

DRAFT
LINCOLN-SADBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
Tuesday, November 10, 2015

Present

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

Also present

Bella Wong, Superintendent/Principal; Peter Rowe, Interim Director of Finance and Operations; Emily Phillips, Clinical Counseling; Caroline Singler, TA Treasurer; Susan Shields, Wellness Department Coordinator, Susan Berry, Sudbury Budget Strategy Task Force.

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 pm

Approval of Minutes

On a motion from Nancy Marshall and seconded by Radha Gargeya, the Minutes for October 13, 2015 were approved. There was no discussion. All were in favor. Kevin Matthews abstained.

On a motion from Patty Mostue and seconded by Nancy Marshall. The Minutes for October 27, 2015 were approved. Kevin Matthews and Gerald Quirk abstained, all others in favor.

Presentation

Emily Phillips presented data from the Metrowest Health Survey taken by LS students in November 2014. 93% of the LS student population responded to the survey. The focus of the survey is substance abuse, feelings of stress, depression and suicide. Twenty-six districts in Massachusetts participate in the survey. Survey design and environment promote reliable responses. The data are reviewed for consistency and for implausible responses.

Encouraging trends are that there is an increase in adult support at school; 76% of students feel that they are connected to an adult at school. There has been an increase in physical activity from 33% to 48% of student getting regular physical activity. Also noted has been a decrease in cigarette smoking from 31% in 2006 to 13% in 2014. There have also been decreases in alcohol use, marijuana use, driving in a car after drinking, riding in a car driven by someone

who had been drinking and a decrease in fighting in school. The wellness curriculum and efforts by the counseling department informing the students of consequences to the brain from risky behavior have contributed to these decreases.

Concerning trends revealed by the survey are an increase in driving after marijuana use, an increase in cyber bullying, and increase in the number of students reporting that life is stressful, and a decrease in condom use. 59% of students reported texting while driving and 52% of students reported being on a cell phone while driving.

Stress levels are higher for females, and students in a sexual minority are at greater risk. The counselors will share the trend data with students led by the Mentors in Violence Prevention students early next semester. Data has already been presented to current 9th graders as part of the Introduction to Wellness curriculum.

Ms. Wong added that data provided by the survey was very useful as was data that students who regularly eat dinner as a family revealed dramatically decreased levels of risk behaviors. Mr. Quirk added that disseminating information about student behavior trends to parents is also very useful and an example of the power of community outreach.

Ms. Wong commended Emily Phillips and the counseling department, the wellness department and Connections (Sarah Greeley and David Bloom) for their efforts to educate students and parents regarding the results of the Metrowest Health Survey.

Public Comment

There was no public comment

Recognitions

David Grace is the high school coordinator for the Global Issues Seminar series at the Fletcher School at Tufts University. The seminar series is titled “Changes in the New World Order and is a professional development program for area high school teachers that focuses on foreign policy, international crises and diplomacy. On October 17th, Mr. Grace spoke on “New Directions for Cuba”. Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs, Roberta Jacobson, was the primary speaker. David Grace has been involved in this seminar series for several years.

Caroline MacKeen has been nominated the Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizen for 2015-2016. Each year the DAR awards a certificate to the L-S Senior who most exemplifies the qualities of Dependability, Leadership, Service and Patriotism. That student has an opportunity to enter a competition for scholarship monies by writing an essay submitted to the Wayside Inn Chapter of the D.A.R.

SERF Grants have been awarded to:

M.J. Walsh, Shoshi Kahn-Woods, and Mark Percec, for “Maximizing Use of Existing Technology for Students with learning Disabilities.”

Susan Shields for “Wellness Day, December 4th, 2015.”

Amy Jacobs, Lori Hodin, and Steve Desrosiers for “The Little Rock Legacy.”

Annalisa Notaro, Tim Jason, Matt Wentworth for “Poet and Teacher Regie Gibson.”

Caroline Singler addressed The Geological Society of America in Baltimore on Tuesday November 3rd. She spoke about the geology project she worked on in Bryce Canyon during the summer of 2015. Members of her project were interpreting the depositional setting of the Claron Formation, which is the limestone that forms the spectacular spires of Bryce Canyon - world’s largest concentration of hoodoos (a column or pinnacle of weathered rock that protrudes from the bottom of arid basins). The actual rock that they are composed of was probably deposited in palustrine (wetland) rather than a lacustrine (lake) environment. Insect cocoon fossils were found there for the first time, indicating that the setting was not always underwater as previously presumed.

