

**LINCOLN-SADBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2016**

**Present**

Elena Kleifges, Chair; Radha Gargeya; Nancy Marshall; Patty Mostue; Gerald Quirk

Kevin Matthews was absent.

**Also Present**

Bella Wong, Superintendent/Principal; Sherry Kersey, Director of Finance and Operations; Caroline Singler, TA President; Caitlin Carter, Student Senate President; Amy Paquette and Carole Daniels, Protect Sudbury; Melody Phu and parents; Justen Vandervelden and parents.

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:32pm

**Approval of Minutes**

On a motion from Nancy Marshall and seconded by Gerald Quirk, the Minutes of 27 September 2016 were approved as amended. There was no discussion. All were in favor.

**Presentation**

Superintendents' Award to Melody Phu and Justin Vandervelden

Bella Wong presented the Superintendents' Award for Academic Excellence to Melody Phu and to Justin Vandervelden. Ms. Wong introduced Melody to the LS School Committee members as academically gifted and a four-year member of the LS musical community as a member of the Violin Ensemble. Melody has also become a Peer Leader in the Diversity Workshop presented to 9<sup>th</sup> graders. She has worked since the 9<sup>th</sup> grade as a volunteer at the MetroWest Health Clinic in Framingham. Melody has been active in designing a program to track patient data within the clinic and has worked there for over 200 hours. She clearly embodies the LS motto of "Think for yourself but think of others."

Justin Vandervelden has been following a challenging academic program at LS combining in his senior year a double enrollment in AP Physics and Accelerated Chemistry with an Independent Study in business. Justin is the president and co-founder of the LS Investment Club as well as captain of both the Varsity Soccer and Varsity Baseball teams. His coaches report that he is a "team above self" leader on and off the field. Justin's teachers praise his love of learning and

appreciation of education. The community at large has benefitted from his work as a referee for Youth Soccer.

Ms. Wong congratulated both students on their achievements to date and was joined by the School Committee members in wishing them well in all their endeavors.

Amy Paquette and Carole Daniels presented the goals of ProtectSudbury. Gerald Quirk raised concerns about the precedent set by having advocacy groups present at School Committee around matters unrelated to the governance of the District, education policy or other matters of direct relevance to Lincoln–Sudbury students. Amy Paquette informed the committee that the purpose of ProtectSudbury was to educate the community regarding the plans of Eversource to construct high power transmission lines running through several Sudbury neighborhoods. The work proposed will change the community landscape as well as significantly impact the local environment, watershed, and property values. They further informed the committee that Eversource does not require permission from the Town of Sudbury to begin work and that to stop it would require litigation. Ms. Paquette and Ms. Daniels shared their concerns that the diminishment of property values in the areas impacted may result in a corresponding lack of funds for Sudbury schools.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **Recognitions**

Jo Crawford will be recognized as a Citizen of Note at the October 17<sup>th</sup> Special Town Meeting. It is the Town of Sudbury’s way of remembering and expressing its appreciation for the time and talent she gave to enrich the quality of life in the community as the LSRHS MLK Coordinator from 1995–2014.

Brendan Wimberly and Lori Hodin received a SERF Grant entitled “Courageous Community”. Facilitators from the Discovery Center will lead a full day workshop using interactive activities and structured dialogue to aid students in examining personal identities and beliefs. The students attending the workshop are members of the Intersections Club whose goal is to foster caring and cooperative relationships and respect human differences.

Bella Wong received a SERF Grant entitled “Project Design for Deeper Learning at the High Tech High Fall Residencies Conference.” Participants Sandy Crawford, Jason Medeiros, Mark Sobkowicz, Aida Ramos, and Meghan Notari will attend a three–day residency at High Tech High in San Diego from October

12 through 14, 2016. The visit will provide professional development for training in how best to implement successful project-based learning.

Ken Kimura and his wife Etsuko were at the recent ribbon cutting ceremony of the Walden Pond Visitor Center, whose lead architect is Maryann Thompson. Ms. Thompson is currently working on designs for the Center for Innovation (formerly White House Pre-school). According to Ken, the Visitor Center is a stunningly beautiful building.

