

LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
June 5, 2018

7:30pm

Conference Room B

Present

Radha Gargeya, Chair; Patty Mostue, Vice-Chair; Craig Gruber; Ellen Winer Joachim; Carole Kasper.

Also Present

Bella Wong, Superintendent/Principal; Sherry Kersey, Director of Finance and Operations; Caroline Singler, TA President; Nicole Digenis, Department Coordinator for Science.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the Minutes for April 24, 2018 were tabled until the next meeting.

Presentation

Nicole Digenis, Department Coordinator for Science reported on the science program at L-S. The L-S Science Department is composed of 20 teachers and 1 lab technician. The educators are licensed in Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science and Physics, among others. They are also team coaches, club advisors, faculty tutors and committee members.

Approximately 90% of L-S students take science for four years or more. The courses are levelled in each of the core disciplines into applied, level 2, level 1, and accelerated. Elective courses include AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Physics C, Anatomy & Physiology. Non-elective semester courses are Astronomy, Aquatic Biology, Environmental Science, Forensic Science, and Infectious Disease. The average enrollment per class is 24 students. The science programs are laboratory based and performance is based on experimental design, data collection and analysis. Supporting a lab-based program requires laboratory safety, supplies (supplemented by grants), technology, a laboratory technician, and professional development for teachers.

The Science Department endeavors to meet the needs of all students. The level programs provide an opportunity for students to switch levels from year to year. The department works closely with 8th grade teachers to accurately place students for 9th grade science courses and collaborates closely with the L-S Special Education Department to support students. New course work was developed to enhance Project LS in 2017 with a focus on respecting human differences.

The Science Department teachers are advisors for science teams and clubs such as the Science Olympiad, Women of Science Competition, the Department of Energy National Ocean Sciences Bowl (LS won a place in the Alaska 2017 Competition), the Biology Club, and the Girls in STEM Workshop. Recent departmental highlights have included a field research trip to the Andorran Pyrenees with 10 rising seniors to study the impact of climate change on small mammals, tree growth, and insect populations. In April 2018, 9th and 10th grade students at LS participated in an international bioblitz event to collect species data. The students were trained

in the use of a naturalist app and how to make quality wildlife observations by an online community of scientists in biodiversity research.

Guest speakers have included Dr. David Rose, LS parent and Chairman of the Radiology Department at Emerson hospital, as well as an assembly to hear former astronaut and Columbia Professor Michael Massimo.

The department is open to collaborative partnered teaching for innovative science education. Several LS biology teachers partnered with the Concord Consortium to pilot innovative science curricula in genetics. The department is also preparing curricular changes in response to a change in emphasis in MCAS exams.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Recognitions

The Massachusetts State Track Association sent a letter thanking L-S for hosting the MSTCA State Relay Meet the weekend of April 28th, 2018. Frank Mooney, Executive Director of the organization, complimented the hospitality coaches, officials and athletes encountered during the Championship Meet and thanked Mel Gonsalves, L-S Track Coach, in particular for his expert coordination of all aspects of the meet. Mr. Mooney also complimented L-S students and L-S parental support during the event. He stated "They represented your school in such a way that you would be very proud of all of them."

On Saturday, May 12, L-S hosted an event about community building, social justice, cultural awareness, and activism. The event was developed by students Jaelynn Rodney ('20), Joseph Curnan-LaCava ('19), Ben Ryan ('19), and Maya Moreau ('18) and included a number of interesting speakers: Rebecca Zama – singer and poet; Jamele Adams - speaker on diversity; Owen Anketell, founder of Adaptive Sports Awareness at age 15; Malcolm Astley of the Lauren Dunne Astley Memorial Fund; Kimberly Todd of Dress for Success Boston, Elcie Merck, Shea Justice and Sabrina Hollander spoke about activism and social messages in art, and the Edge Of Leadership Club spoke about running a team building workshop

May was a busy month with the METCO Awards Banquet in Boston at Boston Public Schools Bolling Hall. Many staff and school committee members were present. The ACE Program held its banquet on May 16th and has 20 seniors graduating this year.

