

**LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

7:00 pm

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; and Joshua Gilman, Teachers' Association Co-President

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Recognitions

Ms. Wong reported on the first two days of in-person hybrid teaching. Ms. Wong recognized the faculty, staff, Building and Grounds team, Dennis Phillips and the technology team, Kim Walch and Ian Spencer, LS School Resource Officers, the Administrative Team, Campus Aides, Support Staff, students and parents. Everyone has worked hard to do their part to bring students back to school. There were, of course, glitches including the bus transportation company being on the wrong schedule. METCO buses did original pick up times rather than the later start time. Tuesday was a lovely day which made outside classrooms viable, today it rained which brought those classes into shelter. There were some technology glitches which our technology team has been working hard to remove. However, all faculty and staff felt good about students returning to the building so most were focusing on what went "right" with the first day. Ms. Wong reported that she noticed a stillness in the building with fewer in the building and everyone being conscious of commencing student education in a different form. Ms. Wong also recognized the hard work and careful preparation that it took to bring students back for the first day.

Student Senate

There was no Student Senate Report.

METCO Parent Report

There was no METCO Parent Report.

Teachers' Association Report

Joshua Gilman seconded Bella's recognitions for the first two days. Teachers felt that they had returned to their natural habitat teaching in front of students. Students have been very attentive and have adapted well to the sanitizing protocols and wearing masks. Mr. Gilman noted that the students' presence is what makes the building come alive. The teachers felt good about the education they are able to provide and the preparations they have made.

Director of Finance and Operations Report

Kirsteen Patterson reported that food service is currently provided at no cost to all students, including remote learning students, for breakfast and lunch via curbside pickup. The Request for Proposals for COVID testing have been sent out and five vendors have replied to date. All school districts in the Commonwealth have received an extension for submission of End of Year Reports for FY20 until October 30th. The LS End of Year Report and the Excess and Deficiency Report will be ready before that deadline. The Business Office will be meeting with the IAC team regarding renewal of health insurance this week. The responses for the RFP for Health Insurance will be reviewed by a third party this month. Ms. Patterson is currently working on FY22 capital requests.

Chairperson's Report

Ellen Joachim reported that she has received many positive comments from the LS community regarding the education provided to their students by the LS faculty and staff. Ms. Joachim told the Committee members that Dan Carty will be the LS School Committee liaison for the Sudbury Board of Selectmen. Nancy Marshall will be the liaison from the Lincoln Finance Committee. Ms. Joachim will inform the Committee members of updates she receives regarding additional town board liaisons.

Liaison Report

There were no liaison reports.

Superintendent's Report

Ms. Wong shared that the LS faculty has also received compliments from parents regarding the quality of remote learning at LS. The feedback was good and

motivates faculty and staff to continue to provide the best education possible for LS students. Plans are underway for Back to School Week from September 29 to October 4th presented virtually on the LS website. Teachers have recorded presentations to parents of students in their classes. Ms. Wong's video presentation spoke about wanting the coming year to be about much more than just COVID. The Strategic Plans priorities were created using the data from surveys that had been collected over the past year from many sources. LS Faculty and Staff will be working this year on the priorities identified which at their core addresses equitable access to excellence for all our students. This includes excellence in academics but also social success and emotional success to create a positive identity in our students. LS believes that if LS graduates students who feel good about themselves, they will succeed in life.

Update on COVID Testing

COVID testing agreement with Ginkgo Bioworks has been completed for free one time testing for all faculty and staff. The tests will be administered by LS staff during the week of October 5. We have requested 250 tests for LS faculty, staff, kitchen employees, coaches, and cleaning staff. Ms. Wong thanks the many hands that will help with the testing: Jan Cavallo, Robin Shaikh, House Assistants Toni Benhaim and Jamie Silberzweig, Mary Toland, Ginny Blake, Dennis Phillips, Charles Despotopulos, Art Reilly, Leslie Patterson. Ms. Wong thanked the School Committee members for voting to accept this gift.

A possible pilot plan for student testing with Ginkgo Bioworks is still in the works. Kirsteen Patterson has confirmed that CARES Act funding to municipalities may cover costs for testing unlike the CARES Act funding given to schools. LS may be able to request funds from the towns to mitigate the cost for the pilot COVID testing. Ms. Patterson mentioned the Request For Proposal that has been sent out for possible vendors. Ms. Endyke-Doran expressed her thanks for all the hard work that was necessary to bring the Ginