

**LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2020**

6:45pm

Google Meet

Present

Ellen Joachim, Chair; Carole Kasper, Vice-Chair; Cara Endyke-Doran; Harold Engstrom; Kevin Matthews; Candace Miller.

Also Present

Bella Wong, Superintendent/Principal; Kirsteen Patterson, Director of Finance and Operations; Patty Mostue, Outgoing School Committee Member; Mark Mason, Teachers' Association Co-President.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:46 5pm.

Executive Session

- To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining

Executive Session

Carole Kasper moved to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining, to return to open session. Candace Miller seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken; all were in favor.

Resume Regular Session

Regular session resumed

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:18pm

Public Comment

As we have recently witnessed, not all LS students are social distancing and following safety protocol. It is probable that these events and smaller social gatherings will continue to happen (outside of school) throughout the semester, without LS being aware. Given this example of student behavior, the school committee should seriously reconsider the implications of opening in the hybrid model. Erica Askew

Reorganization of the School Committee

Election of Chair

Candace Miller proposed that Ellen Joachim continue as Chair of the LS School Committee. Members spoke up in favor of her candidacy. **On a motion from Candace Miller and seconded by Kevin Matthews, Ellen Joachim was voted Chairperson of the LS School Committee for 2020-2021. All were in favor via roll call vote.**

Election of Vice-Chair

Carole Kasper was proposed as Vice-Chairperson of the LS School Committee for 2020-2021. **On a motion from Harold Engstrom and seconded by Cara Endyke-Doran, Carole Kasper was voted Vice-Chairperson of the LS School Committee for the current school year. All were in favor via roll call vote.**

Recognitions

Patty Mostue

Patty Mostue was recognized for her work over the past 15 years as LS School Committee Member including years as LS School Committee Chairwoman. In addition, Ms. Mostue served for 6 years as School Committee Member for the Lincoln Public Schools. Ms. Joachim noted that during her years of service, Patty has brought her intelligence, quick wit, integrity and deep knowledge of public schools to her work as a School Committee member. She has represented the students of Lincoln and Sudbury exceptionally well while at the same time supporting the Administration, Faculty, and Staff always with the goal of making Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School the best it could be. During her tenure, Patty has accomplished many things (and this is just a small sampling):

Drafted, reviewed and revised LS School Policy;

Created a Superintendent Evaluation Framework that the School Committee relied upon for many years;

Worked with three superintendents and was involved in hiring two of them;

Negotiated several contracts with the LS Teachers' Association;

Served as Chair and Vice-Chair of the LS School Committee for many years;

Wrote papers analyzing a number of important subjects such as student performance and, most recently, a paper on school rankings.

Ms. Joachim met Patty when Ms. Joachim joined the Sudbury Public School Committee and Patty truly helped Ms. Joachim become a better School Committee Member. When Ms. Joachim had a School Committee question, she called Patty; when she had a question as an LS parent, she also called Patty; and when Ms. Joachim joined the LS School Committee she was thrilled to be able to work directly with Patty. Ms. Joachim will miss having Patty at the School Committee table but warns that she still has Patty's phone number and when she has a question will definitely call! Thank you so much for giving so much to Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School. The school is truly a better place for your many years of service. The communities of Lincoln and Sudbury owe you a debt of gratitude!

Carole Kasper expressed her heartfelt appreciation and thanks to Patty for all the years, work, and meetings and expressed gratitude on behalf of the students, families, and communities of Lincoln, Sudbury, and Boston for her seven terms of service. Deep thanks to Patty!

Elena Kleifges, former Chair of LS School Committee, wrote in “
“End of the Patty Mostue era...sad for Lincoln, Sudbury and Boston but how fortunate
were we to have her for so many years...she is class with a lot of sass!”

Bella Wong added that it has been a privilege to work with Patty as she has brought the
best of what was Lincoln-Sudbury and helped carry that forward. She provided good
feedback on what should not be carried forward. She held high expectations and
standards for LS faculty to meet and provided strong support for the faculty. You are LS
– Thank you!!

Kevin Matthews has enjoyed working with Patty. She was his mentor in many ways and
he appreciated her expertise when working on teaching contracts early in his career
as and LS School Committee member.

Candace Miller lauded her 21 years of service represented an incredible generosity of
her time and your talents. Thank you very much!

Cara Endyke-Doran noted that despite working with Patty a short time, she appreciated
it very much.

Bella Wong

Ms. Wong recognized the efforts of Sudbury Police Chief Scott Nix and Health Director
Bill Murphy in their support of Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School. She also
recognized the time and effort over the weekend of the Administrative Team and the
Learning Continuity Committee in processing and planning for the delayed start of in-
person classes.

Student Senate Report

There was no Student Senate Report

METCO Parent Report

There was no METCO Parent Report

Teachers' Association Report

Mark Mason reported that faculty was looking forward to seeing students for the start of
semester despite the two week delay. Plans already set up for In-person Hybrid
Learning Program have been quickly adjusted to Remote Learning model until
September 29th.

Chairman's Report

There was no Chairman's Report

Liaison Report

Cara Endyke-Doran provided an update on the Testing Resolution. Hadley Public
Schools and Holliston Public Schools have joined the LS Testing Resolution and other

schools had developed testing resolutions independently so the groundswell of schools advocating for testing resources continues to grow.