On May 17th The METCO Director Hiring Team welcomed Shelly Hinds. Ms. Wong extended her thanks to the members of the hiring committee. The FATA Open House and Celebration of AP Computer Science took place on May 17th as well. On May 18th, staff held a retirement party for Marci Stoda, and Connections hosted a Mock Crash to teach students the dangers of inattentive driving. On May 12th, students doing an independent study organized a community event entitled "You are Here" with speakers from many walks of life.

On May 21st LS welcomed new School Resource Officer Kimberley Walch and we look forward to her presence at the school. On May 23rd Excel Students hosted their end of year banquet. Also that day was held the Senior Awards Ceremony. Last day for Seniors was May 24th. On May 26th, the Junior Prom was held in Mechanics Hall in Worcester. On May 30th seniors were awarded scholarships at the Senior Scholarship Ceremony and during the day, underclass students initiated an assembly on cyberbullying, which was comprehensive and thought-provoking. Approximately 160 students attended the assembly. Finally, on May 31st the seniors

attended their Senior Prom at the Boston Marriott LongWharf accompanied by Senior Class Advisors Tom Danko, Sandy Crawford, Nancy Childress, Rachel Cook, and Marci Stoda.

Yoshitaka Ando was inducted into the Lacrosse Hall of Fame on June 2nd, 2018, at Nashawtuc Country Club and the event was attended by over 200 people. The evening featured a video tribute. Ando has been more than a trainer for LS athletes; he is also an integral member of our community. He was recognized for his involvement with LS Lacrosse for the past 30 years.

The MVP team's culminating program, the annual Courage to Care: Escalation workshop took place on Thursday May 10th. This year, the day included GSA hosted forums in the Black Box, a student panel discussion and breakout groups where students discussed the impact of gender and sexuality on their experiences at L-S. The forum also addressed ways in which allies can support those in the LGBTQ+ community. Seniors participated in an [Escalation workshop](#) that included a 40 minute film about a fictional college relationship that quickly escalates from romantic to abusive to empower young people to intervene when they see signs of abuse. Support from clinical counselors, guidance counselors, and people from REACH Beyond Domestic Violence and One Love was available. An MVP LS Alum answered questions about break-ups and the college dating scene, and provided tips about preventing abusive relationships. Our hope is to empower students to keep one another safe and shift a popular culture that can glorify violence to be more respectful and caring.

Louis Salemy of TechBoston Academy wrote: "On behalf of Maureen Dibble and myself, we would like to extend a huge thanks to the LS lacrosse team, Brian Vona, his players, and their parents for making the trek to one of our school sites in Dorchester. The support of the LS lacrosse community for Harlem Lacrosse has been strong since its inception in 2011 and is one reason for its success. With our large presence in Boston now, we are grateful to see the outreach of LS to the Boston community and our school programs. If you could recognize Brian Vona, his players, and their parents at your next school committee meeting, we would appreciate it."

<http://www.bostonglobe.com/sports/high-schools/2018/05/05/lincoln-sudbury-boys-lacrosse-tops-concord-carlisle/kS7ZG8r4x1dFFThaxq2yrM/story.html>

Stow resident Eric Masi wrote to express his gratitude to LS student Marissa Honens who provided CPR assistance when Mr. Masi experienced a heart attack while playing tennis at Thoreau Club in Concord in late April. Marissa was working as lifeguard and was fully trained in CPR as well as in use of the defibrillator. Marissa's quick and efficient actions caused Mr. Masi's heart to resume beating. Mr. Masi believes that Marissa quite literally saved his life by being calm in crisis and remembering her training and doing what she was taught. Well done, Marissa!

Susan Shields and student leaders welcomed future 9th grade students from Curtis Middle School on May 31st and students from Lincoln and Hanscom Schools on Monday, June 4th to LS for a tour of the buildings.

Wednesday, May 30th, was Senior Service Day for the Class of 2018. Over four years at LS, the Class of 2018 (377 students) logged 17,256 Community Service Hours. On the 8th annual Senior Service Day, 320 Seniors volunteered at 23 sites in Sudbury and Lincoln which included the Sudbury Public and Lincoln Public Schools, the Wayside Inn, Drumlin Farm, the libraries, Codman Farm, Buddy Dog, and The Sudbury Historic Commission, to name but a few. Special acknowledgements to the LS Buildings and Grounds department for their help with heavy duty work involved in removing bushes from the Jane and Ken Young

Garden. Comments to Susan Frommer were that other high schoolers have done community service but LS students are the hardest working.

