

LINCOLN SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
May 24, 2016

5:30 pm

Salvation Army Kroc Center
Boston, MA

Present

Elena Kleifges, Chair; Kevin Matthews, Vice-Chair; Radha Gargeya; Nancy Marshall; Gerald Quirk. Patty Mostue was not present.

Also Present

Bella Wong, Superintendent/Principal; Peter Rowe, Interim Director of Finance and Operations; Caroline Singler, Science Teacher; Tom Danko, Science Teacher; Steve Desrosiers and Carmen Rodi, METCO.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:45pm.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion from Nancy Marshall and seconded by Gerald Quirk, the Minutes for April 26th, 2016 were approved pending edits. All were in favor.

Approval of the Minutes for May 10th, 2016 will be voted on at the June 7th meeting.

Public Comment

Mr. Ed Walker, parent of a junior at LS, asked for more effective ways for METCO parents to have direct contact with LS teachers and administration. His children have been participants in the METCO program for many years and although the overall experience has been good, he would like to see methods of communicating with teachers improved.

Presentation

There was no presentation.

Recognitions

Matt Johnson (L-S Senior golfer) was invited to participate in the NE Golf Championships on June 22nd in Keene, New Hampshire to participate in the New England Interscholastic Golf Championships. This elite competition, which will bring together the best high school golfers from the states of Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont and Massachusetts will take place at the Bretwood Country Club in Keene, New Hampshire on Wednesday June 22, 2016.

Andrew Ryder has received a Silver Medal in the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards of 2016. He has been identified by a panel of creative professionals as one of the most talented young artists in the nation. This year, nearly 320,000 works of art and writing were submitted. Only the top 1% were recognized at the National Level. Andrew submitted a work in the Drawing and Illustration category entitled "Desired Lines and Shirts so Fine."

Congratulations to Rojanaye Daley on being a recipient of the 2016 Atkinson Scholarship. The Atkinson Scholarship Program was established in 1995 to recognize local high school seniors with financial need, academic promise and the capacity to

make a meaningful contribution to society. The program is named for Sudbury Foundation founders Herbert and Esther Atkinson who believed strongly in giving back to the community and who were particularly interested in supporting the town's young people. The program offers eligible students a maximum of \$5,000 per year in scholarships towards their pursuit of an undergraduate degree at a 4-year college/ university.

The METCO Q3 Honor Roll results for 3.5 GPA and better are: Damoni Cooper, Itzel Herrera Garcia, Sarada Murrett Kam, Janaii Valentine, Mickhala Snipe-Brown, and Sammi Chen. Student with a 2.9 GPA are Jada McCray, Suley Oller-Guerrero, Cristian Roby, Christele Saint Louis, Treon Washington, Maria Figueroa, Shanice Fletcher, Andrew Joseph, Haley Lopes, Isabella Martinez, Elcie Merck, Kayla Pereira, Bria Phillips, Osmani Rodriguez, Nia Williams, Alexandra Arias, Neandra Fernandes, Ariannah Gervais, Tiauna Walker, Jayla Wright-Diggs, Ne'Tayja Cassamajor, Sherielle Grant, and Azalyn Patterson.

Marie Galano's French classes sponsored a showing of the film "Samba" on Friday, May 13th in the LS Auditorium. Mr. Desrosiers introduced the film beginning with a short film of his brother-in-law singing "Colour Café" from Haiti.

The following teachers have received SERF Teacher Appreciation Awards in May: Nathaniel Armistead, David Cole, Laura Cole, Tom Danko, Colleen Demers, Cristina Gonzalez, Thomas Grandprey, Emily Hopwood, Dan Lewis, Lisa Lupinacci, Melanie Mahoney, Angela Medeiros, Melissa Shen, Caroline Singler and Mat Warner. Well done!!!

The METCO Parents Council will be holding a Family and Friend Fun Night (Bingo) on June 10th at the ABCD Facility, 714 Parker Street, Roxbury at 6:00 pm. Snacks, drinks and pizza will be for sale at the facility.