The LS METCO Student Council met for the first time in September. Caroline Han is their Faculty Advisor and Diversity Co-Coordinator. The LS METCO Student Council will give the students a greater voice in the issues and events that shape their academic and social experiences at LS.

The Counseling Department will be holding Financial Aid Night on October 18<sup>th</sup> in the Auditorium. The Lincoln Sudbury Scholarship Fund will be presenting information to the parents as will the Sudbury Foundation's Atkinson Scholarship representatives.

2017 Applications are available for the Atkinson Scholarship Program. The Program was created to recognize and assist local high school seniors with financial need, academic promise, and the capacity to make a meaningful contribution to society. It was created in 1995 by Sudbury Foundation founders Herbert and Esther Atkinson who believed strongly in giving back to the community and were particularly interested in supporting the town's young people. The Atkinson Scholarship Program offers eligible students a maximum of \$5,000 per year in college scholarships or aid for approved post-secondary vocational training.

The PSAT test will be administered at LS on Saturday morning, October 15<sup>th</sup>. 400 students have signed up to take the test which will be administered by Debbie Proctor.

Teresa Keka has been nominated to receive the Daughters of the American Revolution Award for Good Citizenship for 2016-2017. The award is intended to reward the qualities of good citizenship which are: Dependability, Service, Leadership, and Patriotism. Faculty nominate student candidates who then are voted on by their peers. Award winners who submit a personal statement and written essay are eligible to win a trip to Washington, D.C. and an additional scholarship.

Chris Collins reports that the environmental club has made a massive push to collect the green waste from the school cafeteria over the last two years. They

have settled on a system, in cooperation with the cafe workers, to collect green waste and store it in the large walk-in refrigerator downstairs. The students will collect the waste (held in screw top 5 gallon buckets) once a week and bring it to various local farms and at home compost sites.

### **Student Representative**

Caitlin Carter reported on progress made for the 9<sup>th</sup> grade elections to Student Senate. The Senate has updated the website with a list of 16 candidates and their reasons for running for election. The Senate has discussed methods of bringing attention to the ballot questions of this year's state/national election cycle. Additional discussion has centered on proposing an honor society for the Junior class.

### **TA Report**

Caroline Singler reminded the School Committee members that the LS Teachers Association and the LSPO would hold a coffee on the morning of October 20<sup>th</sup>. The Math Olympiad will be held next week. Peer Leader and Peer Mediator trainings are an ongoing effort. Finally, on Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Faculty/Staff/Student Variety Show will be held and proceeds will benefit FELS and the TA's Paul Vernon Scholarship.

### **Chairman's Report**

Elena Kleifges reported that 160 districts in Massachusetts have approved a Massachusetts Association of School Committees resolution to oppose ballot question #2 regarding Charter Schools. Radha Gargeya pointed out that public schools are open to all students, are funded and governed by their respective communities. Charter schools are public schools in that they are funded by local taxpayers but there is no local government control as accountability is through the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. This is a significant drawback for smaller towns in the Commonwealth. In a sense, the existence of charter schools becomes an unfunded mandate.

**VOTE: After small edits approved by the School Committee, Gerald Quirk moved that "the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional School District School Committee was resolved against lifting the cap on Commonwealth Charter Schools WHEREAS, free public schools available to all students regardless of income, ability, need or English language proficiency are foundational to our democracy; and WHEREAS, all of our students deserve public schools of high quality that teach the whole child, providing enrichment and addressing social and emotional needs in addition to core academic subjects; and WHEREAS, local accountability for our public schools is necessary to ensure that schools are responsive to the needs of their communities; and WHEREAS, public school districts across the state are**

losing more than \$408 million this year alone – a loss of funds that is undermining the ability of districts to provide all students with the educational services to which they are entitled; and WHEREAS, the Commonwealth charter schools are often approved over the objections of a majority of community residents and their elected officials and are not accountable to local elected officials once they are approved; and WHEREAS, Commonwealth charter schools often fail to serve the same proportion of special needs students, low-income students and English language learners as the districts from which they receive students and often use high suspension rates to drive out students they do not want to serve; and WHEREAS, lifting the cap on charter schools may greatly worsen the problems listed above and lead to a costly and divisive two-track school system; THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional School Committee opposes lifting the cap on Commonwealth Charter Schools.” The motion was seconded by Radha Gargeya. All were in favor.

