

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

**Tuesday, April 26, 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, Interim Director of Finance and Operations; Senators Michael Barrett and Jamie Eldridge; Mr. James Blatchford, Steve Roderick.

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:37pm.

**Approval of Minutes**

On a motion from Patty Mostue and seconded by Kevin Matthews, the Minutes for April 5, 2016 were approved pending edits. All were in favor.

**Presentation**

Legislators Jamie Eldridge, Michael Barrett, and James Blatchford, who represented Carmine Gentile were present for the meeting. The School Committee prepared questions regarding issues of concern. Elena Kleifges noted that between 2011 and 2015, nearly 100 unfunded mandates were required of communities. Senator Barrett replied that he and his fellow legislators were aware of the burden unfunded mandates placed on constituent communities. Senator Eldridge requested that the School Committee provide his office with a list of specific mandates that the School District felt were unnecessary or overly onerous and his office would look into taking legislative action.

Bella Wong brought to the attention of the legislators a recent mandate that school districts adhere to a strict substance abuse policy requiring an assessment of all students in every grade of at least 10 minutes duration per student. Senator Eldridge stated that a district's School Committee or

Superintendent could request a waiver for the substance abuse mandate if the school adequately addresses the issue of substance abuse.

A discussion followed of the Foundation Budget Review Commission. Senators Barrett and Eldridge were in favor of full funding of foundation numbers to help schools with costs associated with employee health benefits, special education, and ELL students. The Massachusetts legislators are trying to support the largest unfunded mandates through the circuit breaker. The legislators advised the School Committee members that their support through the Massachusetts Association of School Committees and the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents was important to strengthen support at the state house. Regional transportation cost increases are of concern to LS. The MASC is encouraging the state to raise reimbursement rates to 80% from the current 73%. Senators Barrett and Eldridge replied that every Massachusetts Senator had a regional school district within their region and were very aware and interested in this issue.

A discussion followed regarding the issue of educating the students of non-military families living in Hanscom Base housing. Affected school districts have discovered that money to support the students' education does not follow them depending the school district they choose to attend. Some issues have to do with the Department of Defense arrangement with the Housing Authorities that handle base housing. Clearly there is much to unravel in this situation and that the results will impact Lincoln Sudbury Regional High School.

Ms. Wong brought to the legislator's attention the cost of state mandated Sheltered English Immersion Training to Faculty at LS where there are very few students requiring this service. This effort was the result of a federal case that has resulted in local impact. Because of the low incidence of English as a second language, the accumulated cost of teacher training for this is exorbitant.

Schools are also adversely impacted by Title IX investigations when there is also a local criminal investigation. The relative priorities between Title IX and local investigations are extremely unclear to educators. The issue for LS is the cost in legal fees in attempting to comply with Title IX restrictions. Senator Eldridge agreed that there were a number of areas in which Federal Law and State Law were not in congruence and required work to harmonize. Once again, this was an area in which legislators and school superintendents and school committees must all work for progress to clarify and amend regulations.

The next topic to be discussed was standardized testing whether it is PARCC, MCAS or a hybrid. Ms. Wong stated that the state has not yet created a test reliable enough to provide authentic data. She is not in favor of annual testing or high stakes testing as they are but one marker among many other markers. Periodic testing would be better. Gerald Quirk pointed out that LS is a high performing district consequently testing deprives LS students of an opportunity to learn. Senator Barrett endorsed Ms. Wong's point that testing has become too time consuming.

Ms. Wong asked the legislators' position on legalization of Marijuana. She pointed out that the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents were opposed to legalization and that our local law enforcement officers were also opposed to legalization. The legislators were not against legalization per se but recognized that legalization would bring with it the need for a host of regulations designed to oversee production, distribution and sale of the substance.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **Recognitions**

D.E.A.R. (Depression Exists, Ask for Relief) is a student-founded group that meets during ACA each week. DEAR began during the 2013-2014 school year as a club geared toward raising awareness about depression and other mental illness. Since then, it has grown to also serve as a support group for students who have struggled or who are currently struggling. The club provides a safe place for peers to support one another in an environment that is student-led. The annual D.E.A.R. Forum during which students have shared their experiences with depression and other mental illness will be held on Tuesday, May 3 during blocks 4 & 7 in the Rogers Theater. Stephanie Kunst is the Faculty Advisor for D.E.A.R.

During April vacation, LS students travelled to Rome on the Latin Trip; to Japan to visit Tokyo, Hiroshima, and Kyoto; to Spain on the Spanish Exchange for student homestays and side trips to Madrid and Segovia; and to New Orleans to work on the Katrina Project to assist Habitat for Humanity. Thank you to the Faculty that have taken on the organization and management of these extraordinary opportunities for LS students!

