# LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE AGENDA

# Tuesday, November 22, 2016

# 6:30 p.m. Public Session

**Conference Room A** 

- I. Quick tour of 420 Lincoln Rd
- II. School committee workshop on meeting protocols and best practices
- III. Discussion on concept of project based learning

7:30 p.m.

L-S Conference Room B

#### **Present**

Elena Kleifges, Chair; Kevin Matthews, Vice-Chair; Radha Gargeya; Nancy Marshall; Patty Mostue; Gerald Quirk.

#### Also Present

Bella Wong, Superintendent/Principal; Sherry Kersey, Director of Finance and Operations; Caroline Singler, TA President; Marie Nevils; Virginia Blake, Director of Curriculum.

#### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:37pm

## **Approval of Minutes**

Nancy Marshall moved to approve the Minutes for October 25, 2016 pending edits. Patty Mostue seconded the motion. All were in favor, there was no discussion.

Patty Mostue moved to approve the Minutes for November 9, 2016 pending edits. Radha Gargeya seconded the motion, Kevin Matthews abstained. All were in favor, there was no discussion.

#### **Presentation**

Virginia Blake, Director of Curriculum, presented the current year's figures for Student Enrollment and Staffing.

Current enrollment at LS for 2016-2017 is 1570 as of October 1, 2016. Class sizes are dropping corresponding with the decline in enrollment. Class sizes by discipline:

Computer classes, 24; English, 24; FATA, 21; History, 23; Math, 22; Science, 24; Wellness, 19; World Language, 21. Class size in Science is slightly higher because of the large size of the current senior class.

New course offerings for 2016-2017 are Strategic Skills taught be Intervention Specialist, Literary non-fiction, 3D modeling and rapid prototyping, and Mandarin I. Courses introduced last year and offered again this year are Russian Literary Imagination, Drama, Documentary Video, AP Chemistry, Mathematical Problem-Solving, and Java Programming which alternates with IOS programming.

Other statistics of note are that 71% of students get their first choice in History and in English; 15% of students get their second choice. Math, Science and World Language are sequential disciplines. Consequently, all students receive their first choice. 9th Grade classes are kept smaller in general than upper level classes.

The School Committee members thanked Ms. Blake for compiling a presentation that was edifying and that illuminated the current configurations of class sizes at L-S.

#### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

## Recognitions

The Fall Musical, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, was a wonderful success. The set was dynamic and artfully designed, over 50 students were in the cast, 30 student musicians were ably directed by Tom Grandprey, while Michael Bunting coached the vocalists who were all very talented. Carly Evans directed the production of this "beast of a show" (her words) with a sure hand. Bravo to all involved! And thank you for a wonderful evening at the theatre!

The Senior Citizen Thanksgiving will be held tomorrow in the LS Cafeteria. Approximately 100 senior citizens will attend the event. The Concert Jazz Ensemble and Symphonic Jazz Ensembles will play and Caleb Martin Rosenthal will provide piano during the dinner hour. Many thanks to Christine McDonald in the cafeteria and her able assistants for creating a delicious repast for our guests. Thanks also to the guys in Building and Grounds for their assistance in setting up before hand and setting the cafeteria to rights afterward. Organizers of the event are Tom Danko, Susan Frommer, Danielle Weisse, and Ann Kramer. Student organizers are Ella Houlihan and Mary MacKeen. We would like to extend a special thank you to Steven Hohmann of Sudbury Farms who, on behalf of Roche Brothers, donated 20 turkeys for this event.

The Counseling Seminars for Ninth Graders have begun in Quarter 2. Students will meet with their counselors 3 times in small groups. In these sessions, topics such as transitioning to high school, stress and time management, graduation requirements, LS Core Values, and the different

resources in the building will be discussed. Beyond dissemination of information, the counselors will be building relationships with their ninth grade students.

The Depression Workshop took place on Thursday, November 17, organized by Clinical Counselors Emily Phillips, Jen Reen, Stephanie Kunst, Stephanie Benash, Lynn Carlson, Jill Coutu, Kayla DeWees as well as Dan Schuler and Colleen Demers. The goal of the two-hour workshop was to help students learn: 1) How to recognize signs and symptoms of depression in self, friends and family; 2) How to get help; and 3) Know if you are worried about the safety of a friend you must seek out an adult for help. The workshop was attended by 10th grade students and students (11th graders) not able to attend last year.

On Friday, November 18th, Beth Whitlock, Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker, was the second guest speaker in this year's Career Speaker series. Beth works at a Community Mental Health Center in Concord and has a private practice in Sudbury. She will speak with students who are interested in learning more about the many pathways within the field of psychology/social work. The Career Speaker sessions are not restricted just to students who are clear and focused about their intended career paths but to all students to expand awareness of different careers. Andie Falzone, Vocational Counselor, has organized this series.

