

**LINCOLN-SADBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
Tuesday, November 24, 2015**

Present

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

Also present

Bella Wong, Superintendent/Principal; Peter Rowe, Interim Director of Finance and Operations; Virginia Blake, Director of Curriculum; Steve Roderick, TA President.

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm

Approval of Minutes

On a motion from Patty Mostue and seconded by Radha Gargeya, the Minutes for November 10, 2015 were approved. There was no discussion. All were in favor.

Presentation

Virginia Blake, Director of Curriculum, presented the MCAS Report and the 2015-2016 Staffing Report.

Ms. Blake began her presentation with the FY16 Staffing Report. As of October 1, 2015, the total student enrollment is 1602. New courses offered this year are Guitar and Strategic Skills for METCO 9th graders. Returning courses are: Drama in Production, History of Race and Membership, Wilson Reading, IOS Programming, Flash Web and Introduction to Animation. Courses retired this year are AP Chemistry, French 1, Math Problem Solving, Discrete Math, Russian literature, Java Programming, Collage and Assemblage, Cartooning and Sequential Art, and Cultural Identity Group Seminar.

The median class size is similar to last year's class size. 54% of students taking English are in classes of median size 24. English classes within the ACE and Special Education programs have a median class size of 11. Other classes with low enrollment are those taken by students in the ACE and Special Education programs. Within the FATA department, large class sizes are typically Orchestra, Band and Chorus. Courses in English and History are capped at 26 to 28 students. Leveled classes cannot be capped since there

isn't a second choice for the leveled classes. It is often difficult, therefore, to maintain even class sizes in Math, Science and Language.

Recent innovations include improvements to the scheduling algorithm that has changed the way students are scheduled to reduce errors and to ensure that more students are scheduled for their first choice. A drop total enrollment figure will lead to a resultant drop in class sizes. This year 74% of students have been scheduled for their first choice, 13% received their second choice, and 9% were placed in their third choice. Only 4.4% of students were scheduled for their 4th choice. Ms. Blake acknowledged that it was difficult for students to plan a 4-year curriculum if they cannot take a particular class as their first choice.

Ms. Blake presented the MCAS Report Card. Massachusetts has recently voted to endorse Commissioner Chester's recommendation to create a next generation of the MCAS tests that will incorporate the spirit and intent of the PARCC test and will ensure that the Commonwealth maintains control of the tests. Massachusetts will remain a member of the PARCC Consortium so that the state will have access to assessments and research. The possibility that History and Science become part of the MCAS Assessments remains a possibility.

MCAS results for LS were very good. 99% of 10th grade students were proficient in ELA. There was an improvement in the scores of the high needs students in ELA. The results for LS are much higher than the results for the state of Massachusetts and this is consistent with results of previous years. In Science, 91% of students ranked proficient/advanced and 8% need improvement with only 1% failing in this category.

Student support initiatives include Café Mathematica, Tutoring Center (or peer and faculty), the Academic Support Center, Title 1 funding focused on Math and Literacy, Homework clubs, and the Strategic Skills course. In other areas, professional development in teaching techniques, increased use of teaching assistants in content area, increased staffing and training for teachers of ELL students, increased use of common assessments, and training on academic interventions serve to bolster academic supports for students.

Nancy Marshall expressed her concern for over-testing students and mentioned that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees was receiving many letters requesting oversight of that matter.

Public Comment

There was no public comment

Recognitions

Paul Shultz was awarded a SERF Enrichment Grant for “Computer Numeric Control Router” to be used in 3D Modeling and Rapid Prototyping. Paul has also received funding for this from the LSPO and from Bentley Systems.

The Counseling Department presented another smooth and successful Depression Workshop! To prepare this workshop, train the student trainers, and logistically figure out how to present to 400 students is a huge endeavor. Bella recognized the counselors, clinical team, Debbie Aiello, and Chuck Despotopulos for organizing the workshop as well as the 10th grade History teachers for helping to convey information to students and for use of their classes to organize the students into groups.

Congratulations to Ariel Keklak who won in the D1 Cross Country State Championships held in Wrentham on November 21st.

The girls soccer team and coaches Kate Berry, Marianne Walker, Matt Wentworth, Charli Asta-Ferrero and Renee Vasquez-Solis are to be congratulated for a great season. The team played wonderful soccer all year and showed their characteristic tenacity and grit last night, ultimately losing to Needham in an extremely physical game.

