

**LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES  
MAY 24, 202**

**Present**

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

**Also Present**

Bella Wong, Superintendent/Principal; Kirsteen Patterson, Director of Finance and Operations; Danielle Weisse, Teachers' Association; Olivia Gottlieb, Student Senate Representative; Nicole Digenis, Caroline Singler, Maureen Bolton, and Kim Bennett, LS Science Department

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:04pm.

Heather Cowap requested a moment of silence in memory of the students and two teachers murdered in Uvalde, Texas.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Presentation**

Nicole Digenis, Science Department Coordinator, presented Science Department initiatives with Caroline Singler, Maureen Bolton, and Kim Bennett.

Ms. Digenis provided an overview of the Core Science Program: Earth Science, Biology, Chemistry and Physics as well as a robust elective program. The science courses are levelled but not tracked. This is the first year that LS students will be taking the Nextgen MCAS tests which are completely computer based for Science.

The Lab Program, which is integral to the courses offered, is back on track after the accommodations required because of the pandemic. During pandemic, online lab programs were utilized as well as other creative hybrid lab solutions. The Science Department goals for 2021-2022 were to reignite students' engagement in Science by creating community in the classroom and developing alternative ways for students to demonstrate their learning.

In additional, real life applications for real life science for the current year are:

Build it Better, Engineering Design which stresses the engineering design process whose focus is small scale projects where students work in teams to find solutions, creating a prototype, choosing a capstone project. Engineers from the community served as judges/panelists for the Capstone Project evaluation.

In Chemistry, work is being done on 3D molecule modeling and how medicines work in partnership with Wellesley College to pilot the Molecular Modeling Project curriculum.

Students use molecular visualization software and analyze 3D intermolecular forces between a human protein and drug treatment molecules.

In Biology, the Human Diversity Unit explores the hypothesis that race is not biological, it is a social construct – explored by comparing data on human mitochondrial DNA samples from different continents, exploring the biological origins of human skin color and exploring the patterns and origins of human genetic variation.

Earth Science curriculum includes instructing the students to the engineering design process as it applies to Earth Science issues. Students have enjoyed a new course on the Science of Survival. A SERF grant has provided funds to purchase bones and using them to determine the height and sex from the bone samples. The community connection had been limited as a result of COVID but community speakers have been reintroduced.

Competitive Science Teams continue, for example the National Ocean Sciences Board team and the Science Olympiad. The Biology Club and the Environmental Club are very active science clubs that are student driven and attract student participation.

Science-themed Student Travel for the coming year will be Iceland during the summer of 2022 and spring 2023 and Costa Rica in February 2023.

Student supports in science include Science Student TA's and the Science Academy, a faculty lunch-time drop-in tutoring program which is currently in its 4<sup>th</sup> year and is well used by students.

### **Information and Discussion**

There was no information and discussion.

### **Student Senate Representative**

Olivia Gottlieb reported that the student elections were successfully completed and the Senate was looking forward to incorporating the new members. The Student Senate prepared snacks for faculty before Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, Faculty meeting which was much appreciated!

### **METCO Parent Representative**

There was no METCO Parent Representative Report.

### **Teachers' Association Representative**

Danielle Weisse reported on a number of end of year events:

- The Musicians Union, with Dan Schuler as advisor, performed an end of year Battle of the Bands. The MU has raised \$6,500 to benefit school charities.
- Michael Bunting and the LS choral groups performed the Community Sing on Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup>
- The librarians organized an Asian-Pacific Heritage display in the library
- 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Civics projects are underway in the History Department

- Susan Shields has organized the incoming 8<sup>th</sup> grade transition to LS visit
- The Global Scholars, advised by David Grace and Erin Shanahan, Capstone projects were presented on May 18<sup>th</sup>
- Mark Sobkowicz and the Computer Science Department hosted an exhibit on May 23<sup>rd</sup>
- The Build Better engineering projects, Advisor Kim Bennett, were presented on May 22<sup>nd</sup>
- The AP Art Exhibit, Advisor Sara Fine Wilson, was on display in the AB Connector during the past week.
- The Mock Crash hosted by S.A.D.D. was viewed by the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Grade students on May 18<sup>th</sup>
- COVID cases have increased resulting in teachers subbing for one another.

### **Chairperson/Liaison Reports**

Mary Warzynski reported on progress for the Superintendent/Principal Evaluation Subcommittee. It has been resolved to utilize the DESE questions and focus points.

Heather Cowap proposed that Subcommittee and Liaison positions be reappointed and voted during the next meeting.

### **Superintendent/Principal Report**

Ms. Wong reported on additional end of year celebrations:

- ACE Program Banquet
- EXCELL Dinner
- Junior Prom was held on May 18<sup>th</sup> in Worcester
- Cum Laude Induction Ceremony on May 17<sup>th</sup>
- LSPO Teacher Appreciation Lunch, May 18th
- LSB Players performed the 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> Grade plays
- Senior Awards Ceremony was held on May 25th
- Senior Scholarship Ceremony to be held May 31<sup>st</sup>
- Senior Service Day on June 1<sup>st</sup>
- Graduation on June 5<sup>th</sup>
- Hiring committees for 25 new positions

COVID numbers are increasing. At this point, Ms. Wong estimates that 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the student population has had COVID.

The Excess and Deficiency funds will be on the agenda for a meeting in Lincoln on June 9<sup>th</sup> and in Sudbury on June 14<sup>th</sup> and transferred to the OPEB Trust Fund and the LS Stabilization Fund.

Juneteenth will be celebrated at LS on June 15<sup>th</sup>. The holiday will be observed on June 20<sup>th</sup>. MS. Wong invited the School Committee member to attend the Assembly on June 15<sup>th</sup> during ACA to hear the keynote speakers.

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

Kirsteen Patterson reported on the procurement process for the chainlink fence. The HVAC project bid is ongoing and ESSR and ARPA funds will be used to fund this improvement. The auditors, Powers and Sullivan, will report to the School Committee on June 7<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Patterson presented the parameters to be followed for the newly acquired P-cards which were publicly bid and facilitated by MASBO. The p-cards will permit staff to avoid out of pocket expenses incurred for school business.

#### **Action Items**

There are no Action Items.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Mary Warzynski moved to approve the minutes for May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The motion was seconded by Harold Engstrom. There was no discussion. All were in favor. Cara Endyke-Doran abstained. Kevin Matthews and Candace Miller was absent.

#### **Future Agenda Items**

There were no future agenda items.

#### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

#### **Adjourn**

Mary Warzynski moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Harold Engstrom. There was no discussion, the motion was approved via roll call vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:41pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Francy Zingale