

**LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2022
MINUTES**

Present

Cara Endyke-Doran, Chair; Heather Cowap; Harold Engstrom; Kevin Matthews; Mary Warzynski
Candace Miller was absent.

Also Present

Bella Wong, Superintendent/Principal; Kirsteen Patterson, Director of Finance and Operations;
Mark Mason, ExecTA; Ellie Gottlieb, Student Senate Representative; Phil James, History
Department Coordinator; Sandy Crawford, Administrative Liaison

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Presentation

Civics Program

Phil James presented the new Civics Program developed by the LS History Department. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts passed a law in 2018 that all students be given an opportunity to do a Civics Project as part of the 10th Grade History curriculum so that all Massachusetts students be educated in the history of the Commonwealth, U.S. and the world. The goal is to prepare students to make informed civics choices to strengthen equality, justice, and liberty in and beyond the United States. The Civics Project is not a graduation requirement. It is part of the LS 10th Grade History curriculum because that is the year American History is taught. The Civics Projects begin with identifying a focus issue of merit to the student, researching and investigating it, design an action plan to achieve a change student would like to see, taking action, and showcasing the project to the public. The proposed date for exhibiting civics projects to the public is June 8th, 2022. An emphasis on teaching students to be good citizens is a great thing.

Student Survey of Delayed Start Schedule, Sandy Crawford

Sandy Crawford presented the February 2022 Student Survey regarding the Delayed Start to school as well as the minor tweak of delaying a further 5 minutes to permit bus arrivals and students arriving in class on time; to assess the impact of 3:14pm end of day on after school activities including sports; to examine responses for disproportionate impacts to equitable access for all students.

There was a 74% response rate to the survey. More than a third of students stated they were no longer late for school. The 5 minute change in school start time permitted most students to

arrive in class on time from buses. Students' opinion on the 4 minute passing time between classes varied but over 50% of students found that it was fine. Seniors found it not enough time between classes and noted that they missed the social time. A good number of students noted that it was not enough time if teachers were late in releasing students or if a student wanted a word with teacher after class.

The impact of ending school at 3:14pm has not affected a significant majority of students' ability to participate in after school activities.

Data related to 2017 Report regarding student sleep time indicates that homework was the most significant reason for students' lack of sleep. The consensus among parents, students, and staff was that a later start date would benefit students. 73% of students go to bed before midnight which is consistent with the projected results. 70% of student did 3 hours or less homework on average on school nights. Students are reporting having less homework to do now than they did in 2016. Students are getting more sleep than they did, most getting 8 hours or a little more.

Student Representative Report

Ellie Gottlieb reported that the Student Senate is planning spring elections. The student senate is also planning the annual Teacher Appreciation event. The voter registration event held at LS with the League of Women Voters during lunch block was a great success and there are plans to repeat the event in late April.

METCO Parent Representative Report

There was no METCO Parent Representative Report.

Teachers' Association Report

Mark Mason acknowledged Kate Grant and Kathleen Thompson for organizing the Reality for Life program, a financial literacy program; Dan Schuler and the Musicians Union for their Friday fundraiser to benefit humanitarian initiatives in Ukraine; the music department and FATA for organizing Arts Day on Friday; the counseling department for assisting SERF with the College Fair taking place on Saturday; and faculty to attend and assisted 8th Grade Parent Night; and the language department for sponsoring Friday Fun Day.

Chairperson and Liaison Reports

Cara Endyke-Doran reported that School Committee Day at school could take place on April 27th or May 4th and requested the School Committee members respond for best date. The tri-district meeting will take place on March 30th. The agendas and notices from the School Committee are sent out to the community from do-not-replay@lsrhs.net. Lincoln Town Meeting will take place on Saturday, 9:30am, in the Donaldson auditorium.

Mary Warzynski reported that the Superintendent/Principal Evaluation Subcommittee met on March 8th and discussed the teacher survey to collect feedback. Work has begun on creating a parent survey as well as part of the process and will be discussed at the March 22nd meeting.

Superintendent/Principal Report

Ms. Wong thanked Kathleen Thompson and Kate Grant for providing the Reality for Life Program for LS Seniors via grants from Sudbury Foundation, SERF, DESE, and LSPO. The Musicians Union will perform on Friday and will be fundraising for Ukraine.

8th Grade Parent/Guardian night was held on Thursday, March 10th with good attendance. Ginny Blake has been visiting 8th grade classes in Sudbury and Lincoln to advise students on filling out course request sheets.

The SEPAC meeting of parents of students with IEP's was held on March 3rd to good turnout. Ms. Wong, Tracy Ryan and two 9th grade students attended the Lincoln Parent Organization meeting on March 14th to discuss grade 8 transition to LS.

On Monday, March 7th, the mask requirement was lifted. Ms. Wong was encouraged to see students and staff in the building wearing or not wearing masks according to individual comfort level. Pool testing continues through the end of March and Antigen tests are available for students and staff.

EDCO is working toward dissolution by June 30th. Retirees of EDCO are entitled to health and retirement benefits. The dissolution plan will be able to pay out over 35 years, based on the youngest retiree. An entity is required to ascertain the retiree list and their contact list. Ms. Wong has volunteered LS to assume that role and Kirsteen Patterson has acknowledged that the Business Office can handle this task. Expenses for this task will be borne by the EDCO retiree trust.

Director of Finance and Operations Report

Kirsteen Patterson provided an update on health insurance. Harvard Pilgrim will be examining LS health claims in order to assess a final cost number with the Business Office so that open enrollment can commence.

Action Items

Vouchers signed.

Approval of Minutes

Harold Engstrom moved to approve the Minutes of March 1, 2022. Heather Cowap seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor via roll call vote except Candace Miller who was absent.

Future Agenda Items

Transition to in person School Committee meetings should be determined once the technology has been determined to facilitate this transition. Kevin Matthews suggested that presentations be viewed onscreen via SudburyTV.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjourn to Executive Session

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; and to review and approve executive session minutes and to not return to Open Meeting. Harold Engstrom seconded the motion. All were in favor via roll call vote except Candace Miller who was absent. The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Francy Zingale

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