

**LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
Tuesday, October 25, 2016**

**7:45 p.m. Public Session  
B**

**L-S Conference Room**

**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; Caitlyn Carter, Student Representative; Aida Ramos, Director of Student Services; Chris Shutzer, Beacon Program; Martha Wall, ACE Program Manager; Jack Martin, LS Parent.

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:45pm

**Approval of Minutes**

On a motion from Gerald Quirk and seconded by Nancy Marshall, the Minutes for October 13, 2016 were approved pending edits. There was no discussion. All were in favor.

**Presentation**

Aida Ramos, Director of Student Services, reported on changes, improvements, and 2016-2017 statistics based on the October 1, 2016 numbers submitted to DESE. There are 233 LS students with IEP's out of a total population of 1571, a 0.5% decrease from last year. The number of students out-of-district has remained relatively steady at 61 students. There has been an increase in the number of students on 504's. Students on 504 plans require accommodations rather than the specialized instruction required for students with an IEP. There were a greater number of incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders on 504's and students suffering from concussions are typically placed on a 504.

Additional funding for the LINK program has permitted a .75 FTE increase in special educator support for 9<sup>th</sup> grade students in English and learning skills to support all students. A clinical counselor position has increased .2 FTE to support the increased population in LINK. An outside consultant worked with

LINK staff for the past two years to streamline services for students with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). The consultant will return in November to evaluate progress and to make further suggestions.

An Intervention Specialist has been hired to teach 4 blocks of strategic skills, organizational skills, writing comprehension and executive functioning. All METCO 9<sup>th</sup> grade students have been assigned for Semester I. Additional students have been assigned to the class based on recommendations from Lincoln Public Schools and Sudbury Public Schools. The students are enrolled in this class rather than an elective. Classes are capped at 10–12 students each, they earn 2 credits per semester, and may continue through Semester II.

After school Homework Intervention Support is now offered on Tuesday and Thursday from 3–5pm. The program is offered to all students referred by their guidance counselor. To date, 17 students have been identified to attend the homework intervention support classes. Additionally, the Student Support Team has been organized. It is chaired by a school psychologist and includes representation from all academic departments as well as the Intervention Specialist.

Aida Ramos introduced Martha Wall to the School Committee members. Martha is the Program Manager of the ACE Department. She supervises ACE staff and the academic support staff which includes the intervention specialist.

Chris Shutzer, Beacon Program, was introduced to the School Committee members. The Beacon Program began as a grant funded by the MetroWest Health Program for its first three years. It has been a very successful program with 29 students its first year and 39 students participating during the second year. It is designed for students who have been absent from school for a significant period of time for medical or mental health reasons. Mr. Shutzer works with the teachers and students to facilitate student re-entry into the classroom. Students are typically in the Beacon Program for about 8 weeks.

Elena Kleifges reported hearing positive feedback from parents for the program. Mr. Shutzer added that similar programs are being added to school districts throughout the state as districts see the benefit of the program.

Aida Ramos ended her presentation with information that a number of general education courses benefitted from the support of TA's in the classrooms to support students with IEP's. Finally, upcoming events within the Student Services Department are a Circuit Breaker Audit on January 6<sup>th</sup>, a Coordinated

Program Self-Assessment due by May 2017, with an on-site visit in 2017-2018.

### **Public Comment**

Jack Martin, parent of LS student, expressed his gratitude for efforts of the LS School Committee. He was most impressed with the depth of support offered LS students and the level of care, concern, and thought that was evident in the work of the school as a whole and the Department of Student Services in particular.

### **Recognitions**

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. Please congratulate Teresa when you see her!

The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual LS Faculty, Staff, and Student Variety Show will be held on Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm in the LS Auditorium. Proceeds from the show will benefit FELS and the LSTA Scholarship Fund. Acts will include live music, dance, film, comedy and fun! Tickets are \$6 for students/senior citizens and \$8 for general admission. Tickets will be sold during lunch blocks outside the cafeteria starting on Tuesday, October 24<sup>th</sup>. Tickets sold at the door will be \$8 for students/seniors and \$10 for general admission.

Connections Sponsors "Understanding Adolescent Brain Development", an evening with Dr. Marisa M. Silveri, Tuesday October 25<sup>th</sup>, 7:30PM at the Lincoln Sudbury Regional High School Lecture Hall. The discussion will focus on the teen brain as it relates to decision-making, impulsive behavior, taking dangerous risks and alcohol and substance abuse. It's not always easy being the parent of a teenager. Dr. Silveri is a behavioral neuroscientist who holds appointments as Associate Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School and Adjunct Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at Boston University School of Medicine. Dr. Silveri is the Director of the Neurodevelopmental Laboratory on Addictions and Mental Health in the Imaging Center at McLean Hospital. Please join us to get some of your questions answered, and we encourage you to bring your LS student with you.

Andie Falzone is organizing a series of presentations organized around different career topics. The meetings will take place in the Career Center

during the lunch block and will offer interested students an opportunity to ask professionals in a given field questions about the various career paths within that field, along with the academic requirements that would be good to keep in mind while researching college programs. The series will begin on Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, with Doreen Rao, an engineer at Boston Scientific in Marlborough who is a Project Manager in the Urology and Pelvic Health Division. She leads new product development teams to design, develop, and commercialize minimally invasive medical devices. Doreen is the parent of an LS student and a Curtis Middle schooler.

