# LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE AGENDA Tuesday, February 13, 2018

#### 6:30 pm Executive Session

#### **Conference Room A**

I. Call to Order

#### II. Executive Session

To review and approve executive session minutes related to collective bargaining, contract negotiations with union and non-union personnel and/or litigation issues because to do so in public session would be detrimental to the District's position. To discuss strategy with respect to contract negotiations with union and non-union personnel and/or litigation because to do so in public session would be detrimental to the district's position.

7:30 pm

#### **Conference Room B**

#### Public Hearing on FY19 Budget and School Choice

#### Present

Kevin Matthews, Chair; Gerald Quirk, Vice-Chair; Radha Gargeya; Nancy Marshall, Patty Mostue. Craig Gruber was absent.

#### **Also Present**

Bella Wong, Superintendent/Principal; Sherry Kersey, Director of Finance and Operations; Pat Brown, Sudbury Board of Selectmen; Carole Kasper, Lincoln Parent.

## **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:33pm

## Public Hearing for FY19 Budget

Bella Wong reviewed an updated version of the Proposed FY19 Budget. The line item for Chapter 70 has been adjusted per the newly issued Governor's Budget for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Budget assumptions have been updated to reflect new agreements for compensation, an 0.58FTE net increase to Science, Math and Instructional Technology staffing and a partial restoration of reductions to the FY18 Budget. A total FY19 Budget request of \$32,184,970 shows a 4.62% increase over last year's budget. Ms. Wong proposes to close the funding gap by additional adjustments and reductions of \$110,983 by reducing instructional capital, reductions from custodial cleaning, and use of up to \$218,240 from the Excess and Deficiency Fund. Without use of the E&D Fund, a 3.34 FTE reduction in staffing to all departments would be required.

The use of Excess and Deficiency Funds to bridge the funding gap is supported by the Lincoln Finance Committee, the Boards of Selectmen for Sudbury and Lincoln and the Sudbury Finance Committee.

# **School Choice**

Each year, the school district is required to take vote on School Choice. If L-S agreed to School Choice, students from other districts would be permitted to attend L-S. L-S would be compensated at a state mandated rate of \$5,000 per student. Because the reimbursement rate is significantly lower than the cost per student and given our current elevated class sizes, it was the recommendation of Administration that L-S again decline to participate in School Choice.

# **Public Comment**

Pat Brown, member of the Sudbury Board of Selectmen, addressed the School Committee members as a member of the general public regarding the omission of the last COLA increase of F Y18 in the current FY19 Budget. Ms. Brown was also concerned about the use of Excess and Deficiency Funds to close the current budget gap. She believes that perhaps a more advantageous health care negotiation would result in a lower dollar amount than is in the current FY19 Budget proposal. In addition, Ms. Brown wondered whether increasing the number of classes taught by L-S teachers from 4 to 5 per day would ameliorate the current class sizes. Mr. Matthews reminded Ms. Brown that the number of classes taught by teachers was a matter of negotiated contract and that the current Teachers' Contract would not be renewed until 2021. Ms. Brown was reminded that some L-S faculty teach 6 classes (Wellness and FATA) and that other faculty members frequently teach five classes when covering the absences of fellow teachers, resulting in low substitution fees for the institution. Mr. Quirk added that the wide variety of classes offered to L-S students, and multiple curricular preps for faculty, resulted in the necessity of preparation blocks for teachers, which would be impossible with a 5 block schedule.

Mr. Matthews thanked Ms. Brown for presenting her concerns to the School Committee members.

There was no further public comment.

Mr. Matthews proposed closing the Public Hearing on the FY19 Budget and School Choice.

# The Public Hearing was closed at 8:18pm.

VOTE: Gerald Quirk offered a motion "that the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional School Committee approve the FY19 Operating Budget, including OPEB funding, at \$31,456,067 funded by \$3,658,668 of Revenue Offsets and \$27,797,399 of member community assessments of which \$3,599,576 is assessed to the Town of Lincoln and \$24,197,823 is assessed to the Town of Sudbury, per the enclosed Assessment Schedule." Nancy Marshall seconded the motion. All present were in favor. Craig Gruber was absent.

