LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MINUTES

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

6:30pm Executive Session Opens Hartwell Building, Lincoln, MA

7:15pm Executive Session closes

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; Aida Ramos, Director Student Services; Jason Medeiros and Sandy Crawford, Associate Principals; Mark Sobkowicz and Meghan Notari, LS Teachers; Chris and Cathy Rogers, Andrew Payne, and Carole Kasper.

Call to Order

Elena Kleifges called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

Approval of Minutes

The approval for the minutes for January 10th, 2016, were postponed until the LS School Committee meeting on February 14th, 2016.

Presentation

Eleanor Burke, Sandy Crawford, Jason Medeiros, Meghan Notari, Aida Ramos, and Mark Sobkowicz presented information on their October 2016 High Tech High Residency program. The impetus to attend the High Tech High Fall Residency program grew from the School Council's exploration of what direction education might take to prepare students for the 21st Century. The questions raised were: what types of knowledge will be essential, what skills will our students need to acquire, and what are the habits of mind that will help our students flourish as individuals and as members of a community. The conclusions of the School Council were that our students would need: information literacy; critical thinking and problem solving innovation and creativity; communication and collaboration; global competency in linguistics and history; empathy, tolerance and respect for diversity; and adaptability and a capacity for lifelong learning. This study led to an introduction to High Tech High in San Diego, which is exploring a new model for teaching students and preparing them for the 21st century called project-based learning. It is a very inclusive learning style and so accommodates a broad spectrum of students and personal learning approaches.

The projects at High Tech High are organized around projects that are interdisciplinary. The schedule permits long blocks in the morning and in the afternoon. The physical space is open and flexible to encourage collaboration with space available for exhibition and curation. There is a strong relationship between design and mission. The LS team visiting High Tech High learned that the attributes of great projects were: complexity, requiring higher order learning and fluency; craftsmanship, with high expectations for beauty, accuracy, and usefulness that through multiple iterations would become a curated piece of work; authenticity, using formats in the professional world using digital media, printing, and book-making; sophisticated technology; and projects that with a strong connection to community and that will benefit the community.

Among the lessons that have been learned through imagining the education of LS students for the future is the value of design thinking and resilience in teaching a growth mindset. Design thinking is a problem solving process that follows the key words "Empathize – Define – Ideate – Prototype – Test" in an iterative process. A short video clip of LS Clinical Counselor Kayla DeWees, speaking of a professional development course she had taken regarding design thinking, stated that the "illiterate of the 20th century are not those who cannot read or write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn and relearn."

The staff that attended the High Tech High Fall Residency returned thinking of ways to create time and space within the school day and of ways to empower teachers to work with one another and with their students in ways they didn't think was possible in a structured school schedule environment. In many ways, project-based learning does exist at LS. The MLK Action Project, the Green Team, the Robotics team and other co-curricular clubs and activities have already begun taking on projects to fill a community need and working collaboratively to reach a solution. In that way, the plan for an LS Hub for Innovation does not necessarily require a physical plant but rather a metaphysical impetus to inspire our students to collaborate and create solutions to real world problems.

Lincoln parent Andrew Payne related his experience that students who were able to create and collaborate as being exactly what was needed in the workplace of tech start-ups.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Recognitions

LS is experiencing a baby boom this school year!! Shara, Hunter and Oren Pilch announced the arrival of Nahla Crider Pilch on Saturday, November 12, 2016 at 9:20pm. She weighed in at 6 lbs, 12 oz, and was 19.5 inches long. Tim and Patty Cobbett announced the birth of Lucy Catherine Cobbett on December 29th, weighing 8lb, 1 oz. Elena Leigh Medeiros arrived January 19th to the delight of her family (Angela, Jason, Cameron and Olivia) and weighs 8 lb, 5 oz. Our latest arrival is Miss Lucey Jason, congratulations to Tim Jason and his wife Allie. We await the

arrivals of Baby Brunson, Baby Cole, Baby Garfield, Baby Warner, and Baby Stanek!!! A very, very warm welcome to these charming additions to our extended family and many blessings to all!

On January 17th, Carly Evans' Drama I class devised a short Theatrical production about the stresses of high school. The class performed the piece at 8:20am in Rogers Theatre. Students performing were Grace Fahey, Ari Gervais, Ka'ree Horton, Joey Kuniholm, Haley Lopes, Noel Martinez, Hannah Murray, Caitlin O'Connell, Emmy Schmelter, and Bri Stokes. It all came from classroom activities: improvisation, writing prompts, movement exercises.

Jessica Sperandio, Carol Padden and Paul Sarapas have received a SERF mini-grant for purchase of 20 FATA Wacom Drawing tablets. The digital drawing tablets will provide students access to an industry standard tool used by contemporary artists that will permit students to realize fully the artistic and design capabilities of the software and integrate it with tools such as the laser cutter and the CNC router. Results of this project will be posted on the FATA Digital Imaging webpage.

The LSB Players winter productions! This year, TWO winter productions will be presented. The first week will feature the play *Cosi* by Louis Nowra, an Australian comedy about a young college graduate who takes on the daunting task of directing a production of Mozart's Cosí Fan Tutte at a psychiatric institution with the patients. This show is directed by Carly Evans and will be performed on February 1,2,3,4 – all shows at 7:30pm in Rogers Theatre.

The second weekend will bring the Fourth Annual Winter One-Acts, this year chosen and directed by two student directors, Caro Klureza and Charlie Sykes. These two seniors were chosen last year after composing and presenting proposals for the scripts they wanted to direct. Caro is directing a one-act play called *Sorry, Wrong Number* by Lucille Fletcher. Charlie is directing a piece called *By the Waters of Babylon*, by Stephen Vincent Benét, which takes place in a futuristic dystopian society, where a young man must decide if he will undertake a journey to the forbidden places. The One-Acts will be performed February 10 and 11, with shows at 7:30pm and a matinee on February 11 at 2pm, in Rogers Theatre. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$8 for students and senior citizens.

