

**LINCOLN-SUSBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
Tuesday, January 12, 2016**

Present

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

Also present

Bella Wong, Superintendent/Principal; Peter Rowe, Interim Director of Finance and Operations; Carly Gordenstein, Student Senate Representative; Steve Roderick, TA President; Vicky Caburian and Amanda Klein, Wellness Department; and Brittany McNamara, Metrowest News.

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 pm

Approval of Minutes

On a motion from Kevin Matthews and seconded by Nancy Marshall, the Minutes for December 8, 2015 with edits were approved. There was no discussion. All were in favor.

Presentation

Vicky Caburian and Amanda Klein, Wellness Department, reported on their trip to China with Primary Source in April 2015. Primary Source is a service offered to members of the EDCO Collaborative. Other members of the group traveling to China were fellow teachers interested in understanding China through connecting people, schools, and history.

Ms. Caburian and Ms. Klein were most interested in habits and methods practiced by the schools in China and by the populace of the cities they visited during their trip to promote overall wellness. They found that there were many exercise parks that were very well used by the citizens. The parks typically had many ping-pong tables, badminton nets, exercise equipment rooted to the ground and paths for walking. Classes take place within the parks in Tai Chi, line dancing and martial arts. The parks are very active all day long. Additionally, most people bicycle everywhere.

Ms. Klein and Ms. Caburian were also favorably impressed by the emotional/ social aspects of wellness that they witnessed, including the prevalence of multi-generational families, respect exhibited for elders as well as respect for the family unit. They also witnessed the dichotomies of 21st century life such as street cleaners keeping the cities neat and tidy contrasted to the levels of smog caused by industrial pollution; intense construction activity juxtaposed with sights of Old China. Their itinerary included visits to four different school systems: a school for the children of migrant workers, a prestigious college preparatory high school in Beijing, a rural elementary school, and a vocational school for middle school age students.

Bella Wong presented an update on the FY17 Budget. Additional information included projected enrollments for the next few years of 1572, 1521, and 1517 students continuing the progressive decrease in enrollment. The FY17 Budget is basically a level service budget that restores expense lines reduced in FY16. It addresses unfunded OPEB liability and includes modest program improvements.

The financial assumptions remain the same with adherence to negotiated contracts for compensation, staffing to address critical needs and program improvement, reduced health insurance and utility costs, increased out of district tuitions and regular education transportation, no adjustment to fee structure and, finally, restoring funding to replace instruction capital assets. The total appropriation including the requested OPEB and debt service is 2.22% , yet the budget without the OPEB is only a 2.05% increase.

The operating budget is just under \$30 million with revenue offsets of \$3,223,260. The Sudbury contribution will be 86.26% and 13.74% from Lincoln.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Recognitions

Linda Croteau, LS parent and Fidelity Investments employee, wrote to thank our students for providing over 110 handmade cards to Fidelity Investments' Operation Holiday Card this year. On November 10, 2015, the LS Wounded Warriors Club organized a holiday card-making station outside the cafeteria to encourage LS students to channel their inner artist and bring a smile to our men and women serving in the armed forces overseas. This is a great way to show support for our troops so far from home.

The Amnesty International Club Write for Rights Event took place on December 2-4, 2015. The LS event is part of a Global Write-a-thon in which Amnesty members throughout the world write

letters on behalf of prisoners of conscience, human rights defenders, and torture survivors. We had a fantastic event and the LS community wrote 136 letters in total – a record number for the club! The photos below show the Write-a-thon event as well as club members sorting the letters and preparing them for mailing. Kudos to club members: Darius Delmore, Evan Driscoll, Nellie Fagan, Trishla Gandhi, Nicole Kerrigan, Lauren Kim, Caroline MacKeen, Matthew Milton, Sam Mlawer, Sam Neil, Rudy Raveendran, Nathan Ryder, Nicholas St. George, Jessica Thai, Tatum Wise and Katy Zurka.

The Outdoor Club, with Advisor Dan Lewis, went indoor climbing on Sunday, December 6th. They climbed Mount Moosilauke in New Hampshire in November and it was DRAMATIC. Mount Moosilauke, at 4,802 feet, is the western-most 4,000-footer in New Hampshire and the hike is considered strenuous. Snow, high winds, and temperatures in the low teens made it a memorable hike. School Committee member Gerald Quirk accompanied the group.

