

**LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2021
MINUTES**

7:00

ZOOM

Present

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

Also Present

Bella Wong, Superintendent/Principal; Kirsteen Patterson, Director of Finance and Operations; Danielle Weisse; Elise Gottlieb

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Presentation

Jim Berry, Megan Notari, and Virginia Blake presenting on Digital Literacy and Computer Science and Change in Graduation Requirement.

LS has had a computer technology requirement for graduation since 2005. As students become more and more knowledgeable regarding technical devices, the Digital Literacy and Computer Science Committee has worked to create a new framework as well as planning for a change in computer science graduation requirement that complements the portrait of an LS graduate. The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has issued new standards for computer literacy for high school students in Massachusetts in October 2016. Between December 2017 and June 2019, the Digital Literacy and Computer Science committee began exploring ways to update the ways in which students learn and apply skills in a space where there is practical application. The goal is to teach and practice skills in context throughout the LS curriculum; support areas where standards are already being met; and building capacity to meet standards in the future. 9th graders starting in fall 2022 (class of 2026) will graduate meeting the DLCS requirement.

DLSC throughout LSRHS curriculum program has been planned. The Program of Studies will be updated for 2022-2023 after presentation of DLSC to Administration, Academic Council and the School Committee. The DLCS graduation requirement will be introduced in 2022. Evaluation, discussion and refinement of curricular implementation of DLCS skills will be ongoing with the new computer science requirement being completely in place by the spring of 2025. The requirement will continue to involve 2 credits earned from one semester of computer science.

Ms. Wong expressed her thanks to Jim Berry, Meg Notari, Mark Sobkowicz, Virginia Blake and Shawn Miller for their work on this subject. The changes to graduation requirement will be reflected in future year's budget to support computational thinking skills for students. Since the publication of DESE's new standards, LS has been hiring additional computer science staff to support students' learning. LS staff have invested in a great deal of professional development to remain current with new digital literacy competencies. There is a new licensure requirement for teachers regarding DLCS. Mark Sobkowicz is a reader for AP exams which permits him to remain current with DLCS evolution.

Virginia Blake reported on staffing requirements and course information reports for 2021-2022. The data is based on October 1st reporting to the state of Massachusetts. Total enrollment is 1515 with more 9th graders and fewer 12th graders than anticipated. Curriculum tied to grade level such as math, science, language, etc. is especially sensitive to changes in class sizes. Enrollment has been steady for the past five years. Ms. Blake presented data on percentage of students taking a class, number of staff required, sections available, and average class sizes. Student choice plays a differential role in scheduling for different departments and impacts how well class sizes can be balanced. There are also tradeoffs in decisions about how to allocate sections most effectively.

Information and Discussion

Dissemination of Agenda procedure has been established to ensure that all LS families receive an agenda for each meeting.

Mask Wearing Requirement

Ms. Warzynski shared a letter addressed to the Sudbury Board of Health regarding a waiver of mask wearing for LS students. Her concern was that extended mask wearing would harm the social/emotional state of students. Kevin Matthews pointed out that COVID was here to stay and that we would have to find a way to live with it. Other school committee members opined that continuing with mask wearing until mid-January would be the safest approach. Ms. Weisse added that it is important to remember teachers and family members that are vulnerable to the virus and that students are able to continue a bit longer and do not seem to be suffering from mask wearing.

Ms. Wong shared data she had prepared for the school committee members. COVID infection rates are increasing but unfortunately there has been a corresponding rise in rates of hospitalizations in Massachusetts. Predictions are that infection rates will rise through the holidays and then decrease in January consequently the timeline for mask wearing has been extended through the first of the year. Ms. Wong suggested that she would prefer to have mask wearing not be required in the hallways but continue to be worn in the classrooms. The school committee members agreed to resume the discussion after the holidays.

LSSC Policy Manual

Candace Miller began discussion of sections G-L for the LS School Committee Policy Manual.

She requested comments on **Section G “Personnel”**. Harold Engstrom questioned GBK regarding resolving differences with staff. Ms. Wong responded that the protocols would be detailed in the staff handbook.

There were no questions regarding **Section H “Negotiations”**.

Dr. Miller moved onto **Section I “Instruction”**. There were no concerns or questions regarding matters in Section I. Dr. Miller requested that IKE and IKF regarding graduation requirements had been double checked.

Section J “Students” was introduced. Ms. Endyke-Doran questioned JF and JHD referring to requirements for student proof of immunization and wondering if this policy may require students to be immunized for COVID. Ms. Wong stated that there is a school in Massachusetts that has included COVID vaccination in their immunization requirements and she does not know the legal result of that policy.

