

**LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

**7:30 p.m. Public Session
Room B**

L-S Conference

Present

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

Also Present

Bella Wong, Superintendent/Principal; Peter Rowe, Director of Finance and Operations; Nicole Digenis, Department Coordinator for Science; Christopher Collins, Science Teacher; Caroline Singler, Science Teacher and TA Representative; Stephen Cirillo, Candidate for District Treasurer

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:32pm

Approval of Minutes

On a motion from Nancy Marshall, the Minutes for February 2, 2016 were approved. The motion was seconded by Kevin Matthews. There was no discussion. All were in favor.

Presentation

Stephen Cirillo, candidate for District Treasurer, was introduced to the School Committee Members. He is retiring from the Brookline School system where he has worked for the past 37 years as the Finance Director. He has experience as an OPEB Treasurer and is very well versed in OPEB Trusts.

VOTE: Gerald Quirk presented a motion **“In accordance with MGL c.71 Section 16A, I move that the School Committee appoint Stephen Cirillo as Treasurer of Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School District effective March 1, 2016 until June 30, 2016.”** The motion was seconded by Nancy Marshall. There was no further discussion. All were in favor.

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Nicole Digenis, Science Department Coordinator; Christopher Collins and Caroline Singler, Science Teachers, presented an overview of the Science Department curriculum.

The four pillars of the Core Science Program are: Earth Science, Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The courses are designed to be leveled but not tracked which permits advancement after initial placement.

Elective sciences are available to students beginning in the 11th grade. Aquatic Biology, Environmental Science, Forensics, Infectious Diseases and Astronomy are semester-long elective science classes. AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Physics C, Accelerated Physics and Anatomy and Physiology are year-long elective sciences. Double enrollment is possible in the sciences in 11th and 12th grade with preference given to seniors. Limits to double enrollment are typically the result of scheduling limits rather than class size limits.

The current science curriculum follows a process-oriented guided inquiry learning model (POGIL) that uses carefully designed inquiry-based activities that guide students in constructing deep understanding of course material while developing higher order thinking skills and problem solving skills. Students work on communication skills through cooperation and reflection which are the skills of the life-long learner. Typically students work in groups of four in activities in the rotating roles of facilitator, process analyst, spokesperson, and quality controller. The science faculty is finding this to be a very successful pilot.

New initiatives are the second year of the guest speaker series in Environmental Science organized by Chris Collins. Community members whose jobs are in the environmental sciences speak to the students about their job, their background, and how they navigated to their particular specialty.

Cutting-edge Biotechnology is introduced to the classroom through the Harvard Life Sciences Outreach Program. Students are able to transform bacteria in the lab by introducing a gene for green fluorescent protein and red fluorescent protein. Students also learn to sequence their mitochondrial DNA for amplification and compare them to the online database to identify heritage groups.

Collaborations between Practical Physical Science and the Engineering classes to design solar water heaters; between the science department at the Special

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Education teachers in two co-taught Earth Science II classes and an Applied Earth Science class; and the collaboration between the LS 9th grade teachers and the Sudbury and Lincoln 8th grade science teachers in student preparation and placement.

The last aspect of the Science curriculum involves field trips and enrichment. Annual 9th grade field trips to Block Island and to the Gregory Cave system in New York State, Celebrate the Sciences Day – a supremely collaborative effort of the science, wellness, math and FATA departments, and the Science Teams: National Ocean Science Bowl, Department of Energy Bowl, the Science Olympiad, and Women of Science augment the students' experiences.

The professional staff continues to become certified in Sheltered English Immersion classes and lab safety training as ongoing efforts.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Recognitions

Patrick McGrath and Matthew Short have been invited to compete for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. Candidates are chosen on the basis of their accomplishments in many areas – academic and artistic success, leadership, and involvement in school and community – and they represent excellence in education and the promise of greatness in America's youth. Winners are invited to Washington, D.C. in June to participate in a National Recognition Program.

Emily Melick and Emily Gorman will receive the MIAA Girls & Women in Sport Award from L-S this year. They received their awards Friday, February 5th, at Faneuil Hall. Congratulations to these athletes!

The LS Jazz groups performed at the Berklee Jazz Festival on Saturday February 6th. The Concert Jazz Ensemble, Select Jazz Combo, and Symphonic Jazz Ensemble performed on Saturday in Hynes Convention Center. 128 Schools participated.