### **Liaison Report**

Kevin Matthews and Elena Kleifges attended the Capital Funding Planning Committee meeting. Nancy Marshall noted that streamlining of various committee meetings was essential since school committee members were attending the meetings of two towns. Radha Gargeya recommended that the community attend the Sudbury Special Town Meeting to vote in favor of the replacement of the lower turf fields and for the replacement of security cameras around the LS campus.

### **Superintendent’s Report**

Ms. Wong reported that she had attended the Washington, D.C. meeting of the Goethe Institut with Joan Campbell. Lincoln-Sudbury is a member of the Pasche Schools collaborative and that is a great honor to be included in the 11 US members of the program. LS students are therefore able to study German in Dresden, Germany, during the summer months as well as at a summer camp for language study. The German exchange students will arrive next week to spend three weeks at LS in homestay with local families.

Representatives of the MaryAnn Thompson Architectural firm have held visioning sessions for faculty, students and staff on the Center for Innovation. MaryAnn Thompson will return to LS on October 24<sup>th</sup> to further refine possible plans for the Center for Innovation and to further discuss possibilities with faculty, students and staff as well as with a budget proposal for consideration.

Ms. Wong reported that discussions with Town of Sudbury financial groups had resulted in support for the security cameras and replacement of the lower turf

fields. The next step was to present at the Sudbury Special Town Meeting on Monday, October 17, 2016.

### **Business Report**

Sherry Kersey requested a vote for appropriation of funds for the lower turf fields and for the security cameras.

**VOTE: Nancy Marshall moved “that the Lincoln Sudbury School Committee, upon certification of FY2016 Excess and Deficiency Funds, appropriate up to \$757,500 for the purpose of replacing two (2) artificial turf fields at Lincoln–Sudbury Regional High School.” The motion was seconded by Radha Gargeya. All were in favor; there was no discussion.**

**VOTE: Gerald Quirk moved to accept a \$400 donation from Shaws Supermarket and Star Market as part of their “We Love Our Schools” campaign.” Radha Gargeya seconded the motion. All were in favor and the LS School Committee expressed its gratitude to Shaws Market via Brian Michaud, Store Director.**

Sherry Kersey also reported on the enrollment figures of October 1<sup>st</sup>. According to the FY18 Apportionment–Ratio, Sudbury will have its highest apportionment percentage for the difference between the total budget and the Required Minimum Contribution (RMC) amounts. The figures will be sent to the Lincoln and Sudbury FINCOMS.

There will be an audit of the Aramark food service in mid–November. A questionnaire is being prepared in advance of the audit. Discussions with the food service company have led to improvements in efficiency and flow in the cafeteria. There will also be an audit of the Circuit Breaker figures before the beginning of the year.

Data collection has begun with discussions with Department Coordinators in preparation for the FY18 budget. Sherry will present preliminary figures at the end of the month.

### **Action Items**

First Read of the Substance Abuse Policy. Ms. Wong reported that all schools are required to develop a substance abuse policy based on a model policy provided by DESE. However, no model policy has been forthcoming. The first read policy presented to the School Committee Members is based on the Weston Public Schools policy. Ms. Wong requested the School Committee members to read the policy and submit suggestions or edits.

**Information and Discussion**

There was no information and discussion.

**Other Business**

There was no other business.

**Calendar**

PSAT Exams	October 15, 2016
Special Town Meeting	October 17, 2016
Financial Aid Night	October 18, 2016
LS School Committee	October 25, 2016
Faculty Variety Show	October 28, 2016
1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter Ends	November 4, 2016
LS School Committee	November 8, 2016

**Adjournment**

Nancy Marshall moved to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Radha Gargeya. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm. There was no discussion and all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,  
Francy Zingale