department Coordinators. Staff are asked to plan for level service budget, budget reductions and improvement budgets.

Information/Discussion

Discussion continued on School Committee Goals for 2015-2016. School Committee members expressed their interests in annual updates from department coordinators. The faculty proposes that half of the departments present before school committee each year, the other half host School Committee visits to classes during that year.

Action Items

Bella Wong requested approval for the following field trips taking place during the current school year indicating that all trips proposed had met all requirements of the Field Trip Policy:

WWII/Cold War Trip to Berlin, Prague, Krakow and Budapest.- November 13-22, 2015.

Cambodia Trip to visit LS Memorial School, Phnom Phen, and Battambang during February 2016 vacation.

Montreal Trip – during first part of February vacation 2016 for language immersion.

Japan Trip visiting Kyoto, Tokyo, and Hiroshima during February vacation 2016.

The Hague – Global Student Summit trip including Ireland, Northern Ireland, London and The Hague, June 23 to July 4th, 2016.

Rome Trip to study Latin, April 15 through April 24th, 2016.

German exchange to Vilshofen, Germany, in June 2016.

Spanish Exchange to Tineo, Spain during April vacation 2016.

VOTE: On a motion from Gerald Quirk and seconded by Nancy Marshall, the field trips listed above are approved pursuant to the LS Field Trip Policy. There was no discussion and all were in favor.

Other business

No other business

Calendar

Financial Aid Night	October 20, 2015
Tri-Committee Public Forum	October 21, 2015
Faculty Variety Show	October 23, 2015
LS School Committee	October 27, 2015
Senior Dress Up Day	October 30, 2015
End Quarter 1	November 6, 2015
LS School Committee	November 10, 2015
Veteran's Day	November 11, 2015

Adjourn

On a motion from Radha Gargeya, seconded by Gerald Quirk, the meeting was adjourned at 9:09pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Francy Zingale