SADD/Connections hosted an evening on February 10th in the LS Cafeteria at 7:30pm, entitled "What's Really Going On?" The focus of the evening was to provide an opportunity and environment for young people and adults to communicate freely without fear of repercussions. Voice disguising microphones were used to protect the identity of the speakers and to encourage candid questions and responses. This program has been running since 2012 and has become a model for student/parent groups at other schools locally and nationally. In fact, Carrie Tyrell

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(LS'12) and other SADD students, won recognition for the LS program from the National SADD organization and the program reached as far as an advisor at a Louisiana school who wanted to implement the LS program. Sarah Greeley and Michael Bloom have organized the event.

The Sudbury Savoyards began their two-week run in the LS Auditorium. This year they will present "*The Sorcerer*" — Gilbert and Sullivan's playful and humorous look at love and magic in the class-conscious world of Victorian England. Remaining performances will take place on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings, February 26-28th.

The artwork of Shea Justice is part of the Sankofa Exhibit at the AAMARP Gallery in Jamaica Plain, running through May 6th, 2016. The artwork on display celebrates the history and culture of the African Diaspora and is designed to foster social and environmental justice through the transformative power of art.

The girls alpine ski team put in a fantastic performance Tuesday at Wachusett Mountain and won the state championship by seven seconds (which, in the skiing world, is equivalent to an eternity). The L-S state team for alpine skiing consisted of Lizzy Murphy (who also won the individual slalom title), Eva Elder, Anya Elder, Maddi Frissora, and Lisa Stevenson. Other members of the team are Zoe Belge, Hannah BenDavid, Addie Bigelow, Elizabeth Bigelow, Jenna Block, Molly Carlough, Rebecca Cohn, Sasha Forester, Meredith Grimes, Lexi Herzog, Marissa Honens, Ella Houlihan, Brenna Katz, Mari Mason, Lauren Messina, Natalie O'Connor, Caroline Orgel, and Lauren Petronio.

The 2015 National Field Hockey CA/Keith Waldman – Optimal Performance Associates High School National Academic Squad recognized Tara Hulen, Haley Walker, Meghan Palumbo, and Aly du Toit. Vicky Caburian is the Girls' Field Hockey Coach. These students have been recognized for their GPA and sportmanship.

The Musicians' Union will be entertaining in the Caf during lunch on Thursday (2/25) and Friday (2/26) to give students and staff a preview of Friday's Coffee House event to support the Katrina Project.

Melissa Shen and Sarah Greeley are hosting an assembly on the science of sleep on Monday, March 2nd in the Auditorium. Dr. Kirsty Kerin is a research scientist who specializes in the science of sleep. She will be talking about why sleep is so important to our overall health and wellness and sharing strategies and tips to help optimize sleep. While there are clearly some significant structural factors that influence our approach to sleep (school start times, after school commitments, family obligations, etc.), our hope is that students will come away realizing that there are practices and choices that they can make to improve sleep habits.

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On March 7th, two former LS students will return to speak with current students about their struggles with heroin addiction, formed while they were students at LS. Richie Budreau and Scott Sheehan are two remarkable young men who are working hard to get past their issues with addiction and are beginning to make meaningful lives for themselves. As graduates of LS, they are uniquely positioned to speak to the kids about the dangers of substance use and abuse. Both young men will talk about what finally got them on the road to recovery and will answer questions from the audience.

Junior Kendall Dawson will compete in the state semifinals of Poetry Out Loud on March 5-6. The state finals will be held at 9:30am on March 13 in the Old South meeting House in Boston. Poetry Out Loud at LS involved approximately 225 students in 9 English classes. Nineteen students competed in the semi-finals and were judged by Bella Wong, Peter Elenbaas, Susan King and teachers Susan Frommer, Desiree Butter, Karen D'Amore and Julia Keith. English teacher Danielle Weisse organized the LS event for the fifth year.

The science department is happy to announce the return of the 9th grade Caving Field Trip to Albany New York on May 20th. Chris Collins is organizing the trip for thirty-six 9th grade students will walk along a cliff and under waterfalls, before they end up walking and crawling through an underground stream. It's a great adventure! Many seniors have described it as one of their most memorable high school experiences.

Student Representative Report

Student Senate is continuing to work on a "no homework over break" policy as well as make advancements in other initiatives. These include a multi-club collaboration for school spirit and unity as well as minor improvements suggested by students throughout the school, such as unlocking the door entrance into the cafeteria. Despite some technical difficulties, the Student Senate hopes to bring a solid version of their survey to the next meeting.

