

**LINCOLN-SADBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
Tuesday, December 8, 2015**

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; and Carly Gordenstein, Student Senate Representative.

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 Nancy Marshall, the Minutes for November 24, 2015 with edits were approved. There was no discussion. All were in favor.

Presentation

Bella Wong presented the FY17 Budget to the School Committee.

Budgetary challenges for FY17 are: a continued conservative fiscal environment; median class sizes of 24; the uncertainty of state aid and projected revenues; a steady decline in Federal aid; increased out-of-district tuitions and special education costs; a need to replace capital assets; a need to maintain current technology; the unfunded OPEB liability; and a diminished capacity for new program development as well as high expectations for performance. A projection of student enrollment indicates a steady decline over the next 5 years.

School goals that are driving priorities for FY17 Budget are: fostering caring relationships; working toward what students should be able to do by the time they graduate; access to equity and excellence for all students; and the health and safety of LS students. The Town of Lincoln has recommended a 2.5% increase over last year excluding pensions and insurance. The guideline from the Town of Sudbury is 2.6%. The FY17 Budget follows these guidelines. Lincoln-Sudbury also seeks to retain a high quality faculty and staff, support the strength of specialized and targeted in-district opportunities, support the

educational program, and maintain operational efficiencies and manage fixed costs to maximize economic allocation toward educational programs. The FY17 Budget is essentially a level service budget. It restores expense lines reduced in FY16 and continues to address the unfunded OPEB liability while including modest program improvements.

FY17 Budget Assumptions are: adherence to negotiated contracts for compensation; additional staffing to address critical needs and for program improvement; level-funded federal and state grants; reduced health insurance; reduced utility costs; increased out-of-district tuitions; 5% increase in regular education transportation; no adjustment to current fee structure; and funding restored to replace instructional capital assets, materials, supplies, and accounts for professional development.

The recommended FY17 Budget without requested OPEB funding is \$29,834,220 (a 2.05% increase over the FY16 Budget. With the requested OPEB funding, the FY17 Budget comes to \$30,072,334 (2.60% increase over FY16 Budget).

Proposed FY17 program improvements include:

Critical Needs:

0.4 FTE for nursing

0.75 FTE for a special educator in the LINK program

0.25 FTE for a Clinical Counselor in the LINK program

0.125 FTE for Math instruction

0.50 FTE for a computer technician

Important:

1.0 FTE for the Academic Support Center

0.25 FTE for Mandarin language

0.17 FTE for the Drama Department

These program improvements, restored from the FY16 expense lines, equal \$120,000.

The final net assessment takes into account the Minimum Contribution, the Apportionment calculations, and includes debt service and OPEB funding. The blended apportionment ratio is 86.26% for the Town of Sudbury and 13.74% for the Town of Lincoln.

Finally, the FY17 Capital Request is for \$143,081 for security camera replacement and upgrade. Of that total, Lincoln would contribute \$20,761 (14.51%) and Sudbury would contribute \$122,320 (85.49%) of the total.

Ms. Wong thanked the Financial Committees of both Lincoln and Sudbury for their support through the budget process. She also expressed her gratitude for the unwavering support of the communities of Lincoln and Sudbury.

Public Comment

Krista Anderson, Sudbury Resident, expressed her concerns regarding safety measures at L-S and their efficacy in preventing harm to students and staff in the event of a violent attack. She feels that the existing measures are not adequate and asked what the community could do to improve safety measures. She believes that the physical safety of the school population should be a priority.

Elena Kleifges responded that the school has close cooperative ties with the police departments of both towns and through them can draw on the services of NEMLEC (The Northeast Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council) including updates of safety protocols. Gerald Quirk replied that LS believes that communication regarding students at risk is a key factor in ensuring student/staff safety. The regular meetings of Community Based Justice represented continuing dialog between community law enforcement, the LS Counseling services, the Housemasters, and Superintendent regarding students at risk.

LS has received training from the local enforcement offices for the A.L.I.C.E. Protocol. Bella Wong reminded Ms. Anderson that the capital request for FY17 Budget included funds for additional cameras within and without the school building.

Recognitions

The Winter Choral Concert was held on December 3rd. Mike Bunting directed a number of LS Choral Groups as well as vocal ensembles from the Sudbury and Lincoln Middle Schools. It was a delightful evening of diverse musical pieces, beautiful voices, and an absolutely packed auditorium.

Introduction to Psychology students began their egg baby projects on December 7th. This project involves learning about infant development and choices parents have to make. It involves being responsible for a helpless baby for a week.

Wellness Day was held on December 4th. Emerson Hospital hosted a presentation from the Dr. Robert C. Cantu Concussion Center on treatments for concussion injuries among other things. Cholesterol screenings and skin cancer screenings were available. There was a nutritional demonstration by Rica Grace (David Grace's wife) as well as many vendors and services assembled for the interest of students and staff.