Madelyn Paquette (E11) has been selected as a finalist for the Young Arts Foundation 2017 in the voice/singer/songwriting category. Only 166 students were nominated as finalists from a national field of over 10,000 applicants. Madelyn is one of 4 finalists in her category. Finalists will meet in Miami in early January to compete further and to be educated by experts in the music industry. Madelyn submitted 3 original songs as well as a video recording. Congratulations, Madelyn!

Tracey Burke has been accompanying LS students to the Greater Boston Food Bank monthly for the past 10 years as part of the MLK Action Project service opportunities. The bus leaves LS at 12:45 one Wednesday per month for Boston and returns at 5pm. The students spend about two hours working in the food bank warehouse on whatever project staff have planned for them. This past Wednesday, 19 LS students sorted and packed food for shipment. All students and staff in our community are welcome on these trips (January 11<sup>th</sup>, February 8<sup>th</sup>, and March 29<sup>th</sup>). The LS connection to the Greater Boston Food Bank was initiated by Jo Crawford who had a very special relationship with the directors and staff. She was a great believer in tackling inequity close to home and in the value of community service for LS students.

LS Rugby players Destiny Vidal (E11), Nia Williams (S11), and Shelley Liu (E12) will be competing in the Northeast Academy 7's Rugby Tournament in Buffalo, New York during Thanksgiving weekend. The 7's refers to 7 players on a side rather than the typical rugby games of 15 on a side. The girls were elected to represent Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and Massachusetts. There will also be teams from New Jersey, New York City and Pennsylvania competing in the Tournament. Congratulations to Destiny, Nia and Shelley for being chosen and good luck in the tournament.

The Athletic Department held a ceremony to honor senior athletes who have committed to various school for college athletics. We congratulate the student/athletes for their hard work and dedication.



**T row (L=>R)** Amelia Harvey (WPI, basketball), Brianna Stokes (Gettysburg, lacrosse), Eric Lifson (Kenyon, golf), Jack Sutherland (Endicott, lacrosse), Ryan Donlan (Bowdoin, lacrosse & soccer), Hayden Frey (Union, lacrosse), Ethan McCullough (Williams, football), Trevor van Leer (St. Lawrence, lacrosse), Brett Williams (Union, lacrosse)

**B row (L=>R)** Hannah Lepordo (Wheaton, soccer), Emma Garret (St Lawrence, soccer), Jenna Barnes (Holy Cross, soccer), Courtney Quirk (Colgate, lacrosse), Daniel Ryan (Hobart, Lacrosse), Alexa Babick (Northeastern, Track/Cross Country)

The Winter Instrumental Concert will be held Thursday Dec. 1st at 7:30pm in the LS Auditorium. The evening will feature the Orchestra, Concert and Symphonic Bands, as well as the Violin Ensemble and Flute Choir. Band works will include marches by Sousa and King, fanfares by Dukas and Saucedo, a hymn song of music education pioneer and Medfield native Lowell Mason arranged by Holsinger, and a lovely composition by Samuel Hazo full of subtle and bold colors based on Georgia O'Keefe's painting *Blue and Green Music* 1919/21. Orchestral selections will feature music from international composers with works from Bizet, Gabriel-Marie, Mussorgsky and a classical guitar piece by Francisco Tárrega arranged for soloists and orchestra entitled *Recuerdos de la Alhambra*. No winter concert would be complete without what has become our signature finale, *Sleigh Ride*, which features all of the instrumental groups combined on stage. Thanks to Chuck Depotopulos' efforts with the orchestra pit, there will be enough room on the extended stage for all our musicians!

The LS Speech and Debate Team will be hosting a Speech and Debate Tournament at LS on December 10<sup>th</sup>. Over 400 guests will attend the tournament between students, coaches, parents and judges. 24 Speech and Debate teams from all over the state of Massachusetts will attend the tournament. The topic for the Public Forum Debate is whether the benefit of communication between internet-enabled devices outweighs any threats to privacy that they may pose. Katelyn Dix is the faculty advisor for the LS Speech and Debate Team.

30 Lincoln Sudbury students of David Grace's *World Crises* class have signed up to attend a presentation and discussion on the 2016 Presidential Campaign and a life in Public Service offered by Michael Dukakis at Northeastern University on Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, at 9am. The talk is part of the Lincoln Local Heroes series in partnership with the Lincoln Public Library.

David Grace presented "What does immigration mean to America in a refugee crisis" at the Tufts Fletcher School on Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup> as part of the Global Issues Seminar on "The Challenges of Migration and Immigration."

