

**LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2022**

7:00 PM

Zoom Meeting

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; Danielle Weisse, Teachers' Association; Martha Wall, Director of Counseling and Student Supports; Emily Phillips and Dan Schuler, LS Counselors

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Presentation

Martha Wall, Emily Phillips, and Dan Schuler presented a review of the Social/Emotional Programs and Services at LS with focus on supports for all students. Identification of need comes from the students themselves; peers; teachers; counselors; families; coaches; administrators; and any concerned individual. Students, beginning in the 9th grade, are encouraged to act to help fellow students by Acknowledgement; Care; and Tell (A.C.T.) by contacting their House, Counselor, or any trusted adult.

There are layers of support available to LS students. Tier I refers to universal supports, interventions, and prevention practices. Tier II refers to targeted/selected/group supports and interventions for students that have been identified as needing some sort of support. Tier III refers to intensive/individualized supports and interventions for students that are special education students.

Tier I provides all students with grade level seminars, psychoeducational workshops (many in collaboration with the Wellness Department); counseling and clinical support; transition orientation for 9th graders and students new to LS; the wellness curriculum, and referrals to community resources.

9th grade students are introduced to specific supports the first week of school during meetings with counselors. During Semester 1, SOS (Signs of Suicide) is presented to all 9th graders through the clinical counselors and wellness department. In Quarter 2, counseling seminars begin for 9th grade students in which they reconnect with counselors and are introduced to supports available.

10th Grade Level supports include a counseling seminar in which career exploration and career interests are discussed. All students participate in a depression workshop which is supported by trained upper class students. The clinical counselors and wellness department partner to provide substance use awareness.

In the 11th grade the counseling seminar discusses extensive post-secondary planning, individual counseling meetings and cognitive behavioral therapy lesson to support anxiety. Ongoing counseling and clinical support is always available.

Finally, in the 12th grade there are individualized meetings; ongoing support and guidance is provided. Post-secondary support includes college applications and career planning. The first quarter of Senior Year are intensively involved in the college process and post-graduation plans. All seniors participate in the Mentors in Violence Prevention Escalation Workshop.

Routine processes to identify students needing support are:

House Team including Associate Principals, two school counselors, one clinical counselor, school nurse, METCO representative and a campus aide meet weekly. House teams track attendance data, discipline data, grades, team member reports, teacher reports as well as parental concerns shared with the house team.

The clinical counselors offer a screening survey to the students participating in the 9th grade Signs of Suicide workshop; 10th grade depression workshop and substance use lesson; and the 11th grade counseling seminar which allows them to confidentially request support from counselors. LS teachers are trained in the A.C.T. model; professional development workshops that offer training in mental health, anti-bullying strategies; and summer workshops such as dialectical behavior therapy. There is an ongoing collaboration between teachers and the house team.

There is an ongoing partnership with parents with teacher or counselor/parent collaboration; parent-teacher meetings which support ongoing parent participation and access; organizations such as SEPAC and Connections which provide forums for parent concerns.

Tier III: Additional supports for students include the student support team; peer mediation; PEERS (substance abuse); Mentors for Violence Prevention; Skills for Well-Being Course; Beacon Program (transition program); Academic Support Center; Strategic Skills Academic Interventionist; and the ACE alternative program.

Dr. Miller inquired about social/emotional supports for LS faculty and staff. Ms. Wong responded that there is a counselor on retainer specifically for the needs of staff. In addition, the Employee Assistance Plan is available to all. In terms of lessening student stress, there are ongoing conversations among the faculty on this subject. The change from mid-term exams to alternative assessments this January was the result of these conversations among faculty and motivated by the stress students felt as a result of absences resulting from Omicron.

Ms. Warzynski appreciated the fact that LS students were encouraged to realize they are part of a broader community and built into every stage is an awareness that they are part of a community and empowered to come forward to speak up on behalf of their peers – that is a huge life skill. Efforts to make the information more readily available to LS parents on the LS website would be a good thing.