The METCO Director's Conference was held in Norwood, MA on December 4th. The theme of the conference was "Tenacious Education: In Pursuit of Equity." The keynote speaker was Omari Scott Simmons, an expert on education policy and corporate governance. He is author of a forthcoming book entitled *Narratives Transformed: College Access from the Bottom-up*. Several workshops were offered in the afternoon for conference participants.

Last week's Faculty discussions centered on time management, communications and suspensions. The Faculty Administrative Council facilitated the discussions.

The Speech and Debate Tournament was held on Saturday, December 5th at LS. Over 500 students from 30 schools competed in the tournament. Team captains, Caitlin Phung and Katie Pinto did incredible work organizing the event and enlisting help from students, parents, and community members to make the tournament successful. Two of our Buildings & Grounds staff and two of our Campus Aides also offered indispensable help. LS students from our team competed in seven different speech and debate events, including Public Forum Debate, our most popular event. New team members Veronica Guo and Sarena Ho made it to the final rounds in Duo Interpretation, a speech event. It was a high-energy, exciting competition, and our students worked hard to make it possible! Katelyn Dix is the Faculty Advisor for the LS Speech and Debate Team.

FELS teacher appreciation cards will be awarded to Pat Burkhardt, Jean Cole, Jen Garfield, Kelly Gaudreau, David Grace, Mary Ann Grady, Thomas Grandprey, Barbara Grant, Sarah Greeley, Shea Justice, Ann Kramer, Shawn Lingley, Lisa Lupinacci, Nancy Malloy, Melanie Palmer, BJ Pegram, MJ Walsh. Special notes were sent to Building and Grounds and the Main Office Staff.

The Counseling Department is running the 9th grade seminars in Quarter 2. During Quarter 3, the counseling department will be meeting with the junior class. About 70% of the senior class has applied to college to date, a figure slightly higher than last year.

The LS Chamber Singers, Brass Quartet and Flute Ensemble will be performing at the Hosmer House on Sunday. The Sudbury Historical Commission is hosting an Open House Saturday and Sunday at the Hosmer House from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. The historic building is beautifully decorated for the holidays including a special commemorative display honoring our late L-S graduate, Scott Milley. On Sunday, the Chamber Singers will sing at 1:30 pm, the Brass Quartet will perform at 2:30pm and the Flute Ensemble will perform at 3:15pm.

German singer and songwriter Carsten Galle will come to LS for a Learning German Through Music Workshop on December 16th. He will spend the day working with students to create and perform songs. Herr Galle is based in Nürnberg and is sponsored by the Pasche Program. The LS students visiting Germany in June hope to visit him in his studio.

Student Representative Report

Carly Gordenstein reported that the Student Senate has been discussing homework-free breaks as a means of reducing stress for students at L-S. Specifically, the students are exploring the possibility of having two weekends per year for which homework is not assigned so that students can enjoy family time without the spectre of a looming assignment. Ms. Gordenstein stated that the students had responded to an informal survey and that the Senate was preparing a presentation on the subject for the Faculty Council. Ms. Kleifges recommended that the students check with peer schools in the region to see if they were developing similar policies.

TA Report

The report from Steve Roderick was that it is now mid-quarter and consequently mid-quarter warnings were currently due. The TA is planning a seasonal get-together for staff on December 16th. Wellness Day on December 4th was a tremendous success and extended the TA's special thanks to the Wellness Department.

Chairman's Report

Elena Kleifges suggested working on a Remote Participation Policy Statement with members of the School Committee in response to a new initiative by the state of Massachusetts.

Liaison Report

At the last Budget Strategy Task Force, Chairman Susan Berry reviewed the timeline and order of meetings. Meetings have been scheduled for February 3rd, 10th, and 25th. Nancy Marshall suggested that the LS School Committee set up a workshop on best practices for School Committees to be given by Dorothy Presser of MASC.

Superintendent/Principal Report

There was no Superintendent/Principal Report beyond the FY17 Budget Presentation.

Director Finance Report

Peter Rowe had no further information to impart beyond the FY17 Budget Presentation.

Information/Discussion

There was no Information/Discussion.

Action Items

Warrants were signed.

Other business

There was no other business.

Calendar

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| Warnings for Q2 | December 11, 2015 |
| Friends of Music Mattress Sale | December 12, 2015 |
| Staff Holiday Party | December 16, 2015 |
| Instrumental Concert | December 17, 2015 |
| Courage to Care Summit | December 18, 2015 |
| December Recess | December 24–Jan.1, 2016 |
| Classes Resume | January 4, 2016 |
| LS School Committee | January 12, 2016 |

Adjourn

On a motion from Kevin Matthews, seconded by Nancy Marshall, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Francy Zingale