

**LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
Tuesday, May 11, 2021**

**Present**

Ellen Joachim, Chair; Carole Kasper, Vice-Chair; Harold Engstrom; Cara Endyke-Doran; Kevin Matthew; Candace Miller

**Also Present**

Bella Wong, Superintendent/Principal; Kirsteen Patterson, Director of Finance and Operations; Joshua Gilman, Teachers' Association Co-President; Lisa Weiss, Math Department Coordinator; Melanie Palma, Incoming Math Department Coordinator; Andreas Masiakos, Student Representative; Lynn James, METCO Parent Representative.

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 pm after Executive Session which began at 7:00 pm.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Presentation**

Lisa Weiss, current Math Department Coordinator, and Melanie Palma, incoming department coordinator.

Lisa Weiss reported that the Math Department includes 22 teachers among whom are 3 LS alumni. All members of the Math Department teach the length and breadth of the curriculum at all levels. Members of the Math Department are also active as club advisors and coaches. Ms. Weiss commended the department members for their resilience and perseverance over the past 15 months as they learned new strategies, new technologies, and methods for managing student communications. Ms. Weiss is confident that students have received and learned the content of their courses despite the obstacles presented by the pandemic. The collegiality of the teachers in the Math Department has proved to be a significant strength in navigating the changes and challenges of the past 15 months. Discussions regarding teaching methods and strategies of conveying content are constant among department members as preparations are made for the coming school year. The presence of student teachers in the department brings vitality and reflections on the craft as teachers guide the student teachers throughout the year.

In terms of curriculum and course offerings, a new non-Advanced Placement (AP) course in Calculus has been successful and will be offered again in the coming year. The celebration of Pi Day is a school-wide tradition brought to life by the Math Department as a means of celebrating the excitement of math to everyone in the LS community. The department also supports the Math Team which competes in national math exams. Melanie Palma and Kristen Ehrler have coached the Math Team for the past seven years. Despite the pandemic, the Math Team has been practicing remotely throughout the year.

Initiatives for the future include summer work in:

- Making thinking visible, exploring routines to develop thinking as a behavior among students
- Developing a reality fair to run in conjunction with the Financial Literacy course
- Increase the efficacy of Café Mathematica
- Reflect on the past year, changes in teaching and assessments

Math Department wish list includes:

- Transforming the Math Computer lab into an open and dynamic thinking space
- Development of new courses
- Increase the vibrancy of the Math wing
- Continue to find ways to encourage LS students to explore the world mathematically

The Math Department assesses constantly methods of reaching all students for providing accessibility for diverse learners.

The School Committee members and Bella expressed their appreciation to Lisa Weiss who will be retiring at the end of the current school year. A warm welcome was extended to Melanie Palma who will become Department Coordinator for the next school year.

### **Recognitions**

Ms. Wong recognized those who have supported co-curricular activities at LS. Ms. Wong acknowledged all advisors and coaches who have provided a sense of normalcy in abnormal times. She particularly noted Carly Evans, advisor to the LSB Players, and Thomas Grandprey and Michael Bunting who have scheduled Music Department events.

Ms. Wong also recognized Ellen Joachim and Carole Kasper who will retire as Chair and Vice-Chair of the LS School Committee. Their terms have been without doubt the most challenging years in recent memory and they have attended to the well-being of LS staff, students, and families. They have met the challenges, extraordinary time commitments and beyond with notable leadership. Ms. Wong also thanked them for their invaluable support.

### **Student Representative Report**

Andreas Masiakos reported that in this third week of in-person learning, students have enjoyed seeing one another and experiencing a school day that is more familiar and welcome to them than what they have experienced in the past year. The student senate appreciates the leadership and effort involved by LS Administration and staff in making it happen!

### **METCO Parent Representative Report**

Lynn James reported that parents are hoping that the new METCO Director will provide consistency and be as committed to the METCO program as Shelley Hinds has been. Ms. Wong noted that the finalists would be available to meet virtually on May 12, 2021.

### **Teachers' Association Report**

Josh Gilman recognized his colleagues that have been involved in planning the Senior Prom for two nights on June 2<sup>nd</sup> and June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Mr. Gilman recognized the efforts involved in coordinating the Senior Day of Service which will take place on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Chairperson's and Liaison Report**

Ms. Kasper reminded the School Committee members that the Lincoln Town Meeting will take place on May 15, 2021.