Teacher's Association Report

Caroline Singler, Treasurer of the Teachers' Association, highlighted the extracurricular work taken on by LS teachers, such as February vacation student trips to the LS Memorial School in Cambodia led by Danielle Weisse and the Habitat for Humanity trip to Baltimore, Maryland led by Susan Frommer and Matt Wentworth. Also highlighted were the extraordinary work teachers took on to present meaningful assemblies to students such as the Sleep Assembly organized by Melisa Shen and Sarah Greeley.

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Many faculty have completed the SEI course during the past year. Another session of the Sheltered English Immersion course is beginning this spring. Additionally, remaining faculty have arranged to have their fingerprints taken at the teachers' expense following state-mandated directives.

Chairman's Report

Elena Kleifges reported on the results of the Special Town Meetings in Sudbury and Lincoln regarding withdrawal from membership in the Minuteman Technical School District. She reminded the School Committee members that the state legislators would attend the April 16th School Committee meeting. The Tri-community spring meetings will be held in April or May, and representatives were at work to prepare an agenda.

Liaison Reports

Radha Gargeya reported that the Sudbury FINCOM accepted the L-S amended FY17 Budget Proposal that addressed the budget shortfall. Sudbury Public School and the Town of Sudbury also made changes to address the shortfall. After much discussion, the budgets were approved but the vote was not unanimous. An opinion was expressed by some FINCOM members that the FINCOM could make changes to voted budgets of the cost centers. Mr. Gargeya stated that such a unilateral process without the advice and consent of the elected board of the affected cost centers would not be advisable. He also said an independent FINCOM that issues guidelines and verifies the budgets and spending of the cost centers is essential for checks and balances.

Superintendent/Principal's Report

Ms. Wong thanked Peter Rowe for his able assistance in putting together the FY17 Budget. She also thanked the School Committee members for their unwaivering support throughout the process.

During Department meetings today, teachers from Curtis Middle School and from Lincoln Middle School met with LS faculty regarding incoming student placements for the incoming 9th grade class and to ensure that instruction in the lower grade prepared students for the curricula they would encounter at the high school. The communication and cooperation between the high school and middle schools has increased yearly. Virginia Blake organized the event.

There was a meeting of students interested in the Global Scholars program and 30-40 students attended bringing the total to 70 of students taking part in the

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program. At the end of this semester, the first reflective essays will be due from students currently enrolled in the program.

Diversity Day will be held on Thursday, February 25, 2016 for current 9th graders. Lori Hodin has organized the event with Susan Shields. The diversity workshop is a result of the post Ferguson demonstration held at school last year.

John Saphier has offered to deliver a free workshop to the LS Academic Council. Ms. Wong anticipates using Title II funds to support two additional workshops next year.

The film “**Most Likely to Succeed**” will be shown in the LS Auditorium on March 9th, 2016. Invitations have been extended to parents and educators in the surrounding towns. A panel for discussion following the film is being assembled.

Ms. Wong returned from an educational trip to Cuba during February vacation. She plans to share her experiences at a future Faculty meeting and will present also to the members of the LS School Committee.

Director of Finance and Operations’ Report

There was no Director of Finance and Operations Report.

Information & Discussion

Nancy Marshall reported that Lincoln voted to withdraw from the Minuteman membership. The town of Dover would remain a member. Votes have not yet been taken in Weston and Boxborough.

Action Items

VOTE: Nancy Marshall moved that “**Per M.G.L. C.30B, Sec.2, the Lincoln–Sudbury School Committee approves the appointment of the Director of Finance and Operations as the Chief Procurement Officer of the Lincoln–Sudbury Regional School District. This appointment shall remain in effect until revoked or amended.**” Kevin Matthews seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All were in favor.

Vouchers #1029, 1030. 1031 were signed as was the 2/15/16 payroll.

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Other Business

There was no other business.

Calendar of School Events

Eighth Grade Parents Night	March 3, 2016
Jr. District Music Competition	March 5, 2016
LS School Committee	March 8, 2016
Mr. LS	March 11, 2016
LS Pops Concert	March 17, 2016
SERF College Fair	March 19, 2016
LS School Committee	March 22, 2016
ELA MCAS	March 22-24, 2016
Good Friday	March 25, 2016

Adjournment

On a motion from Nancy Marshall, the meeting was adjourned at 9:42pm. Kevin Matthews seconded the motion. All were in favor

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