The Intersections Club held Mix It Up Day today in the Cafeteria during first and third lunch. Staff were encouraged to sit at a table with students. Mix It Up Day is a national initiative sponsored by the Southern Poverty Law Center's Teaching Tolerance Program in which students are encouraged to cross social boundaries during lunch time.

The Annual Flu Clinic was held Monday, October 24<sup>th</sup>. Our thanks to the nurses for organizing the clinic so that staff could get flu shots early in the season. Nurses from Maxim Health Services administered the shots.

The METCO Student Council will participate in an in-school field trip on Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup> during Block 7 and ACA (11:08–12:20). The student council members will meet with METCO staff and Associate Principals to discuss the racial climate at LS and to discuss ways to strengthen the relationships between the METCO staff and students. Future plans will involve meeting with the Edge of Leadership Group to discuss a proposal for Lincoln and Sudbury students to learn more about Boston resident students' experiences and communities, lunch with faculty, and establishing a peer mentoring program.

The METCO Homework Club began today and is designed to extend the school day and create a supportive learning community for METCO and resident students to work collaboratively with faculty and peer tutors to complete homework, develop stronger learning skills and to support one another. The Homework Club will take place every Tuesday and Thursday from 3:00 to 5:00PM in the METCO Office.

Accent A Cappella competed at Faneuil Hall on Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Over 30 different groups were in the competition including groups from Harvard University, Northeastern University and Boston College. Madelyn Paquette noted that "as a high school group, competing with college a cappella groups is an incredible experience that inspires us to work hard."

### **Student Representative Report**

Caitlyn Carter reported that the Student Senate has been working on poster boards with information on the Ballot Questions for the November 8 election. Facts on voter registration and projections of how states will likely vote will be part of the display.

Tentative plans for a mock election during lunch block on November 8<sup>th</sup> are under discussion.

### **Teachers' Association Report**

Caroline Singler reported that the nurses had organized a Flu Shot Clinic for faculty and staff on October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The German exchange students are visiting and attending classes with their host students. The Counseling Department held a Financial Aid night for the benefit of college bound seniors' parents on October 18, 2016. The LSTA/LSPO coffee was a success and there will be another Coffee date during second semester. The Student/Faculty/Staff Variety show will be held on Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup> in the LS Auditorium. It is a great fundraiser for FELS and for the LSTA Scholarship.

### **Chairman's Report**

Elena Kleifges reported on the results of the Special Sudbury Town Meeting on October 17, 2016. Funding is granted for the security cameras and approval for use of LS funds for replacement of the lower turf fields was granted. Ms. Kleifges lauded the efforts of Bella Wong, Sherry Kersey, Peter Elenbaas, Sudbury Facilities Manager Jim Kelly and Sudbury Town Manager Melissa Murphy Rodrigues. Ms. Kleifges informed the School Committee members that dates for future meetings were being established by the Budget Strategies Task Force.

### **Liaison Reports**

Patty Mostue and Nancy Marshall attended the Lincoln Capital Committee meeting early this evening. Approval for the security cameras had already been granted. There were thoughtful questions regarding the replacement of the lower turf fields. The Town of Lincoln granted approval for use of LS funds to replace the turf fields.

### **Superintendent/Principal's Report**

Bella Wong expressed her thanks to the Sudbury organizations such as the Board of Selectmen, Jim Kelly, the Sudbury Financial Committee, the Capital Investment committee, and the members of the LS School Committee assisted in the positive reception to replacement of the lower turf fields and to funding

security cameras at LS. Bids are currently in development to get the work completed.

Ms. Wong is now focused on developing the FY18 Budget which she anticipates will be ready to submit to Lincoln and Sudbury in December 2016. Lincoln has suggested a 2.5% increase from FY17. Sudbury has not yet sent a percentage guideline.

Faculty Meetings are focused on academic interventions to assist students in accessing the curriculum. The next Faculty Meeting will concentrate on behavioral obstacles to learning and shared strategies for refocusing students. John Saphier will attend the next two faculty meetings to present strategies for communicating high expectations to students while supporting resilience without adding stress to students' lives.

Work continues on plans to renovate the White House PreSchool to house the Center for Innovation. The architect has had two productive meetings with students and staff to better understand how to create a work space that will be conducive to innovative projects.

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

Sherry Kersey reported that the 2016 Financial Audit will take place on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016. Ms. Kersey attended the Aramark Food Service Administrator review and feels that the food service operation for LS is working well.

#### **Information & Discussion**

There was no information or discussion.

#### **Action Items**

Vouchers #1012, 1013, 1014, and 1015 were signed.

A Second Reading of the Substance Abuse Policy resulted in a minor edit. The policy will now be posted on the School Committee website for public review.

**VOTE: Gerald Quirk moved to "accept a gift of \$1,000 from the Digital Federal Credit Union for Lincoln-Sudbury Financial Literacy students to participate in a Reality Fair on October 28, 2016 at Keefe Technical School." The motion was seconded by Kevin Matthews. There was no discussion. Elena Kleifges, Radha Gargeya, Kevin Matthews and Gerald Quirk were in favor. Nancy Marshall and Patty Mostue were not present for the vote.**

#### **Other Business**

There was no other business.

**Calendar of Events**

Connections	October 25, 2016
Faculty Variety Show	October 28, 2016
1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter Ends	November 4, 2016
HOPESudbury	November 5, 2016
LS School Committee	November 8, 2016
Veteran's Day	November 11, 2016

**Adjourn**

On a motion from Kevin Matthews, seconded by Gerald Quirk, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45pm.