On Saturday, Dec 12th, the Curtis Middle School Robotics Teams participated in their first LEGO League Robotics Tournament, an event aimed at challenging students in robot missions, research, presentation, and teamwork. The kids designed, built and programmed a Lego robot for this year's game. The teams were asked to explore the hidden but fascinating world of trash, from collection, to sorting, to smart production, and reuse. They had to invent a solution to help our trash problem and create their own LEGO MINDSTORMS® robot to accomplish trash-themed “missions” on a playing field, and show how well they practice “*FIRST* LEGO League Core Values.” The three teams (totaling 17 students) were coached by two Middle School teachers and a team of L-S robotics student volunteers including: Jack Doherty, Joe Caltabiano, Catherine Appleby, Sarah Noyes, and Noah Huppert.

On Thursday Dec. 17th at 7:30pm the Music Department presented the Winter Instrumental Concert. The evening featured large groups, Orchestra, Symphonic Band, Concert Band, and small groups, Flute Choir, Brass Quartet, and Violin Ensemble. All of the instrumental students united for a performance of the winter classic “Sleigh Ride” for the Grand Finale.

Courage to Care Healthy Relationship Summit took place on December 18th, 2015. Events included presentations to 10th graders and to 12 graders. There were presentations on “What happened to being a princess?”; “Sexting and Social Media: What you need to know to stay safe”; Agree-Disagree encounters, culminating in a Spoken Word Poet performance. The Mentors for Violence Prevention organized the event that began with a moving address by Malcolm Astley, father of Lauren Astley.

Members of Chris Collins' Period 2 Environmental Science class worked with Chuck Despotopulos to install a Biodiversity project in the AB connector on December 22nd, 2015. Ella Houlihan and Abbey Sykes worked directly with Chuck Despotopulos to put the multimedia exhibit together.

Holiday ACE Awards from SERF were given to: Nathaniel Armistead, Charli Asta-Ferraro, Gail Baker, Kate Berry, Lynn Carlson, Nancy Childress, Daniel Conti, Ariel Cox, Karen D'Amore, Colleen Demers, Nicole Digenis, John Flynn, Nicole Frattaroli, Greg Gammons, Jen Garfield, Joshua Gilman, David Grace, Sarah Greeley, Conor Hanover, Kurt James, Amanda Klein, Ann Kramer, Carol Lewis, Shawn Lingley, Lisa Lupinacci, Angela Medeiros, Shawn Miller, Melanie Palma, Suanne Peterson, Aida Ramos, Hanka and Bill Ray, Paul Shultz, Susan Shields, Kathleen Thompson, Alex Wankowicz, Matt Warner, Lisa Weiss, Seth Weiss and Bella Wong. Congratulations to all!

Thank you to the Chorus and Michael Bunting for bringing the holiday spirit into the building. The mini-concert of seasonal songs in the AB Connector during lunch on December 23rd was a great treat for all.

Thank you to the Building and Grounds crew for an extraordinarily delicious holiday lunch on December 23rd. It is a well-attended event due to the marvelous culinary skills of the guys and their warm hospitality. They are truly hosts with the most. We thank them for the most highly anticipated event of the year!

Melisa Shen has received a Professional Development Certificate from Framingham State University for serving as a supervising practitioner for the Framingham State University Teacher Preparation Program. The university is grateful for Melisa's contribution to promoting high instructional standards and insuring the strength of the education profession.

Congratulations and thank you to Chris Herbert, Jeff Mazza and Amanda Klein, the First Adventure facilitators, for organizing a terrific assembly for 9th graders during ACA on the subject of midyear exams. The assembly was led by 6 student leaders (juniors and seniors). The students gave an overview of exam week and how exams are calculated into semester grades. They reviewed a number of tips for studying, including starting early and turning off technology! They also gave tips for the day of the exam, including getting a good night's sleep, trying not to stress and getting to school in plenty of time for the exam! They answered a number of FAQs that they had gathered by surveying the 9th graders in advance.