Section K “Community Relations” was introduced. Ms. Miller suggested that there should be a policy regarding food delivery services at LS. Services such as GrubHub and DoorDash have brought additional traffic to the front of the school. Ms. Wong replied that protocols have been introduced to address food delivery issues. Members suggested that the protocols should be conveyed to the food delivery services.

Section L “Education Agency Relations” was introduced. There were no comments on this section.

VOTE: LS School Committee Policy Sections A-F.

Candace Miller moved to approve Policy sections ACAB, AA-E, BBBE, BID, DK, DB-R, EEAA, EEAE, and EBC with edits made. Heather Cowap seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor via roll call vote.

Recognitions

Ms. Wong recognized the superb fall musical performed by the LSB Players “The Addams Family”. There were approximately 99 LS students involved in the production from theatre tech, musicians, actors and set design and build as well as other support positions. Congratulations to Carly Evans, Thomas Grandprey, and Michael Bunting for their efforts with the students.

Student Senate Representative

There was no Student Senate Representative Report.

METCO Parent Representative

Lynn James reported that the METCO parents will be meeting once per month. The initial meeting was to reconnect with one another and to discuss challenges students faced. At this time there were no concerns other than procedures around student absences and communications with teachers. Some parents requested more information regarding students applying to colleges and what support was offered by counselors.

Teachers’ Association Representative

Danielle Weisse reported that the faculty continues to be its own best resource for professional development. The Counseling department presented an overview of support for student social/emotional health including warning signs for faculty to recognize. The Professional

Development day on November 29th will include workshops by outside speakers as well as a book group discussion organized by Dan Conti and workshops on culturally responsive teaching and one on problematic language in the works we teach. Dan Lewis and Zach Brumback are leading the outdoor club and inviting faculty and staff to participate. Funds have been raised for the Cambodia School by Kathleen Thompson and Rachel Cooke.

Chairperson, Liaison Reports

Heather Cowap reported on the Financial Subcommittee for which a schedule has been met. The committee will be attending a workshop on the subject in early December.

The Racial Climate Task Force met which includes a welcome cross section of individuals at LS and in the community.

The Superintendent Evaluation Committee has met and has received written goals from Ms. Wong. They will be meeting again in early December.

Negotiations continue for the Teachers' Contract and will be discussed during executive session. Ms. Endyke-Doran reminded members of the Lincoln Budget Workshop on December 9th via zoom.

Superintendent/Principal Report

Ms. Wong has sent out a COVID update to families, staff, and School Committee. Pool testing has been going on weekly with the exception of the week before Thanksgiving. Considerations in preparation for the end of mask wearing continues however it continues to be a balance of vaccinated vs. unvaccinated individuals in the LS community. Ms. Wong continues to work with the balance of interests to make all comfortable at school.

The Metrowest Youth Health Survey was distributed in the past week. The data will be sent to LS in mid-winter which will be examined and then discussed with the LS population. The data will be communicated to the LS community in the fall.

Clinical counselors ran a professional development for faculty regarding learning to read signs of mental health issues and strategies for addressing the issues by referring students to a broader team of support.

Professional Development Day will be on the day after Thanksgiving and the overarching theme is racial climate. Subjects to be discussed:

- Achievement and access for METCO students
- Beginning your anti-racist journey
- Grading for equity
- Learning how to interrupt racial micro-aggressions and move forward
- Race, Racism, and the arts
- Transforming curriculum
- Problematic language in works we teach

Ms. Wong thanked Leslie Patterson and Virginia Blake for organizing the program

Director of Finance and Operations

Ms. Patterson reported that the fiscal audit would take place on site beginning on November 29, 2021. Discussions on the joint bus transportation bid with Sudbury Public Schools would take place on December 2, 2021. The OPEB valuation study is being finalized and will be presented to the OPEB Trustees when finished.

Ms. Patterson reminded the committee members of upcoming meetings during budget season including the Lincoln CapCom on December 1st; a preliminary Capital Improvement Meeting with Sudbury on December 2nd; the preliminary FY23 budget will be presented to staff on December 6th; and the preliminary FY23 budget presentation to the LS School Committee on December 7th. December 9th is the Lincoln Budget Workshop and December 13th is the Sudbury Budget Pressures meeting.

Action Items

Action Items were completed earlier in the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Kevin Matthews moved to approve the Minutes for October 26 and November 9th, 2021. Heather Cowap 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 the open meeting for executive session to:

- To discuss strategy with respect to litigation because to do so in open session may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the School Committee.
- To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining 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 thereto.
- To review and approve executive session minutes.

And to not return to open session at the conclusion. Candace Miller seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor via a roll call vote. The meeting was adjourned at 9:41pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Francy Zingale