

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

Tuesday, June 7, 2016

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

L-S Conference

Present

Elena Kleifges, Chair; Radha Gargeya; Nancy Marshall; Patty Mostue

Also Present

Bella Wong, Superintendent/Principal; Peter Rowe, Interim Director of Finance and Operations; Steve Roderick, TA President; Laura Cole and Emily Hopwood, Counselors; Emily Phillips, Clinical Counselor.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes for May 10th and 24th were not approved because there was no quorum.

Presentation

Emily Hopwood and Laura Cole of the LS Counseling Department presented the guidance curriculum for LS students and services available to them.

There are two guidance counselors and a .5 Clinical Counselor for each house providing support services for all LS Students. The guidance counseling team seeks to develop relationships with all students beginning the first day of school and continuing through senior year.

The counseling department has developed a comprehensive curriculum to assist students in each grade level. The 9th grade curriculum addresses transitions. Session 1 is an introduction to the house system, counselors, and confidentiality requirements and practices. Session 2 covers graduation requirements and resources for students within the building. Session 3 involves a discussion of LS Core Values. Session 4 covers time management and the handling of distractions.

The 10th grade curriculum is entitled “Exploration”. Session 1 provides an introduction to Naviance. Session 2 introduces students to career and self-assessment tools. Session 3 explores stress management techniques including mindfulness lessons and muscle relaxation. The counseling department interfaces with the Clinical Counselors in providing social/emotional support for all students including crisis intervention, dealing with stress, depression and anxiety support, peer relationship building and cultural awareness. The clinical team works with all students providing educational workshops around identifying depression, the signs of suicide, grade level seminars and specific program-based classes.

The 11th grade curriculum is entitled “Future Planning” and includes an introduction to post-high school planning, understanding college selectivity, requesting letters of recommendation, writing an essay and individual meetings with counselors.

Post-secondary planning is an important aspect of the guidance counseling curriculum. Junior seminars, individual post-secondary planning, the Naviance presentation at the SERF College Fair, and senior class meetings are all facets of post-secondary planning.

In addition, 100 college representatives meet LS students at LS during their free blocks. The counseling department has sponsored “Ask an Admissions Counselor” workshop inviting admissions directors from local colleges and universities to provide a forum for LS students to ask questions. Other yearly events are the Gap Year Student Panel, Military Career Day, and professional development opportunities for teachers to learn the finer points of writing effective college recommendations from admissions directors.

Over 90% of the graduating class plan to attend a college or university, 65% of graduating seniors plan to attend a college or university outside of Massachusetts, and 2% of LS students expect to experience post-secondary education outside the U.S.

In addition, the Counseling Department organizes and hosts the 8th Grade parents’ Night; 9th Grade Parents’ Night; College Planning Night; METCO College Planning Night; Metrowest Health Youth Risk Survey; Social Media Instagram@LSCounselors; Specific Interventions; Academic Support Center; Beacon Transition Program; 504 plans; and support groups in specific programs such as LINK, ASK, REACH, METCO, and EXCEL.

Bella Wong complimented Laura Cole and Emily Hopwood as coordinators of the counseling program. They have effected many changes over the course of the past two years that have transformed the counseling program at LS.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Recognitions

The New England Scholastic Press Association awarded Senior Kate Weiler, writer for the Forum, two accolades: one for her article on Paris and one for her photo spread of Senior Dress-Up Day at LS. The Forum received an award for the quality of the paper as a whole. Paul Sarapas and Katelyn Dix are the Forum advisors.

The **French Club** raised about \$45 for **9 Élèves** (a student-run charity that provides funds for education in Haiti) at their spring bake sale on. Julia Keith is the Faculty Advisor for the French Club.

On Sunday May 22, several members of the L-S String Orchestra combined with the Civic Orchestra at their spring concert for a performance of Bacchanale from Sampson and Delilah, composed by Camille Saint-Saëns. Tom Grandprey was guest conductor for the piece. LS Students Alicia Poulin, Ariel Joiner, Bryce Mashimo, Camille Slattery, Declan Morris, Dylan Quirk, Emma Christman, Francoise Hultin Kara Bolli, Kent Mashimo, Liam Shaughnessy, Michael Yue, Neandra Fernandes, Peter Jubenville, Steven Yao, Veronica Guo and Vincent Zhao participated in the spring concert.