The German exchange students departed for home on Saturday, November 7th. All enjoyed their stay at L-S and look forward to the reciprocal trip when L-S students visit Vilshofen.

LS Students attended a Student Leadership Conference on Saturday, November 7th at Wheelock College that is part of the IDEAS (Initiatives for Developing Equity and Achievement for Students, an EDCO program). The purpose of the conference was to engage students from a range of racial and ethnic backgrounds in conversations on issues of racism, intolerance, discrimination, and allied behavior. Brendan Wimberly and students Jay Correia, Matt Flanagan, Sabrina Hollander, Naz Jean, Mikala Nims, Katie Rautiola, Aiyana Santana, Adam Thompson, and Shea Justice attended the conference.

In Sports:

Boys and Girls Soccer are in Semi-final play on November 11 at Chelmsford High School.

Girls Volleyball plays Concord Carlisle in Semifinals this evening at Concord-Carlisle High School.

The Cross-Country Team will be competing in Division 1 State Championship on November 14 in Wrentham.

Accent A Cappella will be hosting a joint concert with the Tufts Beelzebubs on Friday evening at 7:30pm on November 13th, in the LS Auditorium. The Bubs have been back up singers for the TV show Glee and have won best All-Male Collegiate Album and Song. Tickets will be sold at the door.

The film *The Good Lie* will be shown at Lincoln School Brooks Auditorium on Saturday, November 14th at 6:15pm. LS Senior Eve Montie has arranged this fund-raiser to benefit

UNICEF and the South Sudanese Enrichment for Families. The movie is a fictionalized composite story of “The Lost Boys” following a group of Lost Boys and Lost Girls who were displaced by the conflict in Sudan and ultimately resettled in America. The film will be followed by a discussion of the Global Refugee Crisis.

LS Students will compete with 140 Massachusetts schools on November 15th in the WGBH Quiz Show. Advisor Desiree Butter reports that LS is scheduled for 11:30am at the WGBH Studios in Brighton. Participants are: Isobel Anderson, Nicholas St. George, Daniel Rabinovich, Dana Rubenstein, Megal Leu, Andrew Lee, and Vincent Zhao.

The Depression Workshop will be held on November 17, 2015. This is the 19th year that the clinical team and counseling department are running a Depression Workshop for current 10th graders. The program is based (with some modifications) on the "Break Free from Depression" suicide prevention program developed by Children's Hospital in Boston. Through a series of interactive questions, a documentary DVD, and reflection, students learn to recognize the signs and symptoms of depression and learn that help for depression is both available and effective. The "teachers" of the classes are a small group of 11th and 12th grade students, who have been trained by the clinical staff to share this information through a carefully structured lesson plan. A counselor is present in every group, and students are encouraged to seek out a counselor with concerns about self or others.

On Wednesday, November 18th, new faculty members will be observing other classes in the school. This day can be a great opportunity to provide them with a sampling of different teaching styles, teaching approaches for heterogeneous classes, and how to tailor teaching styles from level to level.

L-S is grateful for a generous donation from the Class of 1995 to the L-S Memorial School in honor of classmates lost too soon.

Student Representative Report

Carly Gordenstein’s report was read into the record by Elena Kleifges. The Student Senate has welcomed the newly elected 9th grade senators. The Senate has decided on topics most critical for the new year and are now forming subcommittees.

TA Report

Caroline Singler, TA Treasurer, reported that Quarter 1 ended on Friday, November 6th and so teachers are busy grading and finishing college recommendations. Over 60% of LS seniors have applied to college by the beginning of November. Faculty meetings in recent weeks have included the Metrowest Health Survey report and meetings regarding closing the

achievement gap. The Housemasters did a great job presenting the latter data in a thought-provoking way.

Chairman's Report

Elena Kleifges reported that a follow-up meeting AMONG the districts' three School Committee Chairpersons would take place this week. She thanked School Committee members for attending the Massachusetts Association of School Committees annual conference.

