

**LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2022
MINUTES**

7:00 PM

Zoom Meeting

Present

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

Also Present

Bella Wong, Superintendent/Principal; Kirsteen Patterson, Director of Finance and Operations; Danielle Weiss, Exec. TA President

Call to Order for Public Hearing on FY23 Budget and School Choice

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

Presentation of FY23 Budget

Ms. Wong presented the features of the proposed FY23 Budget for public review. The budget represents the prioritization of LS Core Values, reflects the Strategic Plan and fosters the realization of the LS Portrait of a Graduate. Enrollment projections indicate a slight decline in student population in the next few years. The budget does not reflect reduced staffing as instead natural attrition will dovetail with the gradually declining enrollment. The proposed FY23 budget meets the budget guidelines provided by Lincoln and Sudbury of \$35,910,735 which allows for a 3% growth over FY22. LS is able to have program improvements of a new special education program for autism students; 0.5 FTE increase to the LS Academy; .75 FTE in Computer Science to fulfill digital learning standards update; .25 FTE Mandarin Language Teacher to add a 4th year; and a 1.0 FTE Reading Specialist to support a broad spectrum of LS students.

Salaries will be increasing by 4.77% which is in line for previous years, excepting last year in which the Teachers' Association accepted a 0% increase. Contractual services will increase by over 13%; a 16% increase in property liability; and lastly a large increase to the OPEB liability.

As a regional district, the towns of Lincoln and Sudbury are assessed a fee based on enrollment. For FY23 Budget, Sudbury is assessed 89.6%, and Lincoln is assessed 12.41%. Numbers from the Massachusetts Governor's budget is still outstanding and will be published within the week.

Mr. Engstrom inquired whether or not there were issues of concern with this budget or a future budget. Ms. Wong indicated that there were not any specific concerns. The committee will vote to approve the FY23 Budget at the next LS School Committee meeting on February 8, 2022.

Public Comment

Maura Carty, Sudbury

Ms. Carty inquired whether outside students would be accepted from outside districts.

Sharon Schmidt-Gross

Ms. Schmidt-Gross inquired about mental health funds applied for by Sudbury Public Schools.

Discussion followed about the number of support programs available to all LS students that the LS administration had had the foresight to institute a few years ago that perhaps Sudbury Public had not had a similar opportunity to prepare for.

Dawn Solowey, Sudbury

Ms. Solowey repeated the inquiry of Ms. Schmidt-Gross.

Karen Gozdeck, Sudbury

Ms. Gozdeck also inquired about requesting additional funds for student social/emotional needs.

Kirsteen Patterson requested that questions be directed to the FY23 Budget for which the public hearing had been called. Other grant opportunities may be explored following the conclusion of the finalization of the FY23 budget.

School Choice for 2022-2023

In the state of Massachusetts, in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws 76B, school districts must determine whether or not they will allow non-resident students to choose to enroll in the school district and notify the state before June 1st of the year before school begins in September. Additional liability and tuition costs will be incurred by the chosen district for each student accepted. LS has not permitted School Choice for many years and has officially withdrawn from School Choice. Formal notification will be provided to the Mass. Department of Education following the School Committee vote. The current cost of an education per pupil at LS is more than \$20,000. The monies brought to LS by non-resident students would be \$5,000. The cap is \$5,000 because it was established in the 1990's and has not changed since.

Public Comment**Brenda Hart, Sudbury**

Do the METCO students qualify as non-resident students?

Ms. Wong and Ms. Patterson answered that the METCO program funding is provided by the state.

Ms. Hart added that she thought that school choice would permit access to excellence to less advantaged students from other towns.

Close Public Hearing on FY23 Budget and School Choice**Call to Order of Regularly Scheduled Meeting**

The regularly scheduled School Committee Meeting began at 8:41pm.

Information and Discussion

Ongoing Review of School Committee Policies

Candace Miller introduced the first reading of the M.A.S.C. Revised Section D (Fiscal Management). Committee members should be prepared to vote on final approval of Revised Section D at the next meeting on February 8, 2022.

