

**LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2022**

**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 of Finance and Operations; Mark Mason, LS Teachers' Association; Elena Gottlieb, Student Senate; Dan Conti, Department Coordinator English Dept.; Dr. Ruth Gilbert-Whitner, Chair of NEASC Visiting Team

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Presentation**

Dan Conti and Dr. Ruth Gilbert-Whitner, Chair of the NEASC Visiting Team, reported on the recently issued NEASC report regarding Lincoln-Sudbury. The NEASC report is a four-year endeavor that examines every aspect of the school. The report indicated that the six foundational elements looked for by the visiting team exceeded expectations at L-S. The elements are: school safety; foundational documents; complete curriculum guides; current growth/improvement plan; strategies and programs to support all student learners; and building and facilities to support the delivery of curricular programs and services. Dr. Gilbert-Whitner added that the visiting team was impressed by the professionalism of faculty and staff and the breadth of services available to students to ensure that their learning experience would be equitable and excellent. She found students to be vitally engaged in the classroom and that emotional safety and a sense of belonging was the LS student experience. Increased opportunities for student leadership, an enhanced school wide advisor program; a cohesive foundation for social/emotional learning, and increased connectedness among identity groups are the norm. Dr. Gilbert-Whitner stated that LS is a very special high school which in her mind was the result of the dedication and mission of the teachers, administration, and School Committee. She further stated that she considered LS the "gold standard" for Massachusetts high schools.

**Information and Discussion**

Change in Graduation Requirements

The request to discontinue the graduation requirements of two credits for American/British literature and two credits of World literature was approved after some further discussion.

***VOTE: Candace Miller offered a motion to approve the change in graduation requirements for English as proposed. Harold Enstrom seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. A roll call vote resulted in five votes in favor, and one vote opposing.***

The request to rename the Computer technology credits to reflect Digital Learning and Computer Science directive from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education was approved.

***VOTE: Candace Miller moved to approve the Digital Learning and Computer Science requirement for the 2022-2023 school year as proposed. Harold Engstrom seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor via roll call vote.***

The changes in graduation requirements will be incorporated into the Program of Studies for next year and will be discussed at the 8<sup>th</sup> grade parent night on March 10, 2022.

#### Approval of Section D in LSSC Policy Manual

***VOTE: Harold Engstrom moved to approve the revised Section D of the M.A.S.C. Policy Manual. Heather Cowap seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor via roll call vote.***

The LSSC Policy Manual is now complete and will be placed on the LS School Committee website.

#### Review of LSSC annual goals

Cara Endyke-Doran requested input from the School Committee members regarding the LSSC annual goals. She stated that a great number of the goals have been accomplished but asked that the members keep in mind the remaining goals.

#### **Student Senate Representative Report**

Ellie Gottlieb reported that the Student Senate was working with the Sudbury League of Women Voters to hold a voter registration drive in early March. The student senate is opening meetings to all students to discuss student concerns, initiatives, and plans for future activities. She also reported that students appreciated the mid-term period flexibility.

#### **METCO Parent Representative Report**

There was no METCO Parent Representative report.

#### **Teachers' Association Report**

Mark Mason acknowledged the efforts of Kathleen Thompson and Kate Grant in organizing the Reality for Life Fair on March 18, 2022. Desiree Butter is advising the High School Quiz Show contestants from LS. Carly Evans and the LSB Players premiered the One Act Plays on February 4-5, 2022.

#### **Chairperson/Liaison Reports**

Heather Cowap reported that the Finance Subcommittee had met with the Sudbury Finance Committee on February 7<sup>th</sup>. She commended the presentation made by Bella Wong and Kirsteen Patterson and the ease and clarity with which they answered FINCOM questions.

Mary Warzynski reported that the Superintendent/Principal Evaluation Subcommittee had met on February 7<sup>th</sup> with Bella Wong to discuss the goals she had submitted. The subcommittee will meet again in the near future.

Candace Miller reported that the Racial Climate Task Force met on February 7<sup>th</sup>. There was great discussion regarding racial inclusion, academic equity, and connectedness.

