

**LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Tuesday, February 2, 2016**

7:30pm
B

L-S Conference Room

Public Hearing on FY17 Budget and School Choice

Peter Rowe reviewed the FY 17 Budget. The total budget request for FY17 is \$29,963,282 which includes Debt and OPEB contributions. The budget proposal is within the 2.5% guideline set by the Lincoln and Sudbury Finance Committees. The Required Minimum Contribution for Lincoln has been reduced by 7.5% in FY17 compared to FY16. The Minimum Required Contribution for Sudbury will increase by 4.1%. The budget development continues to be a dynamic process as real figures replace assumptions in the budget.

A Capital Budget to supply security cameras to replace and enhance existing security cameras in the amount of \$143,081 has been requested.

There was no public comment regarding the FY17 Budget.

VOTE: Kevin Matthews moved “that the LS School Committee approve the FY17 Operating Budget, including OPEB funding, at \$29,271,207 funded by \$3,223,260 of Revenue offsets and \$26,047,947 of member community assessments of which \$3,598,943 is assessed to the Town of Lincoln and \$22,449,004 is assessed to the Town of Sudbury, per the enclosed Assessment Schedule.” Nancy Marshall seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All were in favor.

VOTE: Nancy Marshall moved “that the LS School Committee approve the FY17 Debt Service Budget at \$692,075 funded by member community assessments of which \$100,420 is assessed to the Town of Lincoln and \$591,655 is assessed to the Town of Sudbury, per the enclosed Assessment Schedule.” Elena Kleifges seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All were in favor.

VOTE: Gerald Quirk moved “that the LS School Committee approve the FY17 Capital Budget request to upgrade the Security System at a total cost of \$143,081 funded by member community assessments of which \$20,761 is assessed to the Town of Lincoln and \$122,320 is

assessed to the Town of Sudbury.” Nancy Marshall seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All were in favor.

Peter Rowe reported that each year the Massachusetts Department of Education must be notified whether or not LSRHS would like to participate in the School Choice Program. According to the Education Reform Act of 1993, each school will admit non-resident students under the choice program UNLESS there is a vote to the contrary for the subsequent school year. A public hearing is required on the issues, which can take place at the same meeting as the vote. The Department of Education needs to receive a written statement if our district wishes to withdraw from School Choice. Mr. Rowe recommended that LS withdraw from participating in School Choice because of class size and the related financial considerations.

There was no public comment regarding School Choice.

VOTE: Gerald Quirk moved “**that Lincoln–Sudbury Regional School District withdraw from participating in School Choice for the 2016–2017 school year, as provided in Section 12B of Chapter 76 of the General Laws, because of financial considerations.**” Nancy Marshall seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All were in favor.

This concludes the Public Hearing on FY17 Budget and School Choice

8:24pm

Public Session of LSRSD Committee Meeting Opens at 8:25pm

Present

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

Also Present

Bella Wong, Superintendent/Principal; Peter Rowe, Interim Director of Finance and Operations; two boy scouts and accompanying parent.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion from Nancy Marshall, the Minutes for January 26, 2016 were approved with edits. Kevin Matthews seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All were in favor.

Presentation

Leonard Simon, member of the Sudbury Board of Selectmen, presented an overview of the issues involved in Sudbury's potential withdrawal from the Minuteman Technical School collaborative. The matter will be discussed at a Special Sudbury Town Meeting on February 9th, 2016. There are currently 16 towns with membership in the Minuteman Technical School Collaborative. A new agreement has been drawn up for the member towns, providing an opportunity for towns to withdraw from the partnership. There are other technical schools in the region: Nashoba Technical High School and Assabet Technical School are two examples. If Sudbury were to withdraw from the Minuteman Partnership, Sudbury students would be able to attend that school or Nashoba or Assabet as out-of-district students and pay a tuition per student. For towns such as Sudbury, in which the number of students attending the vocational school is rather low (approximately 20 students), the cost of full membership does not make sense. Mr. Simon proposes that the Town of Sudbury withdraw from the partnership, take its time to assess the strength of educational benefits of other technical schools in the area and decide then whether or not to withdraw.

Public Comment

There was no public comment

Recognitions

The Winter One Act Plays will be presented in Rogers Theatre on February 3 through 5th.

