

**LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2021**

Present

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

Also Present

Bella Wong, Superintendent/Principal; Kirsteen Patterson, Director of Finance and Operations; Mark Mason, Teachers' Association

Call to Order

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

Public Comment

There was no public comment

Information and Discussion

There was no information and discussion

Recognitions

Ms. Wong recognized the Brian Fauvel, Carol Lewis and Diana Phillips for 15 years of service at L-S; David Bloom for 25 years of service; and Annalisa Notaro for 30 years of service at L-S. L-S welcomed 20 new staff members and Ms. Wong recognized the hiring committees that worked during the summer to fill open positions. She thanked the 12-month personnel who worked diligently during the summer months: the technology team for working on all systems; Building and Grounds crew for maintenance and upgrading all systems; Donna Cakert, Terry Dugan, Ivonne Hernandez, Edie Gonsalves, Tracy Lyon, Danielle McAuliffe Francy Zingale who worked at updating data bases and student records. Ms. Wong thanked Kevin Rossley, Art Reilly, and Kirsteen Patterson for their work on ensuring that the stadium field replacement was completed before school began.

Ms. Wong recognized the teachers that worked with students on Credit Replacement program to make sure students were ready for the new year – Brendan Wimberly, Melisa Shen, Dylan Billings, Scynthia Charles, Lisa Weiss, and Bill Novakowski. Thanks to Ken Kimura and Allison Richardson for supporting the new staff orientation each year. Ms. Wong recognized Melissa Grey, Rachel Cooke and Mike Guanci for running a very successful First Adventure program to introduce students new to L-S to the building, their schedules, getting to know one another in an informal setting.

Ms. Wong thanked teachers who supported students during the summer in the LINK, REACH, and EXCEL programs: MaryAnn Grady, Shanna Evans, Steven Driscoll, Gail Baker, Diana Phillips, John Moynagh, Brendan Wimberly, and John Sanford. Finally, Ms. Wong recognized Robin Shaikh in our nursing department who has worked on many aspects of the COVID program.

Student Representative Report

There was no student senate report

METCO Parent Representative Report

There was no METCO Parent Representative report

Teachers' Association Report

Mark Mason acknowledged the work staff has done to complete the Memorandum of Understanding from the Teachers' Association regarding vaccination. He also reported that teachers were excited to be teaching once again in-person with all students in the building. He added his thanks to the Nursing Department for working to ensure a safe reopening of school for everyone.

Chairperson and Liaison Reports

There were no Liaison Reports.

Ms. Endyke-Doran shared the School Committee Goals for the coming school year.

It is the utmost priority of the Lincoln Sudbury School Committee to ensure that Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School remains a place of optimal learning, growth, and development.

As a governing body, it is the role of the L-S School Committee to take action to ensure our school conducts itself in accordance with its values, principles, and purpose. These principles will inform the L-S School Committee in decision-making related to budget and resource allocation and policy development. This work shall be completed by June 30, 2022.

In collaboration with the Superintendent, the L-S School Committee commits to:

Maintain student achievement during the COVID-19 global pandemic. *The L-S School Committee will prioritize the health and safety of our students and staff, aim to maintain in-person learning, and support re-acclimation of our students at L-S during the evolving COVID-19 pandemic.*

- *The School Committee will regularly review and adapt layered prevention measures to ensure L-S remains open safely throughout the year.*
- *The School Committee will review relevant data to better understand needs of our students and staff during the evolving COVID-19 pandemic.*
- *The School Committee will receive updates on re-acclimation of students (especially ninth and tenth graders) and of learning models developed in order to serve the best interests of our students during the COVID-19 pandemic.*

Narrow the opportunity and achievement gap. *The L-S School Committee will work to narrow the opportunity and achievement gap in line with the vision of the L-S Graduate.*

- *In collaboration with the administration, the School Committee will define the terms and metrics to monitor the opportunity and achievement gap over the long term.*
- *The School Committee will review and approve policies to ensure they promote equity in student opportunity and achievement.*
- *The School Committee will ensure the L-S budget includes sufficient resources are dedicated to narrowing the opportunity and achievement gap.*

- *The School Committee will receive regular updates, including monthly/routine progress reports on student opportunity and achievement.*

Improve School Committee governance awareness. *The School Committee will engage in professional development and training activities with MASC to improve governance knowledge, skills, and competency needed to meet the requirements of the role. Potential professional development opportunities include:*

- *Roles and responsibilities of a school committee*
- *Overview and district governance*
- *Overview of District budget and finance process*
- *Social and emotional issues impacting students and families*
- *Strategies for collective bargaining*
- *Process for the Superintendent/Principal evaluation*

Meet core function of the governing body

The L-S School Committee will ensure core functions of the government body are completed in time and in line with L-S values, principles, and purpose.

