

**LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 25, 2021**

7:00 PM

ZOOM MEETING

Present

Heather Cowap; Harold Engstrom; Cara Endyke-Doran; Kevin Matthews; Candace Miller; Mary Warzynski

Also Present

Bella Wong, Superintendent/Principal; Kirsteen Patterson, Director of Finance and Operations; Mark Mason, Teachers' Association; Riya Misra, Student Senate Representative

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM

Reorganization of the School Committee

Election of Chair

Bella Wong invited a nomination for Chair of the LS School Committee. Kevin Matthews proposed Cara Endyke-Doran as Chair for the coming year. Harold Engstrom seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations and no further discussion. Ms. Wong called for a roll call vote. All were in favor of Ms. Endyke-Doran becoming Chair of the LS School Committee. Ms. Wong relinquished the meeting to the new Chair.

Election of Vice-Chair

Ms. Endyke-Doran invited nominations for Vice-Chair. Harold Engstrom nominated Candace Miller. The nomination was seconded by Heather Cowap. There were no other nominations. There was no further discussion. All were in favor via roll call vote. Candace Miller is now the Vice-Chair of the School Committee.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Presentation

There was no presentation.

Information and Discussion

There were no information or discussion items.

Recognitions

Ms. Wong reported on the end of year celebrations. The ACE Program celebrated an end of year event and Ms. Wong recognized Martha Wall, David Bloom, Diana Phillips, Michael Hickey,

Edie Gonsalves, Matt Skelly and Stephanie Benash for their work in creating a meaningful evening for the ACE students.

Ms. Wong also recognized the efforts of Brendan Wimberley, Kayla DeWees, Lloyd Taft, Kendra Pavlik and Maxwell Finn in celebrating the end of year with EXCEL students. It was also a meaningful evening with many personal comments regarding each student.

Ms. Wong recognized the hiring committees that are working to meet with and evaluate the candidates for teachers in German, Math, Special Education, Chemistry, a METCO Program Director, and Counselor. Thanks to all staff that are involved in the hiring process.

Lastly, Ms. Wong expressed her thanks to all the participants in the Lincoln Town Meeting and the Sudbury Town Meeting. The FY22 Budget has been passed and Ms. Wong appreciated the efforts of community members of Town Boards for their guidance during the past budget season. The stadium field will be replaced by the start of school.

Student Representative Report

Riya Misra reported that students are delighted to be back in school and seniors are looking forward to graduation events as well as spirit days and other social events. She expressed her thanks on behalf of the student senate for all the work and care that went into returning to school fully in-person.

METCO Parent Representative Report

There was no METCO Parent Representative Report.

Teachers' Association Report

Mark Mason extended the Teachers' Association's welcome to the new Chair and Vice-Chair. Mr. Mason commended Maureen Bolton for her management of the AP testing program. He also recognized the Senior Advisors and Susan Frommer as well as all faculty and staff who have worked to bring senior events together.

Chairperson and Liaison Reports

Candace Miller reported that the Policy Subcommittee will be meeting again on June 17, 2021 to bring the LS Policy Manual up to date. Subcommittees and Liaison positions will be set at the next LS School Committee meeting.

There was no Chairperson's report other than a welcome to Heather Cowap and Mary Warzynski as new members of the School Committee.

Superintendent/Principal Report

Ms. Wong reported that the month of May at LS is always a very busy time. Everyone is enjoying having school fully in-person.

The capital items were approved: the aerial lift, resurfacing of tennis courts, and the stadium field are all approved.

Two weeks of MCAS testing for 10th graders is now complete. AP exams continue having started in mid-May and will end in early June. The Senior Awards Ceremony will take place on May 26th as a virtual presentation. The last day of school for seniors will be May 27, 2021. The Senior Scholarship Ceremony will be virtual and take place on June 1, 2021. There will be two nights for Senior Prom, June 2 and June 3, at the Wayside Inn in Sudbury, MA. Ms. Wong appreciated the assistance offered by the Wayside Inn including the offer to refund any monies expended by LS if COVID events prevented the prom from taking place. Pool testing will take place on May 27th at LS. All seniors wanting to attend the prom must submit a test and guests are invited to be tested as well.

