

LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MINUTES

Tuesday, March 8, 2016

**6:30 p.m.
B**

L-S Conference Room

Present

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

Also Present

Bella Wong, Superintendent/Principal; Peter Rowe, Interim Director of Finance and Operations; Carly Gordenstein, Student Representative; Steve Roderick, TA President; Paula Myers and Susan King, Librarians; Sherry Kersey.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm

Interview of Director of Finance and Operations Candidate Sherry

Kersey

Bella Wong introduced Sherry Kersey as candidate for the position of Director of Finance and Operations. Ms. Kersey has been employed for the past 20 years by Ashburnham/Westminster Regional School District as the Director of Finance and Operations. She holds an MBA in Accounting and in Management and is qualified to hold positions as Business Manager and as Assistant Superintendent. Ms. Kersey responded to questions from the School Committee members regarding her methods for supporting the District's educational mission, working with the communities of Lincoln and Sudbury, for fostering collegiality among team members in the Business Office, and for strategies to implement control of non-educational expenses. Additionally, Ms. Kersey is very conversant in Budget Sense, the current software used by the LS Business Office.

Elena Kleifges concluded the question period by noting that Ms. Kersey is experienced, personable, and well versed in the business affairs of a regional high school and thanked her for attending the School Committee meeting.

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Elena Kleifges reported that all references for Ms. Kersey were very complimentary and without reservations. References commented that Ms. Kersey was calm and articulate during difficult meetings, that she provided clear presentations that made complex matters seem simple, and that she leveraged good relationships across different personalities. Mr. Rowe commented that Ms. Kersey has a broad experience from working her way up through the system that gives her a profound knowledge of the business matters and facilities operations of a large regional high school in the state of Massachusetts.

Vote pending negotiation: Nancy Marshall moved that the Lincoln–Sudbury Regional School District offer the position of Director of Finance and Operations to Sherry Kersey pending negotiation. Radha Gargeya seconded the motion. All present were in favor.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion from Patty Mostue, the Minutes for February 24, 2016 were approved subject to edits being made. The motion was seconded by Radha Gargeya. There was no discussion. All were in favor.

Presentation

Paula Myers and Susan King, LS Librarians, presented an overview of the mission of the LS Library which is to prepare LS students for skills they will need when they graduate LS. Beyond maintaining the collection and database resources, the librarians have developed a curriculum for LS students to acquaint them with best practices for research using available tools. At the forefront of this curriculum, the librarians endeavor to provide students with the skills to search websites, evaluate information, learn to accurately provide citations for research projects, brainstorm keyword searches, and methods to avoid plagiarism. All 9th grade students attend 4 classes given by the librarians, in collaboration with faculty, typically it becomes embedded in the history curriculum. The first day addresses choosing research topics by browsing a data-base topic list, the library catalog, and a cart of books assembled by the library that provide useful information on the subject the students are currently working on in class. Day 2, instruction on plagiarism is presented. Day 3 involves instruction on creating citations. Notecards designed to facilitate collecting adequate information for citations are

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distributed. On Day 4, students are introduced to methods for determining the reliability of a website.

The library continues to experience a great deal of student traffic and the job of librarian has evolved over time. The staff is continuing to learn use of chrome books and google apps for education. Staff and students are increasingly using Google Docs for collaborative work.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Recognitions

Cal Kenney, Kyle Smith, Matthew Kreidberg and Jack Garrity organized the collection and donation of hundreds of pairs of jeans to A Place to Turn's Teens for Jeans Initiative. A Place to Turn provides emergency food and clothing assistance to area residents in need and has done so for the past 30 years. Joanne Barry, Director of A Place to Turn sent a letter of appreciation for their community service.

On February 25th, a diverse group of 67 11th and 12th grade student leaders participated in a full day of training to prepare for 9th grade Diversity workshops to be held on March 22nd. The 9th grade Diversity subcommittee, Susan Shields, Melisa Shen, Ariel Cox, Tracy Burke, JK Park, Jake Fauver and Jen Garfield spent many hours spent developing curriculum, discussing issues and coordinating logistics. The Visions consultants shared their expertise regarding discussion guidelines and tools that promote understanding and equity. Twenty-six faculty and staff members have participated in a training session earlier in the year and who will provide invaluable support and feedback to student leaders.

LS Girls Track won the 4*800m and came in 4th in the 4*400m at the New England Championships. Congratulations to Ariel Keklak, Katherine Malone, Clara Bisson, Alexa Babick, Nicole Kerrigan, Marie Nevils, Milly O'Brien and Meghan Garrett. Henry Phelan coaches the team.

Girls' Basketball has enjoyed a great season culminating in an exciting home playoff game. Congratulations to the girls for working hard all season!