*VOTE:* Gerald Quirk offered a motion "that the Lincoln-Sudbury School Committee approve the FY19 Debt Service Budget at \$649,675 funded by member community assessments of which \$84,783 is assessed to the Town of Lincoln and \$564,892 is assessed to the Town of Sudbury, per the enclosed Assessment Schedule. Radha Gargeya seconded the motion. All present were in favor. Craig Gruber was absent.

*VOTE:* Gerald Quirk offered a motion "that the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional School District withdraw from participating in School Choice for the 2018-2019 school year, as provided in Section 12B of Chapter 76 of the General Laws, because of financial considerations." Kevin Matthews seconded the motion. All present were in favor. Craig Gruber was absent.

Public Session of the Lincoln-Sudbury School Committee Meeting opened at 8:21pm.

## **Approval of Minutes**

On a motion from Radha Gargeya, and seconded by Nancy Marshall the Minutes for January 23, 2018 were approved. All were in favor pending edits.

## Presentation

Bella Wong introduced students who had participated in the Cold War/World War II trip in November. The students presented a slide show and commentary on the trip. The students agreed that the trip had renewed their interest in 20th century history and in the culture of the countries they visited. Their experiences visiting Berlin, Dresden, Prague, Krakow, and Budapest increased their understanding and awareness of the effects of the Cold War and World War II on the citizens of those countries. Ms. Wong complimented the students for being great ambassadors for L-S while on the trip. Students attending the School Committee meeting were Ranji Matthews, Mary Lee, Sabrina Hoenig, Oliver Neale, Rebecca Dubrovsky, and Lena Leavitt.

Mark Sobkowicz, Department Coordinator of the Computer Science Program at L-S addressed the school committee on current offerings and future initiatives in Computer Science. The newest class is AP Computer Science Principles which currently has 54 students enrolled. The course was piloted last year and prepares students for the AP Computer Science test and requires students to submit two projects during the course of a year: a research project and an artifact project. The AP Computer Science Principles class was inspired by a course taught at Harvard University called CS50 which Mr. Sobkowicz learned to modify for high school students. Each year, Harvard hosts a Computer Science Fair at which Harvard students display their projects. L-S students will attend the fair this year and students plan to hold an L-S Computer Fair with LS alumni who work in the field as judges. The AP Computer Science Principles class is comprehensive and requires students to build applications or interactive websites. Prerequisites are Level 1 Math class or having had a Computer Science class. The new AP course meets the new standards advised by the 2016 Massachusetts Digital Literacy and Computer Science Curriculum framework.

Mr. Sobkowicz would like to plan a student trip to Silicon Valley that would include visiting LS Alumni that currently work for Google, Twitter, and Apple. He would plan for students to meet engineers in the computer sciences. Mr. Sobkowicz believes graduating L-S students will find that they will need a core competency in computer science when applying to colleges as it is a skill that underlies so many other disciplines. Mr. Quirk complimented Mr. Sobkowicz for creating a course in which students are highly interested.

Nancy Marshall reminded the school committee members that Mark Sobkowicz had been awarded the Apple Distinguished Educator in 2016.

## **Public Comment**

Laurence Baize, past President of Friends of Music and former L-S parent presented an update on the organization's efforts to encourage additional students to sign up for Chorus so that there would continue to be two sections offered during the 2018-2019 school year. She expressed doubt that they could achieve the 80 student threshold. The LS parents in Friends of Music have met with 8th grade parents to encourage enrollment. L-S students have organized lunch meetings to encourage their peers to enroll in the music program. The organization is also in discussion with Boston area choral directors regarding teaching master classes to L-S students. Kevin Matthews inquired if the Friends of Music and interested students had ideas of what courses might be offered to encourage students to choose music class curricula. Ms. Baize stated that many L-S students who are avid and talented musicians often are involved in more advanced music study outside of school.