### **Superintendent/Principal Report**

#### Vaccination Clinic and Pool Testing

A vaccination clinic will be offered on February 10<sup>th</sup>. Pool testing continues with robust participation. Rapid COVID tests are available to students/staff who have opted in. Stay and Test is no longer offered for students who are unvaccinated and designated as close contacts. Contact notifications continue but are not associated with quarantine requirements. Students unvaccinated and close contacts within school, you must isolate for five days with no testing required.

#### Mask Update

After discussions with the Sudbury Board of Health, Ms. Wong proposed that masks become optional at LS beginning on March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022, one week after the school break. There was some discussion among the members regarding whether or not to remove mandatory mask rules a week earlier. It was concluded that targeting March 7<sup>th</sup> was preferable – one week after school break.

#### General Update

Professional Development workshops were held on January 26<sup>th</sup>. The subject of the workshops were staff and student wellbeing.

Ms. Wong congratulated the LSBPlayers for the One-Act Plays the past weekend despite the first show being cancelled because of the ice storm. A big shout-out to Kate Grant and Kathleen Thompson for organizing the Reality for Life program scheduled for March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022. They have received a \$15,000 grant for the program.

### **Director of Finance and Operations Report**

- Kirsteen Patterson reported on important updates to the FY23 Budget from information in the Governor's Budget.
- There has been a significant increase in the Chapter 70 funds which incorporates the funding model approved within the Student Opportunity Act. The funding per SOA is year 2 of 6 that the State's Chapter 70 has an increase of \$485 million including an inflation factor.
- Circuit breaker offers a 75% reimbursement fund for eligible out of district tuitions and SPED transportation. Final numbers should be available by June 2022.

- School Choice is not funded through the state budget Chapter 70 amounts. It remains capped at \$5,000 tuition per student for the receiving schools.
- A new joint House and Senate bill (H.596/S.359) was introduced by State Representative Denise Garlick and Senator Jason Lewis, named “School Efficiency”. This bill would provide schools more flexibility in procurement thresholds (raising the bid level to \$100,000); allow retirees to return to work waiving the limitation on earnings and hours, and would require the RMV to process new CDL license applications within 14 days for new bus drivers.
- The regional transportation reimbursement rate in the Governor’s budget has also been increased significantly to 80% for regional schools. These additional state funds will translate to a decrease in the amount due from the Towns of Lincoln and Sudbury.

### **Action Items**

***VOTE: Harold Engstrom moved to accept the FY23 Budget as presented. Kevin Matthews seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor via a roll call vote.***

***VOTE: Harold Engstrom made a motion that Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School NOT participate in School Choice for the coming school year 2022-2023. Candace Miller seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor via a roll call vote.***

***VOTE: Mary Warzynski offered a motion to accept the bid for regular school bus transportation with First Student for 3 years beginning July 1,2022 through June 30, 2025 with options to extend the contract for two years in tandem with Sudbury Public Schools. Kevin Matthews seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor via roll call vote.***

### **Approval of Minutes**

Kevin Matthews offered a motion to approve the Minutes of January 11 and January 25, 2022. Mary Warzynski seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All were in favor via roll call vote. Approval for the Minutes of December 21st were postponed until the March 1, 2022, meeting.

### **Future Agenda Items**

Review Social/Emotional Services at LSRHS.

### **Public Comment**

#### **Ken Bettenhauser, Sudbury**

Mr. Bettenhauser was happy to hear that mask-use would be lifted in early March but wanted to make the point that masks were detrimental to student mental health.

#### **Karen Gozdeck, Sudbury**

Ms. Gozdeck agrees with Mr. Bettenhauser and would like to see LS lead in this area rather than following the actions of other schools.

#### **Maura Carty, Sudbury**

Ms. Carty appreciates the decision to lift mask wearing on March 7, 2022. She followed with a question on the grant funded positions and if the positions would be funded on a going forward basis within the FY23 budget.

**Vlad, Sudbury**

Appreciates the lifting of mask requirement but would like it to happen sooner, particularly given the level of vaccination in the community. He is concerned about the level of oxygen available for athletes and other students while wearing masks and believes that masks are detrimental physically to students.

**Adjourn**

Kevin Matthews moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mary Warzynski. There was no need of an Executive Session. There was no further discussion. The meeting was adjourned via roll call vote at 9:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Francy Zingale

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