

**LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2021**

7:00 pm

Zoom

Present

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

Also Present

Bella Wong, Superintendent/Principal; Kirsteen Patterson, Director Finance and Operations; Mark Mason, Teachers' Association; Aida Ramos, Director of Student Services; Martha Wall, ACE Program Director; Lisa Kouchakdjian, Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm

Public Comment

There was no public comment

Presentation

Aida Ramos, Director of Student Services, Martha Wall, Director of Counseling and Student Support, and Lisa Kouchakdjian, Co-Chair of SEPAC

The presentation is given every year as part of the foundation for building the new year's budget. Data is based on October 1st data.

There has been an approximately 4% increase in student services requests in the incoming 9th grade and about 2.5% increase among 11th graders – in large part as a result of COVID. Disability trends are divided into four primary disabilities: physical; health; learning; and neurological disability. There has been a 200% increase among students with autism, from 14 to 33 and this is a new trend. There has been a steady increase in emotional disabilities in the past five years. The number of students that are educated out-of-district has remained fairly stable over the past four years; this year at 53. There are a total of 137 students on 504's out of 1515 total students for 2021-2022. The difference between IEP's (Individual Educational Plans) and 504's is: IEP's require student support programs as well as accommodations; a 504 provides accommodations only for students such as extra time completing tests and/or assignments, sitting in front of class, books on tapes, etc.

Ms. Wall enumerated the supports available for all students:

- House team (Associate Principals, Guidance Counselors, House Assistants, Nurse, METCO Representative)
- Grade Level Seminars provided by House Counselors
- Counseling and Clinical Support

- Clinical Seminars (Signs of Suicide, Substance Abuse, Depression Workshop, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Lesson)
- PEERS, MVP, Skills for Well-Being, Peer Mediation
- Beacon Transition Program

Student Support teams include a collaborative approach with participation by academic departments, counseling, METCO, nursing, and special education. The teams are facilitated by the Director of Counseling and Student Supports with referrals made through a house team. Concerns are presented, intervention recommendations are made, follow up and progress are assessed.

Additional supports for students include the academic support center, an academic interventionist, and the ACE alternative program. Special Education programs for students eligible for special education: the Learning Center; LINK (learning disabilities and autism), REACH (students with disabilities across multiple domains); EXCEL (students with emotional disabilities); LS Academy (students in extended evaluation).

SEPAC

Lisa Kouchakdjian, Chair of SEPAC, presented on the purpose of SEPAC. SEPAC is a Parent Advisory Council, an organization mandated by the state, to cover Boston, Lincoln and Sudbury families. The Council collaborates with the LS administration on district special education programs. It also conducts workshops and presentations on issues impacting LS families and providing networking opportunities as well as increasing awareness of the rights of students with disabilities. SEPAC has surveyed parents regarding feedback on district special education programs. They have also provided workshops on executive function, transition to college for students with disabilities and parents' rights.

Action steps undertaken by the LS Special Education Program are:

- A new learning center teacher with experience in developing, writing, and implementing transition plans
- SEPAC will be hosting a meeting co-chaired with LS counselors regarding opportunities and colleges with support for students with disabilities
- Expand tutoring services for students
- Metrowest Youth Health Survey to be administered in November
- Provide family workshops and training sessions
- Continue monitoring special education trends and needs
- Continue monitoring social/emotional needs of students

Information and Discussion

Sections A-F for the LS School Committee Policy Manual were discussed.

All segments of **Section A** "Foundations and Basic Commitments" will be approved except for ACAB "Physical, Verbal, and Sexual Harrassment" and AAE "Regional District Agreement".

VOTE SECTION A "Foundations and Basic Commitments"

Candace Miller moved to approve Section A “Foundations and Basic Commitments” except for ACAB and AAE. Kevin Matthews seconded the motion. All approved via roll call vote.

VOTE SECTION B “Board Governance and Operations”

Kevin Matthews offered a motion to approve Section B “Board governance and Operations” except for segments BBBE, BEDB-E, and BEDHE. Heather Cowap seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor via roll call vote.

VOTE SECTION C “GENERAL SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION”

Heather Cowap moved to accept in full Section C “General School Administration”. The motion was seconded by Kevin Matthews. There was no further discussion. All were in favor via roll call vote.