## Recognitions

LS Staff received a message from BJ Pegram on January 31, 2018: "Good Morning. Earth Blocking your view? NO PROBLEM!! Drop by A410 to see the total eclipse of the Moon live on the big screen." What a delightful place to work!! Where else would you be provided with an in-house view of the eclipse? Thank you to BJ - and thank you again to Chris Collins for showing us a safe and magical view of the last eclipse of the sun several months ago!

Thirteen LS students, accompanied by Kathleen Thompson and Shari Idelson, depart for Tanzania on February 15th. While there, the students will work on a service project, experience a game safari, and learn about the culture and history of the country. Students travelling to Tanzania have sponsored fundraising efforts such as selling candygrams and were the beneficiaries of several generous donations.

Nathaniel Armistead, David Bloom, Mary Brunson, Michael Bunting, Tim Cobbett, Dan Conti, Rachel Cook, Jen Garfield, David Grace, Pat Graham, Tom Grandprey, Sarah Greeley, Emily Hopwood, David Hosford, Amy Jacobs, Phil James, Lisa Lupinacci, Beth Mangano, Jeff Mazza, Annalisa Notaro, Colette Nygren, BJ Pegram, Jim Raffel, Laura Rotondo, Kathleen Thompson, Matt Warner, Seth Weiss, and Matt Wentworth received cards from FELS that donations had been made in their names by LS families. Congratulations to all!

The Singing Valentines will perform upon request on February 14th. This is the 8th year, faculty, students and staff have enjoyed a "singing" valentine. The vocal performers are members of the LS Concert Choir who have auditioned to be valentines. This year there are two female quartets and a male quartet. Thank you to Michael Bunting for organizing! The 2018 Singing Valentines are: Madelyn Paquette, Sofi Block, Kelly Durning, and Alanna Gold. The second group is Abbie Bulens, Izabella Kacprzyk, Charlotte Dezen and Ella Grandprey. The men's quartet is Avi Lepsky, Simon Perry, Asher Martin-Rosenthal, and Julian Flack.

Vicky Caburian and Xin Dong have organized a Lunar New Year Dumpling Celebration in the cafeteria for Wednesday, February 14th, during lunch block and ACA. The celebration will feature delicious homemade dumplings, chopstick games, calligraphy lessons, and Asian snacks. This is the second year for the celebration - last year was a tremendous success! Last summer Caroline Singler and Nicole Digenis took a group of L-S students to Andorra as part of an Earthwatch expedition on Climate Change. Based on L-S students' excellent work there, Earthwatch invited L-S students to participate in a Citizen Science effort that is geared toward measuring climate change in our local area. The group that participated was a blend of Andorra trip students and Science team (DOE) students.

**NBC Boston** filmed our students' measuring tree growth on L-S property and interviewed the students for a TV program that recently aired: *The Climate Project*. If you want to see some of our students and Caroline being interviewed, check out part three of the program at the link below. This is the link to the clip that includes the Earthwatch segment from NBC Boston's *The Climate Project*. This link is the last 5 minutes of a 30-minute special. The Earthwatch piece begins at the **2 minute mark** of this clip.

https://www.nbcboston.com/on-air/as-seen-on/The-Climate-Project -Looking-Forward\_ NECN-471000533.html

This year, 14 LS Students have received awards from the annual Boston Globe Scholastic Art and Writing Awards. Student submissions are juried by luminaries in the visual and literary arts. Panelists look for works that best exemplify originality, technical skills, and the emergence of a personal voice or vision. LS Students receiving a Gold Key are Gigi Gibowicz and Anisha Kundu, both for painting. Silver Keys were awarded to Lara Garabedian, Emily Johnson-Cr, Elena Mathis, Anna Munuz, Chris Rodiger, Tyler Smith and Elena Sotiriou. Honorable Mention Awards were received by Mei Asada, Daniel Griffith, Anisha Kundu, Gladys Manzira, Caroline Marsh, Katherine Ostrow, Chris Rodiger, and Nikki Smith. The artwork of students receiving a Gold Key will automatically be entered into a national competition. Congratulations to all! Ceremonies for Gold and Silver Key recipients will be held at the Cohen Auditorium at Tufts University on March 17, 2018.

