

**LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 2022
MINUTES**

Present

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

Also Present

Bella Wong, Superintendent/Principal; Kirsteen Patterson, Director of Finance and Operations; Danielle Weisse, ExecTA; Thomas Grandprey, FATA Department Coordinator; Leslie Patterson, Associate Principal

Call to Order

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

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Presentation

Thomas Grandprey, Department Coordinator for the FATA Department, presented a slide show illustrating student artwork. The FATA department includes Applied Technology, Art Media, Music, Theatre Arts, Metal Arts, and Fine Arts. Students are required to take 2 credits from among the FATA courses. Most FATA courses meet 5 times in a two week cycle, receive a letter grade which is not included in the students' GPA, and each FATA class contains a mix of 9-12th grade students. Students learn technique, development of ideas, and how to analyze their work – skills that they will make use of in many facets of their lives beyond LS. Mr. Grandprey provided examples of student work created in various FATA classes in his slide show. Students maintain Process Journals in most classes which help them develop the habit of reflection, revision, and refining ideas which leads to growth and success in all creative endeavors. These are skills that are integral to success in the learning process in all areas of life. The music program is highly developed with a number of ensemble groups available to students beyond band, orchestra, and chorus.

Student work is showcased in the AP Art Exhibition, through concerts such as the Winter Choral Concert, Winter Instrumental Concert, Cabaret Concert, and Pops Concert. LS Choir, Orchestra, and Band create welcome videos for incoming LS students to invite and encourage them to join.

The goals of the FATA department are to: continue to develop a common vision of what they want students to learn; meet the needs of LS students; track national educational trends; develop pathways for individual student success; and develop pathway graphics. New for school year 2022-2023 are: Drawing as prerequisite for Painting; adding Collaborative Theatre,

Exploring Art, and Metals 1 and 2. Future goals include providing upper level classes in Film, Graphic Design and Digital Media, Sculpture as well as Piano and Music Theory classes.

Ms. Wong added that the FATA department seeks to encourage and provide growth for students; it provides students with ensemble experience that leads to skills growth in students similar to the growth in life skills that students find in Athletics; and that the co-curricular programs (drama, concerts, robotics club and student art shows) are remarkably enriching for students. In addition, the FATA faculty members are professional artists and musicians of a very high caliber.

Information and Discussion

There were no topics for Information and Discussion.

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 a job fair for students would be held March 30th in the AB connector and thanked Laura Moynagh for her work connecting local employers and students. There have been a number of musical concerts for public enjoyment. Tracy Ryan, Rachel Cooke and Kathleen Thompson, Senior Class Advisors, helped organize the Senior Talent Show which was held on Friday evening (formerly Mr. LS). There will be a Spring Staff Scavenger Hunt in which students will be asked to match a teacher with interesting fact about them on Friday organized by the Fun Friday Committee. Susan Shields has invited faculty and staff to attend the graduation of students in the Self-Defense class which Ms. Weisse recommended highly. The nurses continually update staff trainings such as EpiPen training and Stop the Bleed workshop. Teachers have been working on advising individual students regarding what courses the students should schedule for the next school year.

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 tomorrow on March 30th. It will be a virtual meeting.

Mary Warzynski reported that the Superintendent/Principal Evaluation Subcommittee met on March 22nd and discussed the teacher survey to collect feedback. Work has begun on creating surveys for parents and teachers to be part of the process. Further discussion will occur during the April 5th meeting. Focus groups are scheduled for lunch blocks on April 27th and 28th in which teachers who preferred a focus group would meet with School Committee members. Ms. Endyke-Doran suggested that the LS School Committee members be prepared for the focus groups to take best advantage.

Superintendent/Principal Report

Ms. Wong congratulated Cara Endyke-Doran and Kevin Matthews for their successful bids to continue on the LS School Committee. She also expressed her appreciation to Maura Carty who also ran for School Committee. Ms. Wong also acknowledged Lincoln Town Meeting for approving the LS FY23 Budget and Capital Items.