# **Student Representative Report**

Marie Nevils reported that the new 9<sup>th</sup> grade Senators were welcomed at the most recent Student Senate meeting. The senate reviewed plans for its December fund-raising effort which will take place the day before the December break. The senate is considering donating their fund-raising to local charities. The new 9<sup>th</sup> grade senators were invited to submit initiatives they considered important for the senate to consider.

## **Teachers' Association Report**

Caroline Singler reported that many staff members were involved in fall season sports. All LS teams were involved in post-season play. Faculty Coaches are: Shawn Lingley, Ariel Cox and Marci Stoda for Cross-Country; Vicky Caburian, Amanda Klein, and Sarah Greeley for Field Hockey; Judy Katalina and Ben Coleman for Volleyball; Chris Belmont and Neil Roches for Football; David Hosford, Jim Berry, Alfonso Abadia, Shawn Miller, Kate Berry and Matt Wentworth for Soccer (mens' and womens'); and lastly MaryAnn Grady for Competitive Cheer.

## Chairman's Report

Elena Kleifges recommended that the School Committee Evaluation Committee plan a process for evaluations and present to the other members. It should address School Committee/ Superintendent relationships; School Committee member development and performance; policy development; educational leadership; fiscal management; School Committee meetings; performance of subcommittees; interagency and governmental relationships; and conflict resolution.

Kevin Matthews joined Gerald Quirk on the Building and Grounds Facility subcommittee.

## **Liaison Reports**

Radha Gargeya reported on the Budget Strategy Task Force Meetings.

# **Superintendent/Principal's Report**

Bella Wong is preparing an FY18 Budget presentation for early December. She expressed her appreciation for the efforts of other Sudbury and Lincoln agencies to understand the LSRSH fiscal picture for FY18.

Jon Saphier spoke at the Faculty meeting on November 16<sup>th</sup> and presented a role model for instructional practice. He continues to partner with the Harvard Graduate School of Education in access to equity and excellence as well as strategic planning to lessen the achievement gap. He will address a Faculty Meeting again on November 30<sup>th</sup> with a focus on how to convey high expectations to foster a growth mindset in students.

Water testing for lead and copper has concluded at LS with 130 samples being tested in late September. Of the 130 samples taken, one faucet tested over the threshold for lead and that one has been removed from service. Two faucets tested over the threshold for copper: one has been relabeled for handwashing only, the other has received a filter.

LS will host 20 students from the ALBA Berlin basketball youth program. LS families will be hosting the students and coaches from December 5<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup>. The German students will practice with LS basketball team members, attend a Celtics game, a Boston College game and visit the Springfield Basketball Hall of Fame as well as tour Boston.

On Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, Ms. Wong will be part of a panel discussion at Primary Source for Global Education which is part of the Boston College doctoral program. Female Superintendents have been invited to participate in the pane discussion.

The LS School calendar for 2017-2018 will be presented to the School Committee at the December 13<sup>th</sup> meeting for approval. A documentary entitled "Razia's Ray of Hope" will be screened at LS and is about the building of schools for Afghani girls on January 31<sup>st</sup> at LS.

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

Sherry Kersey reported on the School Nutrition Administrative Review. There were no significant findings. Lunch prices will no doubt increase for next school year. KMS Actuaries have been contacted to provide a presentation on OPEB to the Trustee group for a meeting in early December. Ms. Wong added that the incoming information may have implications for the FY18 Budget.

Current work involves changing payroll from a contract service to an in house process. Brandi Mahlert has been trained for months in order to achieve a smooth transition.

Sherry Kersey reported on the enrollment 5- and 10- year projections. The projections are essentially unchanged from last year's projections. Next year there will be 32 fewer students as predicted. There will be a slow, steady decline in students at LS over the next 5 to 10 years.

# **Information & Discussion**

There was no information nor discussion.

#### **Action Items**

Vouchers #1018, 1019, 1020 were signed. Payroll for 11/15/16 was signed.

#### **Other Business**

There was no other business.

#### **Calendar of Events**

Senior Citizen Thanksgiving	November 23, 2016
Thanksgiving Recess	November 23, 2016
Instrumental Concert	December 1, 2016
Choral Concert	December 8, 2016
Warnings Due	December 12, 2016
LS School Committee	December 13, 2016

# **Executive Session, if needed** Superintendent's Conference Room

- approving and reviewing executive session minutes related to collective bargaining, non-union personnel contracts and or litigation issues because to do so in public session would be detrimental to the District's position
- discuss strategies related to collective bargaining, non-union personnel contracts and/or litigation issues because to do so in public session would be detrimental to the District's position.

# Adjourn

On a motion from Gerald Quirk, and seconded by Kevin Matthews, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm. The Committee continued in Executive Session.