There will be a student panel on Racial Micro-aggressions at LS on Friday, May 27th at 12:36pm in the Lecture Hall. As a result of recent incidents at LS, it has become clear that more education and conversation regarding race and racism is needed. Students have requested additional opportunities to broach the complex reality of racism at LS. Student panelists will be drawn from the 9th grade Diversity Workshop Leaders, from the Asian-American Female Empowerment Club, Intersections, METCO, and Sisters' Circle to discuss ways in which we can address racial micro-aggressions at LS in ways that uphold our school's core values and motto: "Think for yourself, but think of others." The purpose of the meeting will be to identify racial micro-aggressions, to explore how they play out at LS and their impact on the target, and to discuss behavioral interventions and options for adults and students. Caroline Han and Lori Hodin are organizing the panel discussion.

Financial Aid Night for METCO students will take place on June 15th, 6:30pm, at the ABCD Mattapan. Katelyn Klapper, Educational Consultant at College Options. Mrs. Klapper is also a member of Friends of Boston. This event is open to all METCO parents but especially targeted to parents of LS juniors.

The film [Far From Home](#) will be shown in the Auditorium on Friday, June 3rd, at 10:00 am along with a Q&A from the producers. Produced by LS Alumni Phil Hessler and Adam Schellenberg, the feature documentary [Far From Home](#) tells the story of Brolin Maweje in his quest to become the first African to ever snowboard in the Winter Olympics. The film follows Brolin from his birthplace in Uganda to moving to Lincoln, MA where he fought against abuse and isolation ultimately finding sanctuary in the unlikely sport of

snowboarding. Now 23 years old. Brolin has completed his pre-med degree from Westminster College and formed the first Winter Ski Federation in Uganda. Brolin is currently competing internationally on the World Cup circuit as he attempts to become the first African snowboarder to qualify for the 2018 Winter Games. This is his story.

Student Senate Representative Report

Carly Gordenstein forwarded her report to Elena Kleifges. The Senate Elections for the 2016-2017 school year are underway so there will soon be a new set of Senators and Officeres in the near future.

Teachers' Association Report

Caroline Singler reported that the Staff Fun Day activities provided staff with an opportunity to interact socially and was an event enjoyed by all who participated. Thursday is the last day for seniors. Class advisors have been busy with Senior week activities. The Junior Prom was held on Saturday, May 21st, and the Senior Prom will be held on June 1st. Many teachers are involved in chaperoning these events. Hiring continues within departments, grades are due for seniors, and MCAS exams will be held on June 2 and 3.

METCO Report

Steve Desrosiers reported that the One Love Concert will be held on June 1st in the LS Auditorium. The Bob Marley Ensemble from Berklee School of Music will perform at 12:30 pm to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the METCO Program. All are welcome to attend.

Chairman's Report

Elena Kleifges invited parents of students in the METCO program to become METCO representatives at the School Committee meetings. She suggested sharing the task or coming once per month to enhance communication within the LS community. Mr. Ed Walker expressed an interest and will be informed of the coming year's School Committee schedule.

Liaison Report

There were no liaison reports.

Superintendent's Report

Ms. Wong reported on progress on the 2015-2016 School Goals. There have been two overarching goals for the current school year: What our students should be able to do before they graduate and Working to achieve access to equity and excellence for all students.

On the subject of what LS students should be able to do before they graduate, departments at LS have reflected on what it is they believe students should accomplish before graduation. In a rapidly changing world, the goals for students graduating from LS must evolve to meet the changes. The Global Scholars Program for 10th to 12th grade students is one such effort. It now has 80 students enrolled in developing three competencies: cultural empathy for other cultures; 4 years of language study to give students access to other cultures; a development of content and skills to appreciate the world's dilemmas. Students are expected to be aware of global issues such as global economy, public health, the environment and the causes of world conflict. Travel is an important component of developing students' awareness of global issues. This year

trips to Japan, Cold War Europe, Cambodia and Italy have been completed. Effort continue to generate travel funds to assist students with financial needs.