34 LS student leaders have been involved in introducing incoming 9th graders to LS. The LS students visited both Lincoln and Sudbury 8th grade classes to answer questions about life at LS. Our students were articulate, enthusiastic and thoughtful in all they had to share about Lincoln-Sudbury. Susan Shields arranged the visit and shared comments she overheard:

"The teachers are so helpful and you can tell they love what they teach."

"Don't stress about college right now. Enjoy 9th grade."

"Use your free-time wisely and remember there are so many folks to help you with school. Just ask."

8th Grade classes from Sudbury visited LS on June 3rd and 8th Graders from Lincoln toured LS today, June 7th during Block 4.

The following staff members received an award from FELS: Cristina Gonzalez, David Grace, Caroline Han, Phil James, Tim Jason, Shea Justice, Shawn Miller, Eliza Mills, Lisa Lupinacci, JK Park, Helen Sotiriou, Lisa Weiss, and Erica Wilsen. Congratulations to all!

The Grater Boston Food Bank presented Jessica Orofino with an award in recognition of her leadership in the Power of Change Project to end hunger. To date, Power of Change project has raised over \$10,000 in spare change, multi-meal packs, in-kind donations and grants for hunger relief. They expressed their thanks to Jessica Orofino for her leadership in facilitating a successful Power of Change campaign at LS.

The Senior Day of Service was held on June 1st. 325 students out of 371 graduating seniors participated and all tasks were finished! Our thanks to Advisors Susan Frommer, Danielle Weisse, Tom Danko, and Rebecca Chizzo as well as our Building and Grounds crew for their efforts in organizing the service day. It was a perfect day for working outside! The organizations that benefited from the efforts of LS students were the Walden Woods Project (“What a great group you brought us today!”), the Massachusetts Audobon Drumlin Farm Sanctuary (“We had a great group of student volunteers at Drumlin Farm. They did a fantastic job and our staff was thrilled to work with them. The students tackled some tough projects and remained cheery despite the warm temperatures.”), the Wolbach Farm (“We really love this program—the kids are always great! See you next year.”), the Lincoln Council on Aging (“the team that came to the COA was wonderful!”), the Lincoln Pre-School (“The day was a hit and the preschoolers are still talking about it!

Your students were thoughtful, attentive, supportive and lots of fun!”), the Sudbury Garden Club (“as always you sent us a lovely bunch of hard working young ladies. They accomplished quite a bit.”) and the Sudbury Historical Society (“We had a great group of students helping us clear a path through the woods to the Native American Communal Grinding Stone. The boys’ parents should be proud of them!”)

On June 1st, the Berklee School of Music Bob Marley group performed in the LS Auditorium to celebrate the METCO Program’s 50th anniversary. LS Classes attended the event organized by Steve Desrosiers, METCO Director for Sudbury.

LS Sports Teams continue in playoffs. Boys baseball had a thrilling come from behind win against Westford yesterday, June 6th, and advanced to play at Acton-Boxborough at Alumni Field on Wednesday, June 8th, at 4 pm. LS is playing AB in three playoff games over the next two days. The Boys Lacrosse game will take place on June 8th at 6 pm tomorrow. Girls’ Lacrosse played Acton-Boxborough at 4:45pm today and Boys Volleyball game against Framingham at Wellesley began at 7pm this evening. GO LS!!

Tomorrow, June 8th, the LSPO has invited Staff to their annual Staff Appreciation Lunch in Conference Room B. This is a highly anticipated event that everyone looks forward to!

The Pierce House Lunch will be held on June 16th, Thursday, in Lincoln. Members of the School Committee are invited. It is a wonderful time to connect with Faculty and Staff and a time to express our appreciation to staff members who are retiring from LS.

Student Representative Report

Carly Gordenstein was not present, but reported to Elena Kleifges that she would be introducing the new Student Senate President at the June 28th Meeting.