Liaison Report

Radha Gargeya and Nancy Marshall attended the Massachusetts Association of School Committees Conference on November 5-6, 2015. Many valuable and informative workshops were held on subjects from School Committee management to school testing, student activity accounts and cultural proficiencies, to name a few. They discovered that many progressive initiatives discussed were already in place at L-S.

Radha Gargeya attended the Budget Strategy Task Force meeting on October 29, 2015. The first budget presentations will be made in January. Cost centers are requested to highlight mandated expenses, new critical needs and OPEB Contributions. If budgets exceed 2.6% increases from last year, costs centers are requested to indicate where cuts could be made. Meetings will be held on January 19th and February 3, 2015. Mr. Gargeya encouraged School Committee members to attend the Budget Strategy Task Force meetings.

Superintendent/Principal Report

Ms. Wong was invited to meet with members of the Sudbury Clergy on Monday, November 2nd, 2015. The members of the Sudbury clergy shared their concerns regarding mental illness in the community and expressed an interest in encouraging the community to work together. They also shared their concerns regarding a decrease in enrollment and involvement among their parishioners.

The Administrative Team has been working on faculty meeting presentations. The subject of the most recent meeting was goal-setting. Aggregate student data will be presented in subsequent meetings.

Ms. Wong attended the Suburban School Superintendents' Conference November 4-7, 2015 in Boston. Among the speakers addressing the superintendents was Mr. William Fitzsimmons, Director of Harvard Admissions. He presented Harvard's concerns regarding mental health issues among incoming classes. He also addressed the gap between perceptions and actions - specifically, that students perceive the incidence of alcohol abuse as higher

than it actually is and so are more likely to engage in negative behaviors. If the students perceived that the majority of students did not abuse alcohol, they would be less inclined to substance abuse. Mr. Fitzsimmons also indicated that incoming students seemed less capable of problem-solving which is paralleled by an increase in parental response to Harvard correspondence to students (rather than the students responding).

Anant Agarwal, CEO of edX, an online learning destination founded by Harvard and MIT, also spoke at the Suburban Superintendents' Conference. Anant taught the first edX course on circuits and electronics from MIT, which drew 155,000 students from 162 countries. There are now 6 million users, 4 million from outside the U.S. The on-line courses are free. edX will be partnering with Arizona State University to provide first year online courses for students at no cost and will provide the student with a certificate upon completion. Second and third year students will live on campus and attend classes. Fourth year students will begin jobs. This program will challenge the conventional college experience and its \$60,000 price tag and will have a great impact on how instruction is being delivered. Online courses are also being used by students as a means of preparing for a conventional class in the same subject or as supplemental instruction.

Director Finance Report

Peter Rowe reported work on FY17 Budget was ongoing. He has met with Susan Berry of the Budget Strategy Task Force and with Jeff Barker and continues to meet with the Department Chairs at L-S.

Information/Discussion

Led by Ms. Kleifges, the School Committee members embarked on a second reading of the Open Meeting Laws provided by Marc Terry. Edits were discussed as was establishing an alternate method for posting meeting times of the LS School Committee. Determining a protocol for record keeping and managing requests for information were discussed at length. It was determined that the District Clerk would become the point person for correspondence directed toward the School Committee.

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, while the other half host School Committee visits to classes during that year.

Action Items

The School Committee goals for 2015–2016 were discussed. Gerald Quirk indicated he would become the chair for communications between the School Committee and the communities of Lincoln and Sudbury. Completing a social media policy was discussed. Ms. Wong will be submitting the first draft of the social media policy.

VOTE: Nancy Marshall moved to accept the L-S School Committee goals for 2015–2016 as stated. Patty Mostue seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor.

Warrants were signed.

Other business

School Committee members requested compiling a list of all future meetings with community FINCOM's, Budget Strategy Task Force, town meetings, and capital planning meetings.

Calendar

Veteran's Day	November 11, 2015
Tufts Beelzebubs w/Accent A Capella	November 13, 2015
Film "The Good Lie", Brooks Auditorium	November 14, 2015
Wonderful Town Musical	November 18–21, 2015
LS School Committee	November 24, 2015
Thanksgiving Recess	November 26–29, 2015
LS School Committee	December 8, 2015
Warnings for Q2	December 11, 2015

Adjourn

On a motion from Gerald Quirk, seconded by Nancy Marshall, the meeting was adjourned at 10:02 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Francy Zingale