A second endeavor undertaken this school year is the Center for Innovation which will be open to all LS students and led by teachers to work on projects whose solutions may be scaled up onto a global level. Problem solving regarding environment sustainability, fresh water, iPhone apps, and peer mediation are all possible topics for the Center for Innovation which will be located in the White House Pre-School. To date, \$44,000 has been raised for the project which will probably cost \$250,000. The work done in the Innovation Center will be integrated into the existing curriculum.

To accomplish access to equity and excellence for all LS students, Ms. Wong indicated that administration and staff will be examining data regarding youth culture and seeking to partner with parents to improve student performance gaps. Added to the FY17 Budget is an Intervention Specialist to augment the support offered by the Academic Support Center. The purpose is to support students struggling to meet benchmarks. The Intervention Specialist will teach 3-4 targeted skills classes for 9th grade students. Transition meetings for incoming 9th graders will help determine candidates best served by this support.

Diversity training has been focus for this year and is a result of disconnection evidenced by the response to events in Ferguson, Missouri in December 2014. Faculty and Administration have reflected on ways to help students and faculty support one another around differences within the LS community. This year 67 eleventh and twelfth grade students working with trained adults offered diversity workshops to all students. The workshops for 9th graders were scheduled during MCAS exam days so that no class time was lost. Funds designed to support professional development of teachers at LS have been used to support diversity training within the staff at LS.

Mr. Walker, METCO parent, would welcome an opportunity to converse with teachers regarding the performance gap between students at LS. He would like to hear of ways in which parents can become more involved and would welcome advice and strategies for improving academic performance. Bella Wong replied that the school could improve its communications with parents, that encouragement of leadership could be enhanced and that, in general, LS must hold itself accountable to data and work to improve instructional practice by supporting faculty to teach students better and to encourage and guide professional development.

Radha Gargeya added that LS provides a variety of supports for students but that parent involvement and engagement were essential ingredients to a student's success. Mr. Walker reminded the members of the School Committee that many parents in the METCO program could benefit from concrete suggestions of ways to improve student academic performance. Many parents have had limited academic experience and so are not always aware of best practices when supporting the efforts of high school students.

Bella Wong added that one thing parents can do to benefit their students is to model tenacity, to keep working until goals are achieved. She recognized that the METCO community is remarkably diverse with students coming from many cultures and from families from a myriad of countries. Hearing the concerns of the Boston parents has been important so that LS can best personalize service to their students. Another Boston parent expressed her concern regarding teaching the Boston students how to

best deal with racial issues. Ms. Wong acknowledged her concerns and expressed the belief that it was the responsibility of all members of the LS community to educate themselves about one another and to remember that it was important to teach students to hear all voices in the community to better learn different perspectives.

Gerald Quirk concluded the discussion by saying that there was much to celebrate in the endeavor of educating our students so that they are prepared to navigate the world. In partnering with parents to achieve academic success, communication is key as is creating organic opportunities to support one another by sharing information.

Business

Peter Rowe requested that the School Committee vote to transfer \$246,000 to the capital infrastructure fund to pay for a new orchestra pit cover, the water tower relining, a new water heater, computer equipment and a new van and for feasibility study for the Center for Innovation. The extra funds are the result of savings in health insurance and energy from the new solar array project.

VOTE: FY16 Budget Transfer of \$246,000 to Capital Infrastructure Fund. Kevin Matthews moved to approve the transfer of \$246,000 in funds within the FY16 Budget to reflect proposed and anticipated expenditures that are consistent with spending projections for FY16.” Gerald Quirk seconded the motion. There was no discussion and all were in favor.

Action Items

There were no Action Items.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Calendar

Senior Awards Ceremony	May 25, 2016
Seniors Last Day	May 26, 2016
Senior Scholarship Ceremony	May 31, 2016
Graduation Class of 2016	June 5, 2016
LS School Committee Meeting	June 7, 2016

Adjourn

On a motion from Nancy Marshall and seconded by Gerald Quirk, the meeting was adjourned at 6:38pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Francy Zingale