Student Representative Report

There was no student representative report.

METCO Parent Representative Report

There was no METCO Parent Representative report.

TA Report

Caroline Singler thanked the School Committee members who attended classes on May 1st. AP Exams have been taking place, organized by Maureen Bolton and Laura Cole, which entails scheduling rooms, enlisting proctors, collecting and shipping off exams. 281 students registered for AP exams and 410 exams were administered.

May 16th was the annual faculty fun afternoon providing faculty an opportunity to engage in cultivating community by sharing activities such as yoga, board games, knitting – all organized by Lisa Weiss. The Cum Laude Society inducted its new members on May 2nd. The faculty officers are Phil James, Nicole Digenis, Lisa Lupinacci, and Danielle Weisse. Rena Finder, a holocaust survivor, presented a very powerful talk to 9th grade students. The Senior Service Day, which included the assistance of many faculty members, absolutely transformed Jane Young's garden at school.

Ongoing during since March, Department Coordinators have been meeting with Ginny Blake to develop the curricula offered for 2018-2019. The schedule for the coming year is constructed based on student requests and then refined by the individual departments.

Chairman's Report

Radha Gargya spoke with the school committee members about the subcommittee liaison positions available this year and encouraged members to choose liaison positions with committees most interesting to them. He requested that the members get back to them with their choices by the next meeting.

Projects for the coming year include putting School Committee policies online, designing a faculty evaluation template, and improving the LS School Committee website.

Liaison Reports

Craig Gruber reported that the LS Safety Review Subcommittee plans to examine specific recommendations for improving school safety and anticipates presenting the recommendations to the School Committee in the near future.

Radha Gargya proposed putting together a finance primer to outline the steps involved in completing the FY budgets for LS.

Superintendent's Report

Bella Wong distributed copies of the updated Staff Handbook. She requested that the School Committee members read and return their comments to Sherry Kersey or Virginia Blake by June 12th. The handbook has been revised in an effort to clarify pay structures. A full report will be presented to the school committee on June 19th.

LS has 10 days to submit a corrective action plan based on topics pointed out by the Coordinated Review. Overall the report was positive – with a few issues to be addressed.

Virginia Blake will be presenting information at the next school committee meeting regarding the chosen upgrade to the student information system. iPass will not be supportable within a few years and so ASPEN has been chosen as the replacement system. A roll out is anticipated for mid-year.

Exams begin on June 18th with the last exam on June 22nd. The last official day of school is June 25th.

Director of Finance and Operations Report

Sherry Kersey distributed a report covering the last 10 years of E&D Certifications to the School Committee members.

Bids have been collected for the cleaning contract with 15 companies expressing interest in the job. Five vendors came to the mandatory site visit and qualified to apply for the bid. The results will be presented at the June 19th School Committee meeting.

Bids for Food Service contract are due on June 13th. Ms. Kersey hopes to have a recommendation for the School Committee by the June 19th meeting.

The position of District Treasurer has been posted. Ms. Kersey is also working to complete the fixed asset maintenance budget on Budget Sense. Renovations for 420 Lincoln Road are complete with new roof, gutters, siding complete and the reinforcement of the basement.

Information and Discussion

Mr. Gargyea requested suggestions for dates for the School Committee's summer retreat.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Action Items

Vouchers were signed.

Calendar

LSPO Staff Appreciation Lunch	June 6, 2018
9-11 Grade Awards Ceremony	June 7, 2018
4th Quarter Ends	June 14, 2018
Pierce House Luncheon	June 19, 2018
LS School Committee	June 19, 2018
Final Exams	June 18-22, 2018
Teachers' Workshop	June 25, 2018

Adjourn

Craig Gruber offered a motion to adjourn, seconded by Carole Kasper. All were in favor; there was no discussion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:59pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Francy Zingale