Formal guidance for COVID rules regarding graduation is awaited from DESE. Masks are recommended for the unvaccinated. Seating will be in pods of 6 that will be distanced from other pods at graduation. The next DESE guidance is anticipated on May 29th.

Tenth Graders will have an assembly regarding substance abuse during the first week of June. Ms. Wong complimented LS Juniors who have not had the ability to use MaxEd privileges until after Seniors' last day.

Equity Surveys have been sent to families, students, and staff. It will take some time to prepare public presentations after reviewing the data acquired.

Ms. Wong reported that she and Dan Conti, English Teacher, had participated in a workshop to prepare LS for the New England Association of Schools Accreditation visit which will take place October 24-27, 2021.

At the next School Committee meeting on June 8, 2021, Ms. Wong will share the School Goals for next year as well as the School Council's School Improvement Plan which is required by law. The Strategic Plan provides multi-year goals.

E&D requests for summer workshop days have been approved. There have been nearly 470 requests for E&D workshop days that align with Strategic Plan Goals. Goals acclimating our students full time in-person and increasing connectedness are included. Staff has been requested to complete E&D by June 30th so that funds from FY21 may be used. Planning for next year at LS is well underway. Ms. Endyke-Doran reminded the Committee Members that the School Committee will also have to develop its own goals for the coming year and that work will no doubt take place during a summer meeting which will need to be planned. Ms. Wong suggested completing the School Policy work before the school year begins since there will be a scheduled review, NEASC review, and negotiations with the Teachers' Association to work on when the school year begins.

Director of Finance and Operations Report

Kirsteen Patterson reported on the RFP for Contract Cleaning which is up for a 3 year renewal. The review process has begun on bids submitted. It was a very competitive round with 8 bidders. A summary and request for a vote will be presented at the June 8, 2021 meeting.

The Department of Education has scheduled a food procurement review for LS to ascertain compliance with federal guidelines. LS needs to be state and locally compliant but must also be in line with federal guidelines since we receive federal monies.

The online payment process provided by My School Bucks has been very successful and will be expanded in the coming year. This year, tickets for the prom were sold and funds collected through the online payment process totaled \$17,000.

There has been a huge increase in student participation in meals at school during the Universal Free lunch program offered during the COVID period. This program will continue into the coming school year through September 2021.

A draft of the student activity guideline and policy manual is being prepared for review by the School Committee and Bella Wong. The student activity guideline and policy manual are required as a result of this year's audit. The E&D reports have been resubmitted to the Department of Revenue which will complete the alignment of LS with state standards.

Ms. Patterson reported on the FY21 Year End Closeout Projection indicating that there were variable costs impacting the bottom line from special education home tutoring services and out-of-district tuitions. COVID related grants did not cover tuitions. COVID19 relief funds have supplemented the general budget totaling \$713,068. LS Academy incurred expenses to purchase furnishings for the current space and a three year lease has been negotiated for \$72,999 annually which is in line with budget projections. The approved Excess and Deficiency amount of \$500,000 will be used to offset the out-of-district expenses. A budgeted \$1,500,000 Circuit Breaker revenue received in FY21 was applied to tuition line items yet leave a carryover amount of approximately \$1,050,000 into Circuit Breaker to mitigate unknown FY22 out of district expenses. Ms. Wong issued a caveat to the members that there may be increased supports required for students coming back from the remote program into fully in-person.

Action items

Vote on 2021-2022 School Committee Calendar

Questions remain regarding the time set for the meetings, whether the meetings will be held at school or not, and whether participation by the community is increased when meetings are held via zoom. The approval of the 2021-2022 calendar was a tabled until the next meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of minutes will be postponed until the next meeting.

Future Agenda Items

There were no future agenda items.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjourn

Ms. Endyke-Doran requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kevin Matthews offered a motion to adjourn, seconded by Candace Miller. There was no further discussion and a roll call vote was taken. The meeting was adjourned at 8:16pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Francy Zingale

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