The boys’ soccer team WON against Groton-Dunstable in the State Championship on Saturday, November 21st. CONGRATULATIONS to the team and to Coaches Dave Hosford, Jim Berry, Greg Gammons, Alfonso Abadia and Shawn Miller!!

Mark Sobkowicz reports that the nascent Girls who Code club ran a successful workshop in November after school from 12:30 until almost 5. About 10 young women came and made an iPhone game, ate pizza (provided by a parent) and socialized. The student leaders, Mia Fryling and Marianne Kenney (both juniors), ran a great show. Their next planned activity is to assist at an “Hour of Code” event at the Goodnow Library in December.

Ken Kimura and his wife, Etsuko, have put together a Japanese short film festival to be held on Saturday, December 5, at MIT.

The L-S High School Quiz Show Team is one of 16 teams invited to compete in Season 7 of the WGBH High School Quiz Show. Of the 131 High School Teams that competed for a spot in Season 7, 16 were chosen. The high score of the day was 1175. The L-S scored 1035. Desiree Butter is advisor to the group.

Congratulations to team members Dana Rubenstein, Andrew Lee, Isabel Anderson, Meghan Lew, Vincent Zhao, Dan Rabinovich and Nicholas St. George.

The LSB Players presented the musical Wonderful Town to a full house each night. The student performers and musicians performed admirably to the delight of the audience each evening.

Student Representative Report

There was no Student Representative Report.

TA Report

Steve Roderick reported that the Visions Team recently hosted a workshop for teachers entitled “What to do when things fall apart in the classroom” organized by Danielle Weisse and Lori Hodin. The PA announcement regarding the terrorist attacks in Paris was well done and heartfelt. The second quarter has begun and teachers continue to be busy writing recommendations for students. Nearly 67% of the senior class has applied early decision.

Chairman’s Report

Elena Kleifges reported that a follow-up meeting of the districts’ three School Committee Chairpersons had taken place and that additional meetings were planned. Ms. Kleifges also reported that she had received a letter from the Lincoln Library indicating that they would like to invite the L-S School Committee members contribute to the decision of new members to the Board of Trustees. Ms. Kleifges recommended that a current Board Member be invited to the L-S School Committee meeting. Another item for future consideration is that the School Committee must create a remote participation policy.

Liaison Report

At the last Budget Strategy Task Force, Chairman Susan Berry reviewed the timeline and order of meetings. A proposed amendment to the Budget Strategies Task Force mission statement must be presented to the Sudbury Board of Selectmen. The Task Force is waiting for feedback from the other cost centers.

Superintendent/Principal Report

Bella Wong informed the School Committee members that L-S will be stocking Narcan, a drug injection that can counteract the effects of a drug overdose. Peter Elenbaas, Director of Athletics and Activities, and the Nurses have been trained in the use of NARCAN and are able to train others at L-S. The Attorney General’s office has recommended that schools have Narcan available. Narcan is not expensive, has a shelf life of several years and can save lives.

Ms. Wong described the experiences of the World War II/Cold War Field Trip to Berlin, Prague, Krakow, and Budapest by 27 L-S students. The trip was a success and of great educational value.

Director Finance Report

Peter Rowe reported work on FY17 Budget was ongoing. He has met with the Academic Council to describe the process. Bella will address the staff on December 7th, followed by the budget report to the School Committee on December 8th, and meetings with the Finance Committees of both Lincoln and Sudbury.

Information/Discussion

Led by Ms. Kleifges, the School Committee members embarked on a third reading of the Open Meeting Laws provided by Marc Terry. Edits were discussed as was establishing a protocol for meetings that occasioned a majority of School Committee members being present.

Action Items

VOTE: Nancy Marshall moved to accept the Open Meeting Policy as edited. Kevin Marshall seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor.

Warrants were signed.

Other business

There was no other business.

Calendar

Thanksgiving Recess	November 26-29, 2015
Choral Concert	December 3, 2015
Speech & Debate Tournament	December 5, 2015
LS School Committee	December 8, 2015
Warnings for Q2	December 11, 2015
December Recess	December 24-Jan.1, 2016
Classes Resume	January 4, 2016

Adjourn

On a motion from Kevin Matthews, seconded by Nancy Marshall, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Francy Zingale