

**LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
Tuesday, January 26, 2016**

Present

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

Also present

Bella Wong, Superintendent/Principal; Steve Roderick, TA President; Lori Hodin, Safe Schools Coordinator; Lizzie Alwan, Mentor in Violence Prevention leader.

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 January 12, 2016 with edits were approved. Gerald Quirk abstained. There was no discussion. All were in favor.

Presentation

Lori Hodin presented the Mentors in Violence Prevention to the School Committee. The goals for the program this year are to continue the Upstander practice and training students in methods for the difficult task of talking about relationships. One of the keys to the success of the MVP program is practicing having difficult conversations. The overarching theme of the program this year is "Inside Out", based on a recent movie of the same title regarding the effect of emotions on a teen's behavior. The LS faculty and counselors are focused on providing the tools and practice to help students deal with their emotions, to label them, and to realize that emotions organize our rational thinking and our social lives. One of the key insights apparent to the program leaders is that sadness must be allowed to unfold and that the emotional struggles of teenagers must be dealt with patiently. To acknowledge sadness allows a clarification of what has been lost. The program is successful in building a student-centered shared leadership model.

Highlights of the MVP program this year are: the December 18th Courage to Care: Healthy Relationship Summit within LS; ongoing adult/student mentoring, increasing awareness of the pyramid of abuse, the impact of word choice, and aspects of healthy relationships. Plans for 2016 include team building,

promoting Upstander training, participating in the Melrose “Alliance Against Violence: Be the Change” student summit, escalation training for the varsity boys lacrosse team, and building ties between the MVP participants and students in the middle schools.

Lizzie Alwan, student MVP leader, spoke to the School Committee members about the Courage to Care in-school summit whose goal was to raise awareness among LS students about issues that have traditionally been considered women’s issues, to develop upstanding practices, and to empower high school students to mentor younger students. The Courage to Care summit included mandatory assemblies for 10th and 12th graders to train the students in the pyramid of abuse, gender box exercises, and agree/disagree sessions. An LS alumni panel attended the event to share real stories about college life and how MVP training had been useful to them at college. Finally, the MVP student team is proud of creating #hashtag #Isupstander – “I am an #Is upstander, I choose to...” and of encouraging students to pledge “From this day forward, I promise to be part of the solution in ending violence against women.”

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Recognitions

In honor of MLK's birthday, the MLK Action Project set up the A-B Connector to represent a refugee’s journey. The doorframe near the cafe displayed the flags of some of the countries who have taken in refugees. The doorframe near the auditorium displayed flags of countries refugees had fled. Videos on the Syrian refugee situation and a song about the weariness experienced on such journeys played continuously. LS art students exhibited their portraits of orphans from Ethiopia. Each year as part of the Memory Project, LS students have made the portraits as gifts for the children. Danielle Weisse and Susan Frommer are the Faculty Advisors for the MLK Action Project.

Members of the team representing LS at the WGBH Quiz Show competed on Sunday, January 24th at the WGBH Studios in Brighton against Arlington High School. The students will advance to the next round on Saturday, January 30th at 3:00 pm. Supporters are urged to attend. Final results will be known in March when the show airs. Thank you to advisor, Desiree Butter, and team members Dana Rubenstein, Andrew Lee, Isabel Anderson, Meghan Leu, Vincent Zhao, Dan Rabinovich, and Nicholas St. George.

Mid-year exams are currently underway and will finish on Thursday, January 28th. A Teacher Professional Day will take place on Friday, January 29th, and second semester will begin on Monday February 1st.

The LSPO Stressbusters have organized “de-stressing” activities in the cafeteria for students on Monday, January 25 and Tuesday, January 26th in the cafeteria. Mini-massages, popcorn, table tennis, treats and therapy dogs are all part of the offerings to leaven the rigors of exam week for LS Students. Thank you to Trish Garrett for organizing the event.

Ariel Keklak has won the Gatorade Massachusetts Girls Cross Country Player of the Year Award. The Gatorade Player of the Year program is in its 31st year of recognizing the nation’s most outstanding high school athletes for their athletic excellence, academic achievement, and exemplary character.

Students in LSB Players attended the Emerson College High School Theatre Festival on January 23rd. The students enjoyed seeing the performances of other area high schools and participated in workshops as well as in the “Improv Olympics” led by graduate students from the Emerson Theatre Education Program. LS students performed one of the Winter One-Act plays and received amazing feedback from two Emerson College acting professors. Three of the LS actresses were received Outstanding Acting Awards – Olival Bodley, Caroline McKeen and Georgia Baltay. It was an exciting day for the students and the LSB players hope to return to the festival next year. Carly Evans is the faculty advisor for the LSB Players.

The LSB Players will be performing their Winter One-Act Plays in Rogers Theatre beginning February 3rd, 2016. This year they are presenting three unique pieces: **This is a Test** by Stephen Gregg, **The Great Pandemonium** by Pat Cook, and **Cagebirds** by David Campton. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$8 for students and senior citizens. Since performances are in the smaller black box, reservations are recommended. Please email the LSB Players box office to make your reservations: lsbtickets@gmail.com.

The LS METCO program is planning to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the METCO Program and invites LS staff, student and families to enjoy a free interactive concert by Berklee School of Music’s Bob Marley Ensemble. The event will take place from 3-5pm on Friday, February 5th in the LS cafeteria. Steve Desrosiers is the METCO Director for LS and is organizing the event.