LS School Committee Goals for 2021-2022 Update

Cara Endyke-Doran listed the LS School Committee goals for the current school year. The goals include:

- Revising and completing the LS School Committee Policy Manual - nearly complete.
- FY23 Budget – completed
- Contract negotiations with LS Teachers’ Association – completed
- NEASC Accreditation – completed
- Superintendent/Principal Evaluation – in process
- Community Outreach and Communication – improvement needed
- Maintaining student achievement during pandemic – ongoing
- Understand needs of students and staff – ongoing
- Narrow the achievement gap – ongoing

Graduation Requirement

The English Department has requested dropping the graduation requirement of 2 credits in American/British Literature courses and 2 credits in World Literature courses. The matter had been proposed by Dan Conti, English Department Coordinator, during his presentation on January 11, 2022 and was followed by a Memorandum from Virginia Blake, Curriculum Coordinator. The School Committee members required additional clarification. The matter will be taken up again at the February 8, 2022, School Committee meeting.

The second graduation requirement request involves instituting a graduation requirement in Digital Literacy and Computer Science effective in 2022-2023 for the class of 2026 and beyond . Courses which will meet the Digital Literacy and Computer Science requirement provide students with the opportunity to develop skills in the areas of computing and society, digital tools and collaboration, computing systems, and computational thinking. The criteria for a course to meet this requirement were developed using the MA DESE 2016 DLCS Curriculum Framework, the LSRHS Portrait of a Graduate, and the International Society for Technology in Education Standards for students.

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 the mid-term period was over and commended the faculty on their ability to pivot to different solutions for mid-term exams to alleviate disadvantages to

students caused by COVID-19. Ms. Weisse reported that the faculty would participate in a Teachers' Workshop day on January 26, 2022, and would be followed by opportunities for professional development on Wednesday, February 2nd, 2022.

Chairperson and Liaison Reports

Mary Warzynski reported that the Superintendent/Principal Evaluation was progressing. The School Committee members will be participating in a training session offered by the Massachusetts Association of School Committees the first week of February.

Heather Cowap reported that the Finance Committee had attended the second joint Budget Workshop in Lincoln on January 18th, 2022.

Cara Endyke-Doran reminded committee members of the training session for evaluation Superintendent/Principal next week. She also reported that Dan Carty would be attending the February 8th meeting to discuss the Regional Agreement.

Superintendent/Principal Report

Ms. Wong commended the faculty for their ability to adjust to a reconfiguring of mid-term grades with grace and creativity.

There have been 311 COVID cases to date at LS: 267 Students and 47 Staff. There have been an estimate 34 in School transmission cases. Programs have been maintained and there has been no interruption to in-school learning. School trips are being planned for the summer. Ms. Wong feels this is a testament to LS families and staff working to protect selves and others. LS has been pool testing from October 2021 until present; masks and antigen tests have been provided for staff and students. The state has indicated that home antigen test protocol can eliminate the contact tracing by nurses. If pool testing continues, home antigen tests will be provided to students and staff that opt-in every other week. LS School nurses will continue to determine close contacts.

Director of Finance and Operations

Ms. Patterson anticipated the governor's budget to be revealed by the end of the month. January 19th was the OPEB meeting with information and discussion of the highest order. The last meetings regarding the FY23 Budget would occur in the next few weeks. The warrant article for the chain link fence has been submitted to the Town of Sudbury for its Town Meeting. Lincoln has approved LS's capital requests.

Action Items

There were no action items.

Approval of Minutes

In the interest of time, Ms. Endyke-Doran requested postponing approval of the Minutes for December 21, 2021, and January 11, 2022, until the February 8th, 2022, School Committee meeting.

Future Agenda Items

Discussion of Regional Agreement with Dan Carty of the Sudbury Select Board on February 8, 2022.

Public Comment**Maura Carty, Sudbury**

Ms. Carty inquired if there was an opportunity to include parents in the process of applying for grants and expressed her hope that the grant application process would be revisited.

Karen Gozdeck, Sudbury

Ms. Gozdeck hoped that focus could shift from COVID protective measures to a focus on normality given the high percentage of vaccinated in the community and the mildness of the Omicron strain of the virus.

Brenda Hart, Sudbury

Ms. Hart inquired if there was a mechanism for surveying the general student population regarding what social/emotional supports they felt were most important. She requested that reflection be given to the artificial restrictions on English graduation requirements instituted long ago. She is happy to hear the COVID restrictions are lessening.

Sharon Schmidt-Gross, Sudbury

Ms. Schmidt-Gross inquired about the necessity of pool testing as well as rapid antigen testing. She also requested that COVID emails be sent only to parents to take pressure off students.

Adjourn

Kevin Matthews moved to adjourn the open meeting to move into 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 and to review and approve executive session minutes. Heather Cowap seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned to Executive Session at 10:02pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Francy Zingale

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