EDCO Collaborative members are working toward dissolution by June 30th. DESE must approve the application for dissolution which depends on successful settling of all liabilities. A major liability is the rental monies owed to the property owner of the EDCO site. The lease liability of \$2 million will be settled by collaborative members remaining after the \$750,000 paid by EDCO. An additional liability is what is owed to the EDCO Retirees who are entitled to health and retirement benefits. The dissolution plan for the retirement benefits for EDCO employees will extend over 35 years, based on the youngest retiree. An entity is required to manage the retiree list and the authenticity of claims. LS will 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. LS School Committee must approve the appointment of managing the retiree benefits for EDCO. EDCO personnel and financial files and the website must be maintained for a certain number of years. Different member districts will assume different tasks of maintaining EDCO's presence.

The EDCO Collaborative is the oldest educational collaborative in the state. Through the years EDCO has provided specialized programs for the benefit of regional students. The collaborative provided programs for high need, low incidence students. It has also been a champion of professional development and training for teachers. When new requirements were necessary for licensure, EDCO would provide assistance in this. EDCO also provided a unique series of job links for Directors of Curriculum, Technical Support for schools, etc. EDCO also provided lobbying services for schools to promote bills that would enhance educational services in the state of Massachusetts. EDCO began struggling before the pandemic but during the pandemic it became clear that EDCO was no longer viable and could not overcome its financial challenges. A challenge to the agreed upon dissolution has been achieving the participation in the financial burden by Lexington School District. The Department of Education has weighed in declaring Lexington Public Schools are obligated to pay their portion of the liability. All legal counsels for EDCO member schools have agreed on the legitimacy of the liability.

NEASC Update

NEASC Report arrived in January but notification letter has not yet arrived. Once it arrives, we will make it public. In the meantime, work is being done to adjust the Strategic Plan.

- Faculty are serving on Hiring Committees routinely, particularly in this hiring season.
- The Reality for Life Fair was held at LS on March 18th. Students of the Financial Literacy course typically attend Reality for Life fairs which, during COVID, have not taken place. Consequently, Kathleen Thompson and Kate Grant undertook hosting a reality fair for all

LS seniors. Community members were enlisted to introduce stations surrounding the Performance Gym – including members of the local banking institutions. It is Kathleen and Kate’s intention to hold the fair every year. We thank them for applying for grants to support the event.

- The Senior Show was held on March 24th in the auditorium. The Musicians’ Unions sponsored a concert which raised funds for Ukraine.
- There will be a Jazz Concert on March 31st.
- Spring sports have begun in earnest.
- The FELS organization sponsored a talk on skill building and mastery entitled “The Little Red Schoolhouse Zooms into the 21st Century” moderated by Virginia Blake with panelists Maureen Markelz, literacy specialist; Rob MacDonald, Director of Academics at NuVu Innovation School in Cambridge; Jal Mehta, Faculty Co-Chair at Learning Design, Innovation and Technology at Harvard University School of Education; Anne L’Homedieu Sanderson, Co-Founder and Executive Director of ThinkerAnalytics and Associate in Harvard University Philosophy Department; Masha Stine, 9th Grade Algebra teacher in Lawrence, MA and 2009 Graduate of LS; and David Urion, Pediatric neurologist and medical ethicist, Director of Neurology at Boston Children’s Hospital.

Director of Finance and Operations Report

Ms. Patterson reported that assistance for the food service program grant for \$16,024 to LS. Kirsteen Patterson provided an update on health insurance renewal. Harvard Pilgrim will be examining LS health claims data in order to assess a final cost number with the Business Office so that open enrollment can commence. The cost of LS health insurance through Harvard Pilgrim will increase by 9.79% which is inline with trends in other group plans.

Action Items

Vouchers signed.

Approval of Minutes

Heather Cowap moved to approve the Minutes of March 15, 2022 with noted edit. Harold Engstrom seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor via roll call vote.

Future Agenda Items

There was discussion about when to resume in-person meetings and it was concluded that in-person meetings would begin with the first School Committee meeting in May 2022.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjourn

Heather Cowap moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Candace Miller. All were in favor via a roll call vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Francy Zingale

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