The Bob Marley Concert will be held on February 5th in the afternoon with performances by a musical group from Berklee School of Music.

The WGBH Quiz Show Team engaged in their first round of competition at the WGBH Studios in Brighton.

Three A Cappella groups from LS performed at Concord-Carlisle High School last weekend. College groups from Boston University and Emerson College as well as groups from Weston, Wayland and Concord-Carlisle performed.

The Girls Varsity Hockey Team hosted an event that included former team members and former Athletic Director Nancy O'Neil.

The chaperones from the WWII/Cold War Field Trip will meet to discuss the feasibility of a student exchange program.

Student Representative Report

There was no student representative report

Teacher's Association Report

There was no Teachers' Association report

Chairman's Report

Elena Kleifges referred to the Resolution from the Suburban Coalition of School Committees calling for a vote on full funding of the Foundation Budget Review Commission's recommendations. The Foundation Budget Review Commission was established by the Legislature in the FY16 budget and was charged with examining the Foundation Budget (Chapter 70) formula. The FBRC found that the current formula understates costs significantly in Employee Health Insurance and Special Education.

VOTE: Gerald Quirk moved that "Whereas the Massachusetts Foundation Budget Review Commission identified two areas (employee health insurance and special education) where the Massachusetts Foundation Budget significantly understates the true cost of educating students in the Commonwealth and has failed to keep pace with rising costs;

Whereas this underfunding means the cost of providing a quality education has increasingly been borne by local communities, most often at the expense of other vital municipal operations;

Whereas investing in education today leads to higher incomes, and thus less investment in police, prisons, subsidized health care, low income housing, welfare, etc. in the future;

Whereas state and local economies are most effectively strengthened "by investing in education and increasing the number of well-educated workers."

Therefore be it Resolved that the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional School District School Committee calls on the Massachusetts Legislature and the Governor of Massachusetts to fully fund and adopt the recommendations of the Foundation Budget Review Commission in the immediate future." Radha Gargeya seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All were in favor.

Liaison Report

Nancy Marshall reminded the Committee that plans were underway to invite Dorothy Presser to lead a workshop on the superintendent evaluation process and other items on a Saturday in March or April. Ms. Marshall will send possible dates to the Committee when they become available.

Superintendent's Report

Ms. Wong reported that the current focus of Faculty/Administration discussions is on what LS students should know by the time they graduate and lowering the achievement gap. Members of the Administration team attended a conference in Lexington to hear Paul Ash detail what the Lexington School System had done to successfully close the achievement gap. Subsequently, five members of the administrative team and 5 faculty members attended a Research for Better Teaching workshop regarding high expectations, how to teach with rigor and how to close the achievement gap. On March 9th, a showing of the film **Most Likely to Succeed** will be held at LS in the auditorium.

Ms. Wong is encouraged by trends she has witnessed in education regarding finding new strategies for teachers to use and an increased awareness of the problems that arise in student behavior when the lack of basic skills is not addressed. At the summer conference for Superintendents, a subject of discussion was the nature of the social/emotional needs of students. Books such as Most Likely to Succeed and The Explicit Child are addressing the same concepts.

Director of Finance and Operations Report

Peter Rowe reported that the closing of FY15 was taking longer than expected. The auditors from Powers and Sullivan would be submitting the report to the Massachusetts Department of Revenue. Interviews will begin shortly of applicants for the District Treasurer position at LS. Mr. Rowe is exploring the purchase of net metering credits to supply energy for the school at a discounted rate. This will augment ongoing savings from the solar canopy.

Information and Discussion

There was no information or discussion.

Other Business

There was no other business

Calendar of Events

Winter One-Act Plays	February 3-5, 2016
METCO 50 th Anniversary Concert	February 5, 2016
Sudbury Special Town Meeting	February 9, 2016
Connections Meeting	February 10, 2016
February Recess	February 15-19, 2016
Lincoln Special Town Meeting	February 23, 2016

LS School Committee Meeting

February 24, 2016

Adjournment

On a motion from Radha Gargeya, seconded by Kevin Matthews, the meeting was adjourned at 8:54pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully Submitted
Francy Zingale