Connections Presented: How parents can help their children navigate the high school years as told by LS students, on Wednesday January 11th. SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) arranged a panel of LS students to give honest and candid feedback about questions concerning the positive and negative impact parents can and are having on their children as they move through four years at Lincoln-Sudbury. Sarah Greeley and David Bloom organize the Connection Events.

In preparation for the 9th Grade Diversity Workshop on March 22nd, staff volunteering to assist in the workshop will begin training on February 15. JK Park is organizing the training program

with assistance from Lori Hodin, Susan Shields, Ariel Cox, Jen Garfield, Melisa Shen, and Tracy Burke. The purpose of the 9th Grade Diversity Workshop is to explore "Cultivating Community" and to help students develop tools to have conversations across difference.

D.E.A.R. Forum will take place on February 13th. D.E.A.R. stands for Depression Exists, Ask for Relief. This is a student run group that meets weekly during ACA block. This group focuses on raising awareness about depression and other important issues surrounding mental health and supporting students who have in the past, or are currently, struggling themselves. Stephanie Benash is the advisor for this group.

The METCO Student Council attended the Academic Council meeting on Monday, January 9th and presented their concerns, perspectives and feelings concerning the racial climate at L-S. Their presentation was thoughtful and eloquent. Caroline Han is the advisor for the METCO Student Council. The METCO Student Council and METCO Staff will be hosting an outing to a Celtics Basketball Game vs. the Bucks on Wednesday, April 12th. It will be a fun social outing for the LS METCO community. Contact Caroline Han for tickets.

Auditions for the All State Music Festival Honor Groups were held on Saturday, and two of our students were selected to participate. Katherine Feng (10), violin, All State Orchestra and Zak Kaye (12), euphonium, All State Band.

The festival rehearsals will take place in conjunction with the Massachusetts Music Educators Association State Conference held March 9th-11th at the Sheraton Boston Hotel. The groups will perform a concert at Symphony Hall on March 11th.

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We congratulate the following students who will serve as L-S's representatives to the Tenacity Challenge on April 1st at Bedford High School: Neandra Fernandes(12th Grade), Haley Lopes(11), Ashly Marson (12), Elcie Merck(11), Christele Saint Louis (10), and Nia Williams(11). Thank you to Caroline Han for her work in identifying this awesome group of young women.

Student Representative Report

Caitlin Carter reported that the last Senate meeting was brief so that students could return to studying for exams. The "no homework over break" initiative will be going to school-wide vote at the beginning of February.

Teachers' Association Report

Caroline Singler reported that mid-year exams were nearly over and commended staff and faculty for their efforts to coordinate rooms, proctors, and parent volunteers. Exam week is also a time when faculty engage in collaborative work, equipment maintenance, and planning for the following semester. A new SEI course is beginning in February thanks to Aida Ramos for organizing the course being held at LS. Faculty are also working with academic teams such as

the High School Quiz Bowl team, Tenacity Challenge, National Ocean Sciences Board and the Science Olympiad as the teams prepare for spring competitions.

Chairman's Report

Elena Kleifges reported on the Sudbury Capital Funding Committee, which is planning capital projects for the next 15 years. The mission of the committee will be finalized at the next meeting. The delayed school start time continues to be a hot topic. Sleep specialist Judith Owen recently spoke to the committee investigating a delayed start time for Sudbury Public Schools. Elena Kleifges encouraged the School Committee members to participate in the meetings because it is of growing concern to parents and because it will impact our transportation arrangements. Gerald Quirk pointed out that it would also be an issue with regard to collective bargaining.

Liaison Reports

Gerald Quirk, Kevin Matthews, Bella Wong, and Peter Elenbaas had met to discuss replacement of the turf fields. Design assumptions have changed since the replacement was addressed at Sudbury Town Meeting. Subsequent investigation has changed the recommendation for replacement materials for the fields. The project remains within budget and all indications are that it will be longer lasting than alternatives.

Superintendent/Principal's Report

Bella Wong updated the School Committee on the FY18 Budget. New information was highlighted. The budget remains within the guidance percentages of Lincoln and is over budget for Sudbury. The budget, however, does not yet incorporate reduced transportation increases, or final figures on insurance cost increases nor to minimum contribution rates.

Work continues to reduce the over budget figure of \$687,781 for Sudbury by reducing expenses and reducing personnel by 0.2FTE professional and non-professional staff distributed across 14 departments. The current educational program will continue with no new initiatives. The Beacon Program will continue as part of the operating budget; it had been covered by a grant from FY15 through FY17 that is now finished. The second year of the Mandarin pilot program will be offered.

Director of Finance and Operations' Report

Sherry Kersey reported that the first in-house payroll was completed. The members of the Business Office attended a two day training session on the current software for BudgetSense. There has been a change in food service managers at Aramark.

Information & Discussion

There was no information nor discussion.

Action Items

Warrants and payroll were signed.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Calendar of Events

January 25, 2017 Teachers' Workshop Film on Afghanistan Girls School January 31, 2017 Winter Play, Cosi February 3-4, 2017 College Admissions Seminar February 7, 2017 Jazz Concert February 9, 2017 Student One-Act Plays February 10-11, 2017 LS School Committee February 14, 2017 President's Day February 20, 2017 February 21, 2017 Winter Recess

Adjourn

Nancy Marshall moved to adjourn the meeting. Kevin Matthew seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45pm.

Respectfully submitted, Francy Zingale