The School Committee will review, update, and approve L-S school policies to ensure they reflect L-S values, principles, and purpose.

- *The School Committee will review and approve a budget with adequate resources to support programs that are in line with L-S values, principles and purpose.*
- *The School Committee will complete contract negotiation with the L-S Teachers' Association.*
- *The School Committee will meet the requirements of the NEASC review as determined by the evaluation process.*
- *The School Committee will complete the Superintendent/Principal evaluation as outlined in the bylaws.*
- *The School Committee will increase community education and outreach, including on topics such as roles and responsibilities of the committee and recent activities.*

Ms. Endyke-Doran invited the members to comment on the goals. Mr. Engstrom suggested that a careful definition of terms would be in order and that perhaps fewer goals might be a better plan for the year. Mr. Matthews opined that the professional development from MASC related to superintendent evaluation and negotiations would be most instructive.

Superintendent/Principal Report

Ms. Wong reported that faculty, staff, and students are all happy to be at school and concentrating on teaching and learning. To date, there have been 8 days of school and working on re-acclimating the 9th and 10th graders. There have been all class meetings to set the tone of how we work as a community – a blend of caring for others, being responsible for oneself and responsibilities to the welfare of the group. Ninth Grade Parents Night occurred on September 9, 2021. Over 500 people attended the first home football game! There have been two school holidays and remembrance of 9/11 within the first 8 days of school. A job fair is scheduled for tomorrow, pool testing will commence next week, and Back to School Night will take place on September 22nd. Parents have been requested to send one parent per family to keep in mind

COVID protocols. Faculty and Staff are required to complete mandated trainings in the first month of school. Preparations for the NEASC site visit continue.

Bus transportation arrival time continues to be an issue of concern. Factors affecting arrival time are the bridge work on Dutton Road which will not be completed until early November and the increased traffic that exists during our later start time. Consequently, efforts to find some adjustment to get students to school on time – including altering the start time by a few minutes.

The COVID testing program will begin soon for voluntary participation. We anticipate beginning the program on September 28th, 2021. The purpose is for unvaccinated members of the community to participate. There have been 3 positive student and 1 staff cases. State reporting will begin next week regarding positive cases in school.

Director of Finance and Operations

Kirsteen Patterson reported that the stadium field turf project has been successfully completed. The tennis court project is 85% complete and should be finished in the next week. The aerial lift has been ordered which completes our capital projects list for FY21. Hiring for the present school year is complete and resulted in a very busy summer. Meal participation at the cafeteria is at an all time high: 550 to 575 meals daily largely a result of the universal free lunch program. The first quarterly financial report will be completed in the near future.

Ms. Patterson reported on the ESSER III Grants (COVID Relief Funds) which will be the final relief funds allotted to Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School. The funds address the social, emotional and mental health needs of all students and staff as a result of the pandemic. The funds seek to support low-income students; children with disabilities; English learners; racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness and children and youth in foster care. In total, the ESSER grants have provided \$385,593 in funds to mitigate the extraordinary expenses caused by the pandemic. The ESSER III grant must be submitted before October 4, 2021.

Action Items

VOTE: Harold Engstrom moved that Kevin Matthews sign vouchers on behalf of the School Committee. Mary Warzynski seconded the motion. There was no discussion, all were in favor via a roll call vote.

VOTE: Kevin Matthews moved to accept the School Committee goals with the mental health aspect added. Mary Warzynski seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor via a roll call vote.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion from Harold Engstrom the Minutes for June 8, June 27, July 26, August 19, August 26, September 3, 2021 were accepted. The motion was seconded by Kevin Matthews. There was no further discussion. All were in favor via roll call vote.

Future Agenda Items

Auditors will attend the next School Committee meeting to report on FY20 Financial Report Capital Project Requests for FY23

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjourn

Kevin Matthews moved to adjourn the meeting to Executive Session to not return to Open Session in order to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation because to do so in Open Session may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the School Committee. The motion was seconded by Heather Cowap. There was no further discussion and all were in favor via roll call vote. The meeting was adjourned to Executive Session at 8:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Francy Zingale

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