Three L-S jazz groups will be participating in the Berklee College of Music High School Jazz Festival on Saturday Feb. 6th at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston. The festival has been operating for 47 years and it’s one of the largest educational festivals in the world with schools from across the US participating. L-S Concert Jazz Ensemble performs at 9:00am, Select Jazz Combo performs at 11:15am, and Symphonic Jazz Ensemble performs at 3:50pm. The students will be adjudicated by three Berklee professors and receive a short clinic from one of the adjudicators after their performance. Students will have the opportunity to watch other school’s performances as well as hear Berklee College student ensembles and attend master classes from Berklee Faculty

throughout the day. L-S is in the largest class, based on school size, and has placed third in the combo division as well as receiving several honorable mentions. The festival is free and open to the public. <http://festival.berkleejazz.org/>

The LS Concert Choir will be offering Singing Valentines on Monday February 8th. For \$5, the ladies' quartets or men's quintet will deliver a sweet song to their anonymous recipients. The funds raised will be used as scholarships to defray costs of music department field trips for students in need. The 2016 Singing Valentines are:

Ana Shaughnessy
Marygrace Pier
Julia Termine
Rebecca Termine

Maddy Kline
Madelyn Paquette
Sara Kimble
Allison O'Brien

Nick Smith
Patrick McGrath
Danny Hoenig
Andrew Lascaleia
Brian Lynch

The Annual Civics Bee sponsored by the League of Women Voters will be held on March 6th at 2pm at the Weston Recreation Center, 20 Alphabet Lane in Weston. Teams from Weston, Wayland, and Sudbury will be competing in the Civics Bee. Each team is comprised of community members, middle school students and high school students. This year's Bee will emphasize the executive branch and the history of U.S. presidents as well as voting rights and regulations.

The LS Boys soccer team will be honored on April 27th when they will be recognized on the field at Fenway Park during a Red Sox game for their successful season. Members of the LS community are offered \$20 tickets for that event. Tickets may be reserved through the Athletic Office.

Student Representative Report

The student representative, Carly Gordenstein, was absent but had emailed her report to Elena Kleifges. Carly attended a recent School Council meeting and

shared the senate's ideas for addressing school stress. After much conversation, it was decided to conduct separate surveys regarding school stress as the School Council appears to have a far broader goal than the Senate. Miss Gordenstein also met with Ms. Blake regarding graduation cap/ gown color on behalf of the senior class. It was apparent that the current practice was in keeping with a culture of inclusiveness and promoting our school core values as well as complying with Massachusetts State law.

TA Report

Steve Roderick complimented the LS Faculty for supporting LS students beyond academics in the classroom. When Mr. Roderick first joined the faculty at LS in 1985, he learned that LS teachers treated students as individuals and made an effort to provide a private school experience within a public school domain. He cited faculty work with the global scholar program, leading student trips during vacation weeks, teachers finding ways to connect students to endeavors that stretch the individual's capabilities while providing a safe framework in which to do so.

Chairman's Report

Elena Kleifges clarified that there are no plans to change the start times for LSRHS in the near future. The SPS, LPS and LSRHS School Committee Chair meet regularly and are looking into the matter but no change is imminent. Other educational organizations are considering the merits of this change, including the Massachusetts Association of School Committees, Athletic Directors, coaches and the MIAA. The EDCO Collaborative organization is also looking into the subject.

Liaison Report

There was no Liaison Report.

Superintendent/Principal Report

Ms. Wong informed the School Committee of the recent visit by former LS Superintendent/Principal Matt King to address the faculty regarding effective school cultures. He offered five key points that transform conflict into learning and innovation. To create an effective school culture there must be: acknowledgement of feeling; response to criticism with curiosity; a balance of advocacy with inquiry; the realization that good intentions don't excuse bad impact; and abandoning blame. Ms. Wong hopes to practice one element of the key points at a time and return to the subject frequently over time.

A school community functions best when relationships are strong and the balance between uniformity and diversity permit growth within the organization. Another key factor to minimizing tension within a learning

community is to distinguish between a problem and a dilemma. A problem has a solution and one must learn to break down dilemmas into problems that can be solved.

A social media policy draft has been written and is being read and discussed by the Teachers Association Executive Committee and the Academic Council. Edits will be incorporated before it is more widely circulated. The policy was developed from a template from Marc Terry, School Counsel, and from language used by other districts. The policy will be completed by year's end but will not be in use until the beginning of the 2016–2017 school year.

The purpose of the social media policy is to inform members of the school community and give guidance regarding where acceptable boundaries lie. It will guide school community members to be conscious of public vs. private spheres, and its message will be augmented by mandated trainings next fall.

Ms. Wong is initiating plans for student travel opportunities over the next three years. This will help LS families plan for the future if their student is interested in taking advantage of travel programs.

The FY17 Budget was presented to the Lincoln FINCOM and the Sudbury FINCOM, on separate occasions, last week. There will be additional meetings this week with a Public Hearing scheduled for February 2nd.

Elena Kleifges thanked Bella Wong and Peter Rowe for their efforts on the FY17 Budget. She appreciated the transparent process they created and was thankful for the energy savings changes made by Kevin Rossley and the Building and Grounds crew.

Director Finance Report

There was no Director of Finance Report.

Information/Discussion

There was no Information/Discussion.

Action Items

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 15, 2016
February Recess	February 16-19, 2016

Adjourn

On a motion from Nancy Marshall, seconded by Kevin Matthews, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Francy Zingale