

**LINCOLN_SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2021**

6:30pm Zoom Meeting

Present

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

Also Present

Bella Wong, Superintendent/Principal; Kirsteen Patterson, Director of Finance and Operations; Mark Mason, TA Co-President; Sarah Watson; Spencer Reith; Mr. and Mrs. Watson; Mr. and Mrs. Reith; Sandy Crawford

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm

Executive Session

On a motion from the meeting moved to Executive Session because

Return to Open Session

The meeting returned to Open Session at 7:04pm.

Public Comment

Kay Bell, Sudbury, Member of the Sudbury Council on Disabilities.

Ms. Bell thanked the LS School Committee for being receptive to the Council on Disability's last public comment to introduce their efforts to make the community aware of the issues of the disabled and for communicating the value of inclusion of all people. Ms. Bell stated that the high school was an engine for communicating the value of inclusion of all people. Thank you very much.

Presentation

Massachusetts Association of Superintendents Award for Academic Excellence is presented to Spencer Reith and Sarah Watson.

Spencer Reith is an extraordinary student who is mature with impeccable communication skills who speaks with firm belief which leads to positive outcomes. He is recognized as a National Merit Semifinalist for 2022. Spencer is a wonderful ambassador of LS and exhibits great curiosity in all things. He shows immense involvement in extracurricular activities. He is a three season athlete at LS and a valued member of the cross country track team. He is a valued

leader of the MVP group. Spencer shows initiative outside of school and is engaged in virtual tutoring for students in Zambia, Africa and has been for some years. He is a member of the LS Musician's Union as a self-taught guitarist.

Sarah Watson is a remarkable student at LS with a schedule of the most advanced subjects. Sarah is a student leader in Model UN and is an active member of the LS Student Senate and was co-chair of the election committee. She is a talented violinist at LS and is also an athlete in middle distances and relays in track. Sarah has an avid interest in Science. She is founder of a new group "Students Inspiring Science" A Mass Peer tutor with 4.0 GPA in a rigorous course schedule. Interested in pursuing neuroscience and biology.

Congratulations to both students and a warm welcome to their families.

Information and Discussion

Student Equity Assessment Survey, May 2021, presented by Sandy Crawford. The survey was administered during the pandemic when students had just returned to full in-person learning. There are not full responses from all students. 9th and 10th graders had an 82% participation rate. Boston residents are slightly underrepresented in the data. Only 64% of Boston students participated. 11th and 12th graders at 76% and 61%, respectively.

High points of the survey were that a great majority of students responded very positively (87%) to "Teachers have high expectations for me." 88% of students responded positively to "Clubs and Sports are Accessible." 88% of students responded positively that they felt comfortable asking for academic support. Students answered positively that there was a caring adult in the building with whom they had a relationship and felt comfortable asking for emotional support. In general, males responded slightly more favorably to questions regarding connectedness to other students at LS.

Students felt that LS school climate was welcoming and inclusive with white males with slightly higher responses. Slight differences were noted between students from Lincoln and Sudbury. Identity affects experience based on gathered data. Students of color and female students reported less positive feelings regarding observed prejudice.

This same survey will be administered once again in the Spring of 2022 which will permit tracking responses over time. Ms. Wong added that the survey was important to capture how students are feeling about their school experience.

Recognitions

Ms. Wong extended her gratitude to Lynn Francis, a neighbor of LS, who worked to clear the LS gardens - front of school, at sign entrance, at Marquee island, and the circular garden around the flagpole. The gardens look beautiful!!! We are very thankful to be able to see the flowers planted there again.

Administrators, Athletic Directors, Sudbury Police Department, and staff who immediately

addressed the immediate needs of the Fitchburg fans and LS fans and assisted in helping all guests exit the property. She also expressed her thanks to the Acton-Boxboro football team and fans who were amenable to the change of plans as LS revised its protocols for sports events. The LS Safety Resource Officer Kimberly Walch ran in the Boston Marathon - kudos to her.

Thanks to Kay Bell for her public comment regarding the Council on Disabilities.

Student Representative Report

There was no student representative report.

METCO Parent Representative

There was no METCO Parent Report

TA Representative Report

Mark Mason acknowledged the work being done by the guidance counselors. He also recognized the efforts of Allison Richardson and Ken Kimura for their work in welcoming LS new hires and preparing them for the new school year. Mr. Mason congratulated Spencer Reigh and Sarah Watson and supported the kudos for each student based on his personal experience with them.

Chairperson and Liaison Reports

Heather Cowap reported that meetings had begun with the Finance Committee. Candace Miller reported that the first sections will be presented to the School Committee Policy Committee in the coming week.

The Negotiations Committee meetings have begun as reported by Kevin Matthews. Mary Warzynski reported that the Superintendent/Principal Evaluation Committee members have begun training for the process through Massachusetts Association of School Committees. Candace Miller stated that community outreach and communication are goals for the school committee.

Superintendent/Principal Report

Mask Requirement

Ms. Wong reported that the Town of Sudbury continues to have a mask requirement as it monitors the COVID infection rate for Middlesex County. It is unlikely that the mask requirement will be lifted by November 1, 2021. LS will follow the requirements of the town of Sudbury's Board of Health.

Covid Testing

Ms. Wong reported that COVID testing continues at LS. There have been no positive results since September 13th from students and staff who have been tested. Some staffing for receiving test kits has been provided by the state.

Stay and Test

There has been no response from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education regarding “stay and test”.

COVID Vaccinations

Ms. Wong pointed out that the LS School Committee must decide and vote on requirements and consequences for individuals at LS who are not vaccinated. DESE has issued a requirement that over 80% of the building population be vaccinated before mask wearing can be discontinued. Those not vaccinated must wear masks. One question to answer is whether unvaccinated will be required to participate in pool testing.

Stadium Protocol

Measures instituted for stadium events at LS are that all guests and visitors must be ticketed. Entrances to the stadium will be monitored and only high school students are permitted to attend events without a ticket. There will be no re-entry to the stadium, tickets are non-refundable; no backpacks, bags, or outside beverages will be permitted. Future measures will be communication devices for designated LS staff, visitors will be required to remain in the visitor section and LS guests on the home side. Additional suggestions are improved lighting behind the school and in the visitor area; restriction of unchaperoned elementary and middle school students; clearing vegetation behind the visitor section and a police officer at the path entry to the stadium on Concord Road.

Director of Finance and Operations Report

Kirsteen Patterson reported that she and Bella Wong had met with the SPS Business Manager and Brad Crozer to discuss issues regarding bus transportation including increased costs and lack of bus drivers. They plan to issue an RFP for bus transportation bids for the fall. If there are no acceptable bids, another RFP will be issued in the spring.

Ms. Patterson drew the committee members’ attention to the Budget Timeline for FY23.

Action Items

There were no action items.

Approval of Minutes

Kevin Matthews offered a motion to approve the Minutes of September 28th, 2021. Harold Engstrom seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor via roll call vote.

Future Agenda Items

There were no future agenda items.

Public Comment**Brenda Hart, Sudbury**

There is broad agreement in the medical community that vaccinated persons can still transmit the virus so I am concerned with the prospect of vaccinated persons not being required to test for COVID.

Adjourn

Mary Warzynski offered a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Heather Cowap. There was no discussion. All were in favor via roll call vote. The meeting was adjourned at 9:01pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Francy Zingale

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