Team advisors Carol Lewis and Caroline Singler reported that on Saturday, March 5th, 16 members of the LS DOE (Department of Energy) Science Bowl team travelled to the University of Connecticut to compete in the Northeast Regional Science Bowl. Two teams participated in the quiz bowl style competition, answering questions about all areas of science and math while

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one team bravely took on the challenge to build a fuel cell car. Over the course of the day, teams participated in a total of 23 16-minute matches, with one team progressing as far as the semifinals of the "wild card" competition. The students displayed great teamwork and sportsmanship with characteristic high spirits and good humor. They train throughout the year, supplementing what they learn in LS classes by preparing and teaching lessons to each other.

Members of the team are:

12th graders: Jasmine Falk, Maddy Kline, Andrew Lee, Alex Gough, Matt Reading, Dana Rubenstein, Rudy Raveendran, Phillip Sifferlen

11th graders: Vivi Feng, Michelle Haley, Trishla Gandhi

10th graders: Alex Tam, Archie Stewart, Anna St George

9th graders: Talia Heisey, Veronica Guo

Team members unable to join us this year: Annette Lee, Joe Caltabiano, Sam Neil, Sonia Litovchick, Jaden Busch, Rohini Guin

Boys Ice Hockey won their playoff game 5-4 in OT. They play this evening, March 8th, at 5 pm at the Chelmsford Forum against Gloucester. Mike Baker (Drew Baker's dad) works for the NHL network and has made a highlight video of the playoffs so far.

The Boys' Wrestling team won the Division 1 Central Sectional title and this weekend Andy Richard finished the season by representing the entire team at the NE Championships. He lost his first match (eliminating him from championship contention) and then proceeded to win all his remaining matches finishing with a win over the CT state champion and coming in 3rd in NE.

On Saturday, March 5th, the L-S National Ocean Sciences Bowl team competed at MIT in the annual regional tournament, the Blue Lobster Bowl. Despite having a fairly young team, the A team of four 11th graders and one 12th grader made it to the semifinals and lost a close match. The B team of three 10th graders and two 9th graders went to the quarterfinals. The all-ninth grade C team competed well and gained lots of experience that will pay off in the future. This team is a close knit group and really enjoyed themselves during a very long day of competition. Advisor BJ Pegram is grateful to Mary Brunson and Nicole Digenis for their support on Saturday.

A team

Julia Wyatt

Steve Weiman

Melody Phu

Nick Jowkar

Rohini Guin

B Team

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Eli Newell
Avi Lepsky
Piyusha Kundu
Michael Isakov
Kenneth Ho

C Team

Camille Slattery
Sophie Proctor
Danni Lu
Seamus Frey
Jaden Busch

Faculty Advisor Amanda Klein reports that the Edge Of Leadership Teacher Shadowing Initiative will take place this week. Teachers will be joining students in their classes one day this week to get a better sense of "a day in the life of an LS student in 2016." The goal of the initiative is to build connections and awareness between students and teachers. Participants will be reflecting on their experiences and share information at a faculty meeting in April. Participating teachers are Mary Brunson, Desiree Butter, Kelly Gaudreau, Chris Herbert, Tim Nikula, Annalisa Notaro, and Caroline Han.

Student Participants:

Chloe Faucher 12
Molly Carlough 11
Isobel Hayes 12
Heidi Rubenstein 12
Hannah Singh 11
Mariah Prosansky 12
Kyrie Williams 10
Kareema Tyler 10
Daeron Williams 9
Chanel Osborne 10 & Jon Stewart 10
Chanel Osborne 10

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Len Simon attended the League of Women Voters' 8th Annual Civics Bee in Weston on March 6th. Mr. Simon said that it was a pleasure to meet the students, prepare with them before the Bee, and see them compete in each round of questions. Each of the L-S students was knowledgeable, composed, respectful and enthusiastic. They were well prepared for the competition. Mr. Simon felt that their families, the school, and the Town should be proud of their efforts. The LS team was very ably represented at the event by:

James Ensley
Rohini Guin
Dan Kerrigan
Emmet Klein
Jacqueline Laferriere
Camille Slattery
Clara Walsh
Ashley Wong

Faculty advisor JK Park reports that 40 students from the LS Model UN Club attended the annual National High School Model UN (NHSMUN) Conference in NYC from March 2nd - 5th. Student delegates, faculty advisors, and chaperones from all corners of the US and the world attended the 42nd annual conference that culminated with the Closing Ceremony in the General Assembly Hall of the UN Headquarters. LS students represented two countries: Egypt and Canada in various committees/commissions/regional bodies that addressed numerous current political, social, cultural, legal, environmental, and economic concerns. Students spent close to 20 hours debating, caucusing, and drafting working papers. Ultimately, they brought resolutions to the floor for voting. Topics included:

- Censorship of Mass Media (Legal Committee)
- Cryptocurrencies and Their Effect on Criminal Activity (UN Office on Drugs and Crime Committee)
- Human Rights During Times of Economic Crisis (Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee)
- The Unspoken Voices of Sex Trafficking (Commission on the Status of Women)
- Cultural Preservation in Post-Conflict Societies (UNESCO)
- Trade and the Digital Economy (World Trade Organization)
- Drug Trafficking on the Dark Net (Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice)
- Combating Boko Haram (African Union)

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LS Students were among 3500 participants from 32 countries and 29 U.S. States. Samantha Power, US Ambassador to the UN, was keynote speaker for the opening ceremonies. JK Park was impressed with our students because they were respectful, engaged, thoughtful, and collaborative in their committee sessions. They also took advantage of the cultural opportunities in NYC during their free time.

On Monday, March 8th, David Bloom, Sarah Greeley, and the members of SADD organized an assembly on addiction featuring the personal stories of two LS graduates who have overcome substance abuse addiction. Staff and students found the assembly moving and impactful.

The World Language Department would like to invite everyone to the 13th annual World Language Declamation Contest on Thursday, March 10th from 10:00 to 11:00 (Block 4) in the auditorium. The contest is an oratory competition in which World Language students of French, Spanish, German, and Latin recite a memorized piece in their language and compete with other students at their level of study. It is an impressive display.

This year's contestants are:

Colin Christian
Matt Joachim
Joseph Pinto
William Stone
Katherine Ostrow
Caitlynn Feng
Emmet Alkasab
Zhongyi Zuo
Thomas Stranberg
Ariel Joiner
Isabel Anderson
Adam Thompson
Vivi Feng
Catriona Morris
Mariah Prosansky
Dana Rubenstein
Ross Elkort
Seth Joachim
Ro Daley
Nathan Ryder

Student Representative Report

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Carly Gordenstein distributed the student survey regarding student stress from homework assigned during vacation breaks. She reported that the Student Senate would be presenting their findings and suggestions to the faculty in May so that a policy could be implemented discourage homework assignments during breaks. A student senate subcommittee has reached out to the Duxbury High School and Stanford schools for information regarding their homework policies. Additionally, Carly met with Ms. Wong to discuss concerns about the growing ignorance of students and the American populations in general with respect to current events. Carly has found that there is a gap between common perceptions and facts. She posited that perhaps a mandatory class in conjunction with the Global Scholars Program might address fact versus fiction for students.

Teacher's Association Report

Steve Roderick reported that warnings were issued on March 8th. Course Registration materials were being distributed to students this week for planning schedules for next school year. March is a long month but very eventful. The LS Teachers' Association is working with Peter Elenbaas to edit Schedule B for the next contract negotiation. The LSTA is planning a day for School Committee members to attend classes at LS.

Chairman's Report

There was no Chairman's Report

Liaison Reports

Nancy Marshall announced that a retreat has been scheduled for LS School Committee members to meet with Dorothy Presser of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees for the morning of April 30th.

Superintendent/Principal's Report

Bella Wong reported that there had been a meeting of 9th graders interested in the Global Scholars program. For school year 2016–2017 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students will be involved in the Global Scholars Program.

On Monday, March 7th, Department Coordinators and administrators debriefed middle school teachers regarding incoming 9th grade students. NARCAN supplies have arrived and Peter Elenbaas has begun training sessions with LS personnel. NARCAN will be available in house offices, the nurses office, and in the Athletics office. Ms. Wong attended the Joint Sudbury/Lincoln Finance

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Committee meeting where the request for security cameras at LS was well supported.

There will be a screening of the documentary film “Most Likely to Succeed” supported by Sudbury parent Andy Payne on March 9th in the LS Auditorium. Invitations have been extended to the Maynard and Concord–Carlisle school systems. At faculty meetings, a review of FERPA laws has been a subject for discussion.

Director of Finance and Operations’ Report

Peter Rowe reported that the District has received the FY15 Excess and Deficiency Certification from the Massachusetts Department of Revenue. Mr. Rowe submitted a spreadsheet summarizing the major components of year-end E&D growth between FY14 and FY15. Funds will be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Fund to the Stabilization Fund to pay for restoration of the turf fields. A firm recommendation would be presented to the School Committee at the March 22 meeting. The estimated cost to restore the turf fields in FY18 is \$1.2 million.

Information & Discussion

Bella Wong reported on an amendment to the EDCO Articles of Agreement. The changes to the current Articles of Agreement are notice of Wellesley’s withdrawal from the collaborative and a new notification date of withdrawal. Members of the collaborative that seek to withdraw must notify EDCO before October 1st in order to withdraw by July 1st of the following year.

Action Items

Vouchers #1032, 1033, 1034 were signed as was the Payroll for 2/29/16.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Calendar of School Events

Screening Most Likely to Succeed	March 9, 2016
World Language Declamation	March 10, 2016
Mr. LS	March 11, 2016
LWV Candidates’ Night	March 15, 2016

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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

Adjourn

On a motion from Nancy Marshall, the meeting was adjourned at 8:49pm to executive session for the purpose of contract negotiation for non-union personnel not to return to public session. Radha Gargeya seconded the motion. All present were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Francy Zingale

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