Superintendent's Report

Updates on School Opening

The most significant update on school opening involved a report on the reason for a two week delay recommended by the Sudbury Board of Health as a result of a large student gathering at which most students were without masks and were not practicing social distancing. Given the circumstances, there is no opportunity to test students present to ensure the health and safety of faculty, staff and other students at LS. School will reopen for in-person Half-Day Hybrid Learning Plan on September 29, 2020.

Update on Testing

Ms. Wong reported that complimentary one-time testing is available to all LS Staff and Faculty as well as outside contractors from Gingko Bioworks, created by MIT scientists and located in Boston. Ms. Wong recommends that LS take advantage of this offer on the theory that having baseline testing results would be beneficial to all employees at LS. The supporting legal documents have been reviewed to the satisfaction of Attorney Matt Fisher. The testing will be offered through Rutgers University. In a separate discussion Gingko Bioworks is exploring pilot testing for our students. This pilot would offer once per week testing for a 6-week period. A vote by the LS School Committee will be necessary to take advantage of this offer.

VOTE: Harold Engstrom moved, Kevin Matthews seconded, that "the LS School Committee approve the offer made by Gingko Bioworks, Inc. for free COVID19 Testing for LS faculty and staff. There was no further discussion, all were in favor via roll call vote.

EDCO Update

Ms. Wong reported that the current EDCO Director Nadine Ekstrom has resigned effective October 2020. The Chairperson of the Board of Directors Kathy Bodie will be unavailable for medical reasons. Ms. Wong is the Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors and, as such, has begun the process of searching for a new EDCO Director. There will be an EDCO Board Meeting on September 17th. Ms. Wong will recommend establishment of a Transition Team to search for candidates and approve a candidate to replace Ms. Ekstrom.

Director of Finance and Operations Report

Kirsteen Patterson provided an update to the Committee members on the status of Food Service at LS. Boxed lunches will be available to students as will fresh frozen meals for additional nutritional coverage for students. It will be available for curbside pickup.

Ms. Patterson will be attend a DESE Conference regarding sources of funding for COVID related expenses.

An audit will be carried out on the Student Activity Fund as well as the general audit for the close of FY20. The Business Office continues to prepare the end of year report that will be submitted to the LS School Committee as a comprehensive review at the next meeting.

LS is no longer operating under the 1/12th Budget restrictions.

Information and Discussion

Metrics for Transitioning Among Learning Models

Ms. Wong informed the Committee that the events of the weekend had prevented her from completing her report of Metrics for Transitioning Among Learning Models. She noted, however, that in the event of a positive case of COVID19 at school, LS would switch to Remote Learning immediately for the next day, at the very least, until degree of contact has been established. The privacy of the individual student or staff member will be safeguarded but the information regarding of infection will be shared with the community.

Currently there are 22 outdoor spaces for classrooms at LS which is very helpful in terms of having sufficient distancing to hold in-person classes. In the event of new information that might require a transition to Remote Learning, Ms. Wong will consult with the Board of Health will be regarding the import of new information. Ms. Wong seeks to give as much advance notice as possible to faculty.

School Committee Liaison Assignments

Ms. Joachim recommended that School Committee Members peruse the School Committee Liaison Assignments and send in their preferences to Ms. Joachim and/or Ms. Kasper. Assignments will be voted at the meeting on September 30, 2020.

Action Items

VOTE: Carole Kasper offered a motion that the LS School Committee accept the Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Re-Opening of School during COVID-19 by and between the LS School Committee and the LS Teachers' Association regarding re-opening of Schools during COVID 19 on 15 September, 2020. She further moved that Ellen Joachim, Chair of the LS School Committee be authorized to sign the agreement. Candace Miller seconded the motion. All were in favor via roll call vote.

Future Agenda Items

Candace Miller reported that she would follow up on the School Committee Policy Handbook with Massachusetts Association of School Committees. She indicated the importance of attending to students' mental health.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion from Carole Kasper and seconded by Kevin Matthews, the Minutes for August 25 and September 1, 2020 were approved. There was no discussion. The

Minutes were approved via roll call vote, all were in favor except Harold Engstrom who abstained.

Public Comment

S: There is free testing in Marlboro. Have we considered asking all students get tested so we can possibly move to in-person sooner than later this month? Patricia Streilein

Q: It has been a very long conversation about the possibility of testing 500 students. But isn't this just a momentary snapshot which can be outdated after a busy social weekend ? Not sure of the value. Brenda Hart

S: I think that the low number of cases in this town represent our dedication to safety and responsibility. We continue to follow the same safety protocols we have been following all summer. Our plans for bring kids back into the school should be based on the number of cases and not on how people "feel" that parents and residents are being safe or unsafe. Karen Gozdeck

S: This forum is not satisfactory for you to hear the people being effected by your decisions. 90% of the parents and families have voted to have their children be present in school and you are not hearing them. Please create a forum for these important issues. Jeffrey Ganz

Calendar

9th Grade Parent Night (Virtual)
LS School Committee Meeting
Back to School Night (Virtual)

September 22, 2020
September 30, 2020
September 29-October 2, 2020

Adjourn

Kevin Matthews offered a motion, seconded by Candace Miller, to adjourn the meeting. There was no discussion. All were in favor via roll call vote. The meeting was adjourned at 9:27pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Francy Zingale

To view video of the meeting, please go to: <https://sudbury.vod.cstus.tv/vod>