Candace Miller reported on the first Policy Meeting with MASC. LS School Committee policies will be compared with MASC policies and will result in a complete set of policies for Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School. There will be monthly meetings until its completion.

### **Superintendent/Principal Report**

Ms. Wong updated the School Committee on in-person learning. It is the second week of MCAS and AP exams run through the beginning of June. Hiring committees have been busy interviewing for open positions. The Scheduling Department has been busy preparing schedules for the beginning of school in September. Class of 2021 events are taking place as the Senior Class prepares for Graduation.

Monitoring COVID19 infections beginning at the end of April have allowed us to keep tabs on infection rates. Pool testing has increased as students are required to submit tests for athletics and other co-curricular activities as well as seniors planning to attend Prom. Classrooms are set up outside, students are eating lunch outside and have been very good at wearing masks. Ms. Wong hopes that distancing requirements will be discontinued in the fall.

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

Kirsteen Patterson reported on the METCO Bus Transportation contract that is presented for vote by the School Committee this evening. METCO Inc. contracts bus transportation for all METCO districts. The contracts are typically three year contracts. Ms. Patterson recommends that the School Committee vote to approve the contract. Increases are expected in the Bus Transportation contract to come. The Cleaning Contract is open for bid and interested bidders have been interviewed. Ms. Patterson will provide an overview of the process at the June 8, 2021, LS School Committee meeting.

The Universal Free Lunch program has been a great success with a significant increase in customers for lunch and breakfast. The My School Bucks program has been expanded to provide an online payment structure for class fees including prom tickets. The online payment option provides useful reports for all student activities.

### **Action Items**

***VOTE: Carole Kasper offered a motion to approve the METCO Bus Transportation Contract and authorize Ellen Joachim to sign the contract which will begin with FY22. Harold Enstrom***

***seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The vote was approved via roll call vote.***

***VOTE: Carole Kasper offered a motion that the LS School Committee approve an annual stipend of \$7,000 for the School Committee Secretary with updated responsibilities effective immediately. Cara Endyke-Doran seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and all were in favor via roll call vote.***

### **Approval of Minutes**

Carole Kasper offered a motion to approve the edited LS School Committee Minutes for April 27th, 2021. The motion was seconded by Cara Endyke-Doran. There was no further discussion and all were in favor via roll call vote.

### **Future Agenda Items**

There were no future agenda items.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **Chairperson's Report**

Ellen Joachim concluded the meeting thanking the LS School Committee members, the team at LS, and the community board members. Ms. Joachim has great admiration for LS and confidence that the commitment of the LS School Committee, LS Administration, LS Faculty, and LS Staff will continually improve education for LS students. Ms. Joachim regards one key factor in progressing positively into the future. That key factor is a lack of trust among School Committee members, Administration, faculty, staff, students, parents and the broader community. Without trust, challenges become bigger and leaders are unable to take risks. This year we began to see an erosion of trust among some. Going forward, I hope that the entire LS community will come together to ensure that Lincoln-Sudbury continues to be a creative and innovative high school where all students are welcomed, engaged, challenged and supported. She wishes her fellow School Committee members all the best as they move forward in this work.

Harold Engstrom expressed his appreciation of the way Ms. Joachim has presided over the meetings and matters before the School Committee. He commended Ms. Kasper as well for her unflagging support of all things LS and her comments which have always been spot-on. Mr. Matthews appreciated the hard work involved in this unusual, unexpected year and added that Ellen and Carole have made a great team. Ms. Endyke-Doran hopes that the LS school community realizes the extraordinary amount of work the past year has engendered. She thanked both Ms. Joachim and Ms. Kasper for bringing along the new members of the committee and providing a comprehensive education to help them in their first years. Ms. Miller added that this year has exacted an emotional toll as well, particularly in responding to queries and demands whose tone has been difficult. She expressed her appreciation for the

strength and fortitude of Ms. Joachim and Ms. Kasper while keeping everyone on task throughout.

**Adjourn**

Ms. Joachim requested a motion to adjourn Open Session and enter Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining because an Open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the School Committee and to review and approve Executive Session minutes. Kevin Matthews seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor via roll call.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Francy Zingale

**To view video of the meeting, please go to: <https://sudbury.vod.cstus.tv/vod>**