Award winning performers (and Lincoln-Sudbury alumni) Billy and Bobby McClain, aka The WonderTwins, will present a special performance of "To Hip-Hop, with Love" on Friday, 8pm, January 22nd in the LS auditorium. The event is a fund-raiser for the LS Memorial School in Cambodia. The McClain twins are donating their time for this cause. "With the technical facility of hip hop, the sophistication of the glory days of the Cotton Club, the flash of Rat Pack era Las

Vegas, and elements of vaudeville, animation, robot, tap, and mime, The WonderTwins create a distinctive style all their own. Former Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre executive director Judith Jamison has praised TheWonderTwins as “absolutely beautiful, strong, powerful, and electric...made for Broadway.”

Lincoln–Sudbury Regional High School Team will be competing against Andover High School on January 24th at 1:15pm at the WGBH Studios in Brighton. Members of the team are Dana Rubenstein, Captain; Andrew Lee, Isabel Anderson, Meghan Leu, Vincent Zhao, Dan Rabinovich, and Nicholas St. George. Desiree Butter, World Language Teacher at LS, is advisor to the group. You are invited to join the studio audience on January 24. Parking and tickets are free. RSVP at the link below to reserve your seat! http://www.wgbh.org/support/hsquizshow_jan24_115pm.cfm

On Thursday, Jan. 14th, at 8pm, the Select Ensemble Showcase Concert will be held in the auditorium. The concert this year features the L–S jazz groups. Two big bands and two combos will be performing. Tom Grandprey says it will be great show and hopes you can join them as they swing into the new year.

Student Representative Report

The student senate continues to prepare a survey regarding student stress and hope to have data to present to the faculty soon.

TA Report

Steve Roderick reported that the teachers were noticing increased stress levels among the students and that was a focus for discussion among the faculty.

Chairman’s Report

Elena Kleifges reported that a spring meeting of the School Committees of LS, LPS and SPS would be discussing school start times. She also noted that the MASC had endorsed a later start time for high school students at its most recent meeting. Ms. Kleifges reminded the school committee members that there would be a special Town Meeting in Sudbury on February 9th and a special Town Meeting in Lincoln on February 23rd. The next School Committee meeting would begin with a Public Hearing on the FY17 Budget.

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 and 10th. Nancy Marshall recommended meeting once more with the FINCOM liaisons to LSRHS from Lincoln and Sudbury.

Superintendent/Principal Report

Ms. Wong addressed the School Committee members on two goals for the school district: What do we want our students to know before they graduate; and access to excellence and equity. LS Faculty have been discussing what skills and attributes and habits of mind are necessary for students graduating from high school today. On January 20th, former Superintendent/Principal Matt King will be addressing the faculty regarding the necessity of developing school norms and a school culture to promote effective change. At faculty meetings on February 10th and March 2nd, the subject of mindfulness will be explored. Also to be discussed will be access to EDEX online courses with regard to what might be interesting to use for professional development or lessons useful for a teaching repertoire.

The film “Most Likely to Succeed” will be shown on March 9th in the Auditorium. An LS parent will be underwriting the cost of the showing. Chapters 2 and 7 from the book **Most Likely to Succeed** will be discussed in faculty meetings as the exploration of how we teach our students continues.

Director Finance Report

Peter Rowe informed the Committee that copies of the FY17 Budget would be distributed widely. The state budget figures and health insurance numbers were coming in and the Governor’s Budget was expected soon. A job posting for a new District Treasurer has been issued. David Leary is resigning effective February 29th. The FY15 Budget is currently being closed.

Information/Discussion

There was no Information/Discussion.

Action Items

VOTE on School Calendar for 2016–2017. On a motion from Nancy Marshall and seconded by Kevin Matthews, the School Calendar for 2016–2017 was accepted as presented. There was no discussion. All were in favor.

Warrants were signed.

Other business

There was no other business.

Calendar

Teachers’ Workshop	January 29, 2016
LS School Committee	February 2, 2016
Junior Parents’ Night	February 2, 2016
LS School Committee	February 9, 2016

Presidents' Day
February Recess

February 15, 2016
February 16-19, 2016

Adjourn

On a motion from Nancy Marshall, seconded by Kevin Matthews, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Francy Zingale