VOTE SECTION D “FISCAL MANAGEMENT”

Candace Miller moved to approve the all segments of Section D “Fiscal Management” except segment DK “Signing Warrants and Payment Procedures” and segment DBR “Budget Apportionment of Expenses”. Mary Warzynski seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor via roll call vote.

VOTE SECTION E “SUPPORT SERVICES”

Heather Cowap moved to approve all segments of Section E “Support Services” except for EBC “Emergency Plans”, EBC-S “Covid Policy”, and EEAA “School Bus Safety Program”. Mary Warzynski seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and all were in favor via roll call vote.

VOTE SECTION F “FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT”

Heather Cowap offered a motion to approve Section F “Facilities Development” as is. Mary Warzynski seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All were in favor via roll call vote.

Recognitions

Ms. Wong encouraged everyone to attend the 2021 Fall Musical “The Addams Family” performed by the LSB Players November 17-20 in the LS Auditorium beginning at 7:30pm.

Student Senate Report

There was no Student Senate Report

METCO Parent Representative Report

There was no METCO Parent Representative Report

Teachers’ Association Report

Mark Mason recognized the efforts of Kayla DeWees and Lori Hodin in overseeing the faculty Peer Partnership Program. Counselor John Flynn has been scheduling college visits for LS students throughout the fall. Ken Kimura and Allison Richardson have arranged class visits for new faculty to observe veteran teachers at work. Emily Phillips is administering the Metrowest Youth Health Survey forms to Block 5 teachers.

Chairperson/Liaison Reports

There was no Chairperson report nor were there any liaison reports.

Superintendent/Principal Report

Ms. Wong prepared a report on the distribution of unvaccinated students to prepare for a general lifting of mask requirements in the town of Sudbury. There are approximately 150 unvaccinated students. An analysis of the distribution of unvaccinated students in classroom indicates that 80% of all classes have at least one unvaccinated student. 97% of all teachers would have a class with at least one unvaccinated student but 100% of LS students would be in a class with at least one unvaccinated student. 82% of LS students are in a class with at least 3 or more unvaccinated students. Each day a few more students become fully vaccinated.

Tom Scott of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents responded to Ms. Wong that only 20 of 320 school districts have asked for a waiver of mask wearing. The Town of Sudbury is looking at the CDC website in which the most COVID cases are in Middlesex County. Studies continue to show that vaccinated individuals can transmit the virus but a lower rate than unvaccinated individuals. Nevertheless, the fact that vaccinated individuals can transmit the virus, the CDC recommends mask wearing in regions where incidence of infection remain high. The LS nurses are actively evaluating students who present symptoms and those students are sent home. Mask wearing will continue through the Thanksgiving and December breaks. COVID pool testing continues weekly, staff are in process of getting boosters, and students are encouraged to get vaccinated.

Ms. Warzynski shared a letter she has written regarding the LS approach to mask wearing. Her concern is that “connectedness” of the LS student population will suffer a significant negative impact of mask wearing for a prolonged period of time. Her letter is directed at the Sudbury Board of Health requesting that there be a way to lessen mask wearing at LS. The Committee responded that further discussion was in order once committee members had had time to consider the letter’s request. Reservations regarding the intent of the letter and discontinued use of masks were also expressed. The discussion will continue at the next School Committee meeting.

Director of Finance and Operations Report

Kirsteen Patterson reported that work continues on the FY23 Budget. Guidance from the Town of Lincoln has been received for a 2.5% increase. Guidance from Sudbury will be submitted soon.

Action Items

Action items were addressed during Information and Discussion.

Approval of Minutes

Candace Miller offered a motion to approve the Minutes of October 12, 2021. Kevin Matthews seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All were in favor via roll call vote.

Future Agenda Items

There were no future agenda items.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjourn

Heather Cowap moved to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to litigation because to do so in an open session may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the School Committee; to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining, contract negotiations with union personnel because to do so in public session would be detrimental to the District's position; to discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices, or strategies with respect there to; and to review and approve executive session minutes. The motion was seconded by Candace Miller. There was no discussion. All were in favor via roll call vote. The meeting was adjourned to Executive Session at 10:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Francy Zingale

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