Information and Discussion

LS 2022-2023 Program of Studies

The LS School Committee voted on the LS Program of Studies for 2022-2023. Ms. Wong pointed out changes to the LS Program of Studies:

- Removal of references to pandemic practices
- Addition of a Portrait of an LS graduate
- Amend graduation requirements for English and Digital Learning, Computer Science
- Updated resources section
- Updated reference to test optional college, guidance curriculum
- Updated listing of courses for Global Scholars Program
- Added notation regarding human sexuality curriculum parental notification
- Updated course offerings

VOTE: Heater Cowap moved to approve the LS Program of Studies for academic year 2022-2023. Mary Warzynski seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All were in favor via a roll call vote.

Student Representative Report

There was no student representative report.

METCO Parent Representative Report

There was no METCO Parent Representative Report.

Teachers' Association Report

Danielle Weisse reported that the Singing Valentine fundraiser on February 14th, 2022, was a great success and raised funds for the music program and for the Cambodia School. Michael Bunting is the faculty advisor for the A Cappella students.

On Friday, the Wellness Department sponsored Fun Friday. The Musicians Union performed a fundraiser in the cafeteria on Friday, February 11th. The advisor for the musicians union is Dan Schuler. Students Together Empowering Women collaborated with the Musicians' Union and donated \$1700 to women's programs in Afghanistan.

Teachers are taking the time to talk with students as a check-in prior to warnings which are sent next week.

Chairperson and Liaison Reports

Superintendent/Principal Evaluation Subcommittee

Mary Warzynski reported that great progress had been made during the last meeting of the Subcommittee on Superintendent/Principal Evaluation.

Ms. Wong reviewed her goals for the current year. NEASC assessment was based on LS's priority goals which are part of the strategic plan. The three goals are from recommendations in the NEASC report:

- Continue to explore implementation of the advisory program; building a cohesive foundation for social/emotional learning for every grade level; transition the diversity and depression workshops into the advisory program.
- Link the attributes of the Portrait of a Graduate to the curriculum across all subject areas.
- Develop metrics to identify and assess opportunity gaps that impact access to the educational program and co-curricular activities.
- From the DESE list of Superintendent goals, Ms. Wong has chosen to focus on Educator goals, fiscal systems, communications, and shared vision.

Ms. Endyke-Doran pointed out that the Superintendent evaluation must be completed this year as it is required by the state. Discussion followed regarding the specifics of the goals presented.

VOTE: Heather Cowap moved to approve the indices put forward by Ms. Wong for the July 2022 Superintendent evaluation cycle as presented for the LS School Committee to focus on. Harold Engstrom seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor via roll call vote except for Kevin Matthews who voted no.

LS Regional Agreement

The Sudbury Select Board has requested an examination of the current LS Regional Agreement. Ms. Endyke-Doran recommended setting up an LS Subcommittee to begin the process of bringing the LS Regional Agreement up to date. Heather Cowap nominated Harold Engstrom as a member of the Subcommittee. Mary Warzynski nominated Kevin Matthews. Harold Engstrom nominated Heather Cowap.

VOTE: The Committee voted that the LSSC Subcommittee on the LS Regional Agreement would be made up of Heather Cowap, Harold Enstrom and Kevin Matthews. All were in favor via a roll call vote.

LSSC Subcommittee Meeting Process

Ms. Endyke-Doran suggested creating a standard procedure for posting Subcommittee meetings 48 hours before, with a link for the community to join if the meeting is remote, recording minutes, and sharing the notice of the meetings electronically.

Superintendent/Principal Report

Ms. Wong had nothing further to report other than that LS would be mask optional at school on March 7th and also guidance has been received that masks will be optional on transportation to and from school.

Director of Finance and Operations Report

The Sudbury FINCOM will be meeting on March 7th to discuss the LS FY23 budget.

The Lincoln Town Meeting will be March 26, 2022. The budget process is progressing.

Action Items

Action items have been completed.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion from Heather Cowap, the minutes for December 21, 2021 were approved as amended. Harold Engstrom seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor via roll call vote except Kevin Matthews who abstained.

Kevin Matthews moved to approve the Minutes for February 8th, 2022. Heather Cowap seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor via a roll call vote.

Future Agenda Items

There were no future agenda items.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjourn to Executive Session

Harold Engstrom 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 and to review and approve executive session minutes. Candace Miller seconded the motion. All were in favor via roll call vote. The meeting was adjourned at 9:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Francy Zingale

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