The Fifth Annual Winter One-Acts was presented by LSB Players on Friday February 9 at 7:30 pm and Saturday February 10 in the Rogers Theatre. The senior directors worked hard to make their visions come to life onstage. Adam Rose directed *FACEBOOK RUINS EVERYTHING!*; Ruby Carmel directed *EPISODE IN THE LIFE OF AN AUTHOR*; and Jack Troiano adapted and directed *MACBETH*.

The Jazz Showcase Concert was held on February 8th. The Symphonic and Concert Jazz Ensembles performed with the Select Jazz Combos and the Jazz Warriors Combo performed jazz literature from the swing, funk, and Latin genres. The Select Jazz Combo performed on Saturday, February 10th, at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston for the Berklee High School Jazz Festival. The MMEA Eastern District Senior Music Festival was held at Boston Latin School in early January. Chorus members included: Sofi Block (11), Kelly Durning (10), Izabella Kacprzyk (11), Avi Lepsky (12), Sadhika Sampath (11), Caroline Schlessman (9), and Kate Solowey (9). Orchestra members included: Katherine Feng (11) and Jade Consoler (9). Katherine Feng (violin) and Jade Konsler (cello) were selected for the All State Orchestra and will rehearse in Boston at the World Trade Center and perform at Symphony Hall on March 3rd. They qualified to audition for the All National Music Ensemble. Congratulations to all! James Vuolo (9) on viola, will represent L-S at the upcoming Eastern District Junior Festival on March 9th and 10th. L-S is the host site for the festival.

Alonso Darias, Erica Libby, Abby Chittenden and Anna Fryling presented "Coding Game Algorithms" at the recent Learn and Launch Conference held on February 2nd in Boston. Their advisor is Mark Sobkowicz.

Three members of the LSRHS Environmental Club, Julia Concannon, Anjuli Das, and Nicole Garay, were invited to sit on two different panels at the most recent Mass Green Network Summit at Emerson College on Saturday, February 3rd. The students discussed their continuing work on plastic reductions efforts in both Lincoln and Sudbury. LS Environmental Club representatives at the Mass Green Network Conference last Saturday at Emerson College. They were invited as "Local Heroes" for all of their efforts in Sudbury in 2017.

Over 460 L-S athletes competed on 17 different teams this winter season in over 1000 practices and approximately 250 competitions. Our thanks to Judy Katalina and Ando for keeping all athletes on track and healthy! Both the girls and boys track teams won the team championships on Saturday, February 10th, at the Reggie Lewis Center. Individual champions include: Milly O'Brien in the 300m, 600m Peter Lindblom, mile James Ensley, 55m hurdles Andrew Sifferien. The boys 4 x 800 relay team competed in the Millrose Games in NYC last week-end. Their time ranks them in the top 5 in the country! Members of the relay team are: Jack Carter, Anderson Shew, James Ensley and Robert Roosa.

At the Central D-1 Sectional Championships in wrestling Andrew Marshall won the 220 pound weight class and Kyrie Williams finished 2nd at 170. Both wrestlers will compete in the state championships next week-end. They will be joined at the state championships by Elijah Wallace, Brendan Kelleher, Ben Marotta and Dan Kerrigan. Andrew currently is 44-0 this season and won his 151st match, setting a new L-S school record. He was also voted the most outstanding wrestler at sectionals.

Boys Hockey won the regular season DCL Championship and are ranked 5th in D-2. Girls Hockey is currently in 2nd place in the DCL.

The girls basketball team hopes to win one more game to qualify for the sectional tournament. The boys basketball team currently has eight wins and eight losses and need to win a couple more games to qualify for the MIAA tournament.

The L-S swim team participated in the Sectional Championships with boys finishing 3rd overall. The boys 200 freestyle relay team set a new L-S school record and won the event.

The Nordic Ski team finishes their league schedule this week. They have been led all season by Laura Appleby who is undefeated this season and skied at a National Championship race earlier in the year. The team will be racing in the state championships on Tuesday, February 27th, at Notchview in Windsor.

