

**LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2021
MINUTES**

7:00 PM

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

Announcement by Chair

Cara Endyke-Doran announced that the Mask Policy would not be discussed at this meeting.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Presentation

Kirsteen Patterson, Director of Finance and Operations, presented information regarding LS student enrollment.

Campus enrollment includes a two year lookback and is based on October 1 enrollment data. Enrollment figures are important to monitor over time because Chapter 70 funds are based on these numbers. Out-of-District student enrollment will be 53 total.

Five-year and ten-year cohort survival enrollment models are used but the ten-year model is less relevant. Enrollment rate progressions are monitored in grade levels beginning in grade 7. A steady decline in enrollment is anticipated based on model numbers.

Information and Discussion

LS Policy Manual discussion is introduced by Candace Miller. Every district's policy manual includes all of most recent state legislation, DESE guidance, and district-specific rules of operation. The committee is updating the LS Policy Manual to reflect changes that have occurred over time. The LS School Committee has enlisted the support of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees to support this process. Committee members reviewed and discussed Sections A through F for the LS School Committee Policy Manual. Edits will be completed before the next School Committee meeting.

Recognitions

Ms. Wong reported that the NEASC peer review visits are in process this week. She expressed her gratitude to Dan Conti for managing the accreditation process and to all staff that participated.

Ms. Wong recognized Tracey Lyon for her work supporting the technology of Covid pool testing during our weekly testing.

Thanks to School Nurse Robin Shaikh for organizing a flu shot clinic at LS.

Student Senate Representative Report

There was no Student Senate Representative report.

METCO Parent Representative Report

There was no METCO Parent Representative report

Teachers Association Report

Danielle Weisse reported that teachers and staff are busy grading for end of quarter grades, writing recommendations for college bound students. The community building group has been creative in organizing fun Fridays that will continue throughout the year. Faculty have participated in professional development workshops for grading and record keeping. Thanks to Dan Schuler for advising the Musicians' Union and helping them organize their performance evenings. Thanks to Maureen Bolton who is managing the AP exams for this school year.

Chairperson and Liaison Reports

Mary Warzynski reported that the Superintendent Evaluation process has begun and Ms. Wong has been asked for her goals to begin the process.

The Finance Committee has been quiet but will be busy soon. The negotiations committee continues its work in meetings with the Teachers' Association.

Candace Miller reported that there will be a Racial Climate Task Force meeting in November.

Superintendent/Principal Report

Ms. Wong extended her appreciation to Ms. Miller for meeting with the NEASC Chair Ruth Gilbert-Whitman, and Vice-Chair Kelly St. Coeur. The primary goals focused on are connectedness, narrowing achievement opportunity gaps, and examining curriculum guidelines. The NEASC representatives were impressed by LS students.

Three weeks of COVID testing have been completed with no positive cases since September 19th. Streamlining of the testing process has been accomplished. 400-500 students/staff are tested in less than two hours on testing Wednesday. While there has been close contact tracing by the nurses, it has been from contacts with COVID cases contracted out of the school environment. DESE has extended the mask requirement through November 15. The Sudbury Board of Health continues the mask requirement for the town of Sudbury which is also the requirement in Lincoln.

Senior Dress Up Day will be tomorrow, October 27th. Also on October 27th, NEASC reports will be presented at the faculty meeting tomorrow.

Director of Finance and Operations Report

Kirsteen Patterson reported that LS capital requests have been presented to Sudbury and Lincoln.

Action Items

There are no action items.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the Minutes for October 12, 2021, have been postponed until the November 9, 2021 meeting.

Future Agenda Items

School Committee Policy Sections will be on the agenda for November 9, 2021.

Ms. Warzynski has a proposal for mask wearing to present at the next meeting.

Mr. Matthews suggested re-examining the Regional Agreement between the Towns of Lincoln and Sudbury regarding LSRHS.

Public Comment

Sharon Schmidt-Gross, Sudbury

I think that you should put on the agenda the social-emotional state of LS students during the pandemic and today. I think the School Committee members should brainstorm about ways to address the social/emotional health of LS students. I understand that you will lift the mask mandate as soon as the Town of Sudbury lifts its mask mandate. These kids haven't seen their friends mouths or their teachers' mouths during this pandemic. In my imagination they are like robots and can't express themselves. I think getting rid of the masks is very important. Thank you.

Vlad, Sudbury

I would like to add my two cents regarding masks and the social/emotional aspect of it. The health concern but more important to me is the effect on physical activity and possible lack of oxygen. Students should be allowed to pull the mask down. Thank you.

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 with union personnel because to do so in public session would be detrimental to the District's position; and to review and approve executive session minutes. Candace Miller seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor via a roll call vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:52pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Francy Zingale

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