Teacher's Association Report

Steve Roderick informed the Committee that this was his last School Committee meeting. The new LS TA President will be Caroline Singler. Mr. Roderick offered the observation that at the beginning of the year he felt that there was an undercurrent of distrust within the faculty that he feels has improved greatly. He observed that to maintain a high functioning school, it is important that the Faculty trust the administrators and that the students trust the faculty and that such trust requires open and honest communication.

Chairman's Report

Elena Kleifges began her report by commending Ms. Wong and staff for a wonderful graduation despite the move to Gym 1 as a result of inclement weather. Ms. Kleifges remarked on the sense of intimacy the new location lent the event and complimented Ms. Wong for keeping the families informed of the decision-making process surrounding the change in venue.

Ms. Kleifges suggested moving the next LS School Committee meeting to June 28th to accommodate participants' schedules. She reminded the School Committee members that the retreat with Glenn Koocher (substituting for Dorothy Presser) from the Massachusetts Association of School Committees will be held on June 22nd.

Liaison Reports

There were no liaison reports.

Superintendent/Principal's Report

Ms. Wong reported on the number of events preceding graduation that had occurred beginning with the METCO Awards Ceremony on May 24th. Since that time the ACE Program and Excel Program have held their end of year banquets. The Senior Award Ceremony occurred on May 25th, followed by the Senior Scholarship Ceremony on May 31st, the Senior Day of Service, Senior Prom, and Graduation. Lori Hodin, Jen Reen, and Caroline Han organized an informative panel discussion on Micro-Aggressions on Friday, June 10th.

Ms. Wong informed the Committee that the decision to hold graduation indoors was a stressful one and she thanked BJ Pegram for his advice regarding the weather. Ms. Wong was particularly concerned that student musicians would be unable to perform in the event of rain. Ms. Wong expressed her appreciation of the many hands it took to adjust to the change and was impressed by the positive and cooperative attitude exhibited by all, including Jamaica Jammin' , Housemasters, Building and Grounds, the families and graduates.

Work continues on hiring, last classes, 8th graders touring the building, exam week, a tour of three innovation centers, and retirement events. The tour of innovation centers included the Impact Hub at 55 Milk Street in Boston, the Eureka Lab at Meadowbrook School, and the Hatch Center at the Watertown Mall. Meadowbrook School has just broken ground for a permanent facility for the Eureka Lab that is geared for a K-8 population. The Arsenal Mall Hatch Lab is run by the Watertown Library and is open after school, staffed by volunteers. The last center visited was the Impact Hub in Boston that is designed for adults. Ken Kimura, Mark Sobkowicz, Carol Padden, Bella Wong, Sandy Crawford, and three students from LS visited all three lab spaces on Saturday, June 4th.

Director of Finance and Operations' Report

Peter Rowe reported that MGL c.71 Section 16C was amended to allow regional school districts to create a Regional School Transportation Reimbursement Fund and carry forward up to one year of funds into the following fiscal year. The purpose of this mechanism is to provide budget stability in an environment where the reimbursement amount has shifted significantly from year to year. The committee voted on March 17, 2015, to create the fund. Mr. Rowe recommends that the School Committee vote to transfer unspent transportation monies into the fund.

VOTE: Radha Gargeya moved "that the sum of \$78,000 be transferred from FY16 regional transportation reimbursement into the Revolving Fund for Transportation (Fund 6001)." Nancy Marshall seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All were in favor.

Mr. Rowe will have tuition rates prepared for the LS School Committee meeting on June 28th.

Information & Discussion

There was no information or discussion.

Action Items

Vouchers #1048 and Payroll for 5/27/16 were signed.

Vote: Revolving Accounts

A Vote on the Annual Tuition Rates will be made at the July 12th LS School Committee Retreat.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Calendar of School Events

9 to 11 grade Awards Ceremony	June 9, 2016
4 th Quarter Ends	June 20, 2016
LS School Committee	June 28, 2016
Final Exams	June 17-22, 2016
Teachers' Workshop	June 23, 2016
LS School Committee Retreat	July 12, 2016

Adjourn

On a motion from Nancy Marshall and seconded by Radha Gargeya, the meeting was adjourned at 9:12pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Francy Zingale