The Alpine Ski team also finishes their regular season ending with a State Championship race on March 6th at Berkshire East. The girls are undefeated and in first place in their league. They hope to qualify enough girls for states to compete for a state title.

#### **Student Representative Report**

The Student Senate is preparing for the teacher/staff appreciation breakfast in March. Representatives are meeting with a student who would like to initiate an Anti-bullying Campaign.

## **METCO Parent Report**

There was no METCO parent report.

## **Teachers' Association Report**

Caroline Singler reported that members of every department at L-S participated in the annual Faculty Variety Show on February 1st. The Variety Show benefits FELS and the L-S Teachers' Association Paul Vernon Scholarship.

Science Teacher Maureen Bolton will be accompanying L-S students Sammi Chung, Hannah Quirk, Karen Hereli, Madelyne O'Connell, and Sadhika Sampath to the Women in Science Conference at Bedford High School at which 40 teams will compete in science and engineering events. Science teachers Chris Collins, Rami Alwan and Christine Iskandar are supporting the Green Team students as they prepare for the Lincoln Town Meeting in March. Laura Cole will be discussing how to navigate the college process for students with disabilities.

## Chairman's Report

Kevin Matthews thanked Bella Wong and Sherry Kersey for their hard work during the budget process. He also thanked Nancy Marshall and Radha Gargeya for attending many town meetings during the budget process and extended his appreciation of the Boards of Selectmen for Sudbury and Lincoln as well as the Lincoln Capital Committee and the Sudbury CIAC for their support.

#### **Liaison Reports**

Radha Gargeya reported that all Sudbury cost centers had worked well together in completing the final FY19 budget. Discussions continue regarding the Intermunicipal Agreement and the Memorandum of Understanding for field use. Bella Wong and Melissa Rodriguez will work together on interim fees for field usage and how they will be collected. It is essential that funds raised be dedicated to the repair and upkeep of the fields. Mr. Matthews reported that the Sudbury CIAC had approved funding for the upgraded phone system.

## Superintendent/Principal Report

There was no Superintendent/Principal Report.

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

There was no Director of Finance and Operations Report.

## Information and Discussion

Nancy Marshall and Radha Gargeya presented the first reading of the Excess and Deficiency Policy. They encouraged fellow committee members to read and edit the policy which explains the circumstances for preserving or expending the fund. Use of the Stabilization Fund is also included as well as spreadsheets with a history of E&D Fund and Stabilization levels and expenditures for last 10 years. Ms. Marshall and Mr. Gargeya sought to provide a statutory underpinning for the two funds. Ms. Marshall proposes that the policy be used as a guideline for maintaining reasonable E&D levels, to be reviewed annually by the District. Furthermore, the draft suggested and that there be a percentage of any E&D monies that exceed the recommended guideline placed in the Stabilization Fund each year, to grow the fund and be prepared for capital investment/renewal and/or unexpected need. . Mr. Matthews reported that Sudbury Selectmen Susan Iuliani and Dan McCarty have formed a Subcommittee entitled the School District Administrative and Structural Options Subcommittee to pursue options for shared services and school governance options as well as to provide a cohesive budget process. The overall goal will be to enhance student education by aligning curriculum, special education services, and efficiency of school operations.

#### **Action Items**

Vouchers #1069-1074 were signed.

#### **Other Business**

There was no other business.

#### Calendar

Singing Valentines	February 14, 2018
President's Day	February 19, 2018
Winter Recess	February 20-23, 2018
LS School Committee	February 27, 2018
CONNECTIONS Cafe/SADD	March 1, 2018

## Adjournment

On a motion from Nancy Marshall and seconded by Radha Gargeya, the meeting was adjourned at 10:27 pm. All present were in favor.

Respectfully submitted, Francy Zingale

#### **Executive Session**

To review and approve executive session minutes related to collective bargaining, contract negotiations with union and non-union personnel and/or litigation issues because to do so in public session would be detrimental to the District's position. To discuss strategy with respect to contract negotiations with union and non-union personnel and/or litigation because to do so in public session would be detrimental to the District's position.