LS Latin teachers Alissa Jarvis and Lisa Lupinacci traveled with 14 LS Latin students to Rome during April vacation. The purpose of the trip, planned in conjunction with The Paideia Institute, was to expose students to the history of Rome through visits to ancient sites and readings from

Latin authors. Walking 12-15 miles per day, students learned about the rich, multicultural history of Rome by visits to the Forum, Baths of Caracalla, Appian Way, and Colosseum; the Capitoline museum, Vatican collection, and Borghese art gallery; and lesser known sites such as the Roman ruins beneath a medieval church. Excursions included a day trip to Ostia Antica, Rome's port town, and Hadrian's Villa in Tivoli.

Paula Myers and Charli Asta-Ferraro, faculty chaperones for the Katrina Project trip to New Orleans report that the nine students from LS worked on rebuilding houses with Habitat for Humanity. The students distinguished themselves by being dedicated hard workers with good attitudes. The following students went on the trip: Ally Barth, Matthew Bowen, Abby Bridgemohan, Dorothea Callen, Leah Carney, Rachel Johnson, Shelley Liu, Christian Rowan, Lizzy Yeager. Lynne Hunter and Shoshi Kahn-Woods are advisors for the Katrina Project. They help students fundraise, facilitate some aspects of the trip, and--most importantly--they do a wonderful job preparing our students to be positive, engaged, hard-working volunteers.

Regarding the LS student trip to Japan, Tom Danko writes: On March 11th 2011 Japan was struck by a devastating earthquake and a horrifying tsunami. LS students responded by raising funds to aid the victims. We called ourselves the Tomodaichi Club. Tomodaichi means friendship in Japanese. The following year we were invited to a thank you dinner at the Japanese consulate in Boston. I received a grant from FELS to explore the possibility of taking students to Japan. That summer temperatures reached 41° C (105°F). My visit was enlightening and rewarding, but I realized it was not practical to go in the summer.

This past spring break I had the honor and privilege, along with co-chaperones Vicky Caburian and Nicole Digenis to accompany 16 LS students to Japan for ten days. We visited the cities of Kyoto, Hiroshima and Tokyo. Of the many highlights we enjoyed, a particularly powerful one involved visiting a classroom of students in Hiroshima. The trip was powerful, emotional and transformative. One student has already created a short video of the trip. Her last frames were these words "take me back".

The 2016 Atkinson Scholarship Recipients have been announced. They are: Scott, Brauer, Whitey Findlay, Matthew Flanagan, Emily Gorman, Rebecca Gorman, Rachael Grosso, Sarena Ho, Julie Hutchinson, Annette Lee, Mariah Prosansky, William Sheldon, Jessica Thai, Caroline Thomas, Kathryn Weiler, and Rojanaye Daley. Congratulations to all!

The LSB Players (Faculty Advisor Carly Evans) are preparing for the spring production "***The Secret in the Wings***" by Mary Zimmerman about a child left in the care of a babysitter who reads lesser known fairy tales from a book and as the tales are read, the characters materialize only to disappear as the tale is discontinued and the next tale begins. The play will be performed in the LS Auditorium on April 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.

In April, the Violin Ensemble (Melody Phu, Anthony Moseman, Eugenia Zhang, Bryce Mashimo, Michael Yue, and Emma Christman) and the Brass Quartet (Zhongyi Zuo, Claire Telfer, Sam Ryan and Tom Standikov) performed at Coolidge House in Sudbury for the residents. The Select Jazz Combo (Zach Day, Jimmy Palmerino, Chris Manente, Michael Farren, George Behrakis and Jacob Weinstein) performed at the St. Anselm's Clambake on Saturday evening, April 10<sup>th</sup>.

The Autism Awareness Club was started in the fall of 2014 by senior Madison Marilla. She was quickly joined by a group of students who have an interest in learning about autism, students who know someone who is autistic, and students who are autistic themselves. Four panelists will share their story on Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 10am with Block 4 teachers and classmates, psychology teachers and other school personnel. Beth Mangano is Faculty Advisor for the club.

LS Alum Chris Evans was featured in the Boston Globe on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. He speaks about his new Captain American movie and his love for the Boston area, particularly Sudbury and Concord. His goal as an actor is to ground the characters he plays in reality. He has taken to heart the advice given him by Marvel Comics writer Stan Lee, "Don't forget, who you are off-camera reflects who you are on-camera."

Spoken Word Poet Regie Gibson will be performing at LS on Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at 9am in the auditorium. Mr. Gibson is a former National Poetry Slam Champion who received his MFA from New England College. He currently lectures and performs widely in the U.S., Cuba and Europe. The performance was arranged by Annalisa Notaro.

The Lincoln-Sudbury Technology and Engineering program and AP Art Class will be holding an open house and show of student work on Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup> from 7-9 PM. Student-designed rockets, solar powered water heaters, woodworking projects, sculpture, paintings and more will be on display. Come see 3D printing and CNC Routing in action, drive the 2016 Warrior Robotics robot and hear some great music from the LS Select Jazz Combo. The shows will be on the B200s level near the cafeteria. Paul Shultz has organized the Open House.

Accent A Cappella will be singing the National Anthem at Town Meeting on Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016. Students performing are: Summer Stuart, Madelyn Paquette, Olivia Bodley, Jack Troiano, Charlotte Dezen, Andrew Lascaleia, Caleb Martin-Rosenthal, Matthew Milton, Antoine Baize, Lauren Weintraub, Ana

Shaughnessy, Brian Lynch, Patrick McGrath, Nick Smith, Adam Thompson, Sara Kimble, and Maddy Kline.

The Mentors in Violence Prevention visited 8<sup>th</sup> grade homerooms at Lincoln Public School and Curtis Middle School to lead 8<sup>th</sup> graders through VP activities about gender roles, healthy relationships and being an upstander. The LS students had previously met with Curtis and Lincoln counselors and principals to appropriately modify the MVP curriculum for the middle school students.

The LS MVP Program and Lori Hodin were recognized by Attorney General Maura Healy at the *Think Peace Benefit for Lauren Dunne Astley Memorial Fund* for their work in preventing dating violence.

LS Lacrosse Team leaders participated in *Escalation* training with Melanie Sperling, a One Love Foundation Program Coordinator, and then worked with their coach **Tim Jason** to facilitate *Escalation* training with the LS Varsity Lacrosse Team.

### **Student Representative Report**

The Student Senate sponsored their annual faculty and staff appreciation week, which we thought went quite well! The Student Senate is preparing to present to the faculty next Wednesday on our 'No homework over vacation' proposal,

### **Teacher's Association Report**

Steve Roderick detailed the plans for School Committee members' visit to classes on Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup> followed by lunch in Department offices. He reported that the teachers appreciate the efforts of the School Committee on their behalf and were looking forward to the class visits.

### **Chairman's Report**

Elena Kleifges thanked the Teachers' Association for dinner on Monday, April 25. The annual event provides a wonderful opportunity for discussion between Faculty and School Committee members.

She reminded the School Committee members that the Suburban Coalition would be holding a Foundation Budget Review on May 1<sup>st</sup> at the Newton Marriott.

### **Liaison Reports**

Nancy Marshall reported that the Workshop with Dorothy Presser would be postponed until a later date. The OPEB Trustees would meet on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and Mrs. Marshall reminded School Committee members that FELS would be holding an event in the auditorium on May 5<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

### **Superintendent/Principal's Report**

Bella Wong reported that the 10-year evaluation visit of NEASC would be deferred for a year and would be held during FY19. Dan Conti will lead the NEASC study again. Ms. Wong has also received notice from the NEASC that the organization will embrace work already undertaken by LS.

Leslie Patterson, Aida Ramos, and Eleanor Burke attended meetings with Ms. Wong of the Lincoln Parent Organization and the Curtis Parent Organization to discuss student transition from middle school to high school. LS Students attended the meeting also to discuss the transition from their point of view.

A number of student trips will be taking place during the April vacation. Trips to Rome, Japan, Spain and New Orleans have been planned.

### **Director of Finance and Operations' Report**

Peter Rowe reported that bids for replacing the surface of the track and for a new water heater are being sought from qualified vendors. The Annual Sudbury Town Meeting will be held on May 2,3, and 4 in the LS Auditorium. Discussions are ongoing with Sudbury Public Schools and the bus transportation company to coordinate the lengthening of the SPS school day by 30 minutes which may necessitate adding more buses to accommodate the change. Discussions have begun with Sudbury Public regarding coordinating OPEB efforts with Sudbury Public Schools.

### **Information & Discussion**

There was no information or discussion.

### **Action Items**

Vouchers #1040, 1041, 1042 and Payroll 4/15/16 were signed.

### **Other Business**

There was no other business.

### **Calendar of School Events**

Spring Show	April 27-30, 2016
Poet Reggie Gibson	April 29, 2016
Sudbury Town Meeting	May 1-3, 2016
Arts Day	May 6, 2016
LS School Committee	May 10, 2016
Tech & Engineering Open House	May 10, 2016

Cum Laude Banquet	May 11, 2016
Instrumental Concert	May 12, 2016
Tri-School Meeting	May 17, 2016
Community Sing	May 19, 2016

**Adjourn**

On a motion from Nancy Marshall and seconded by Kevin Matthews, the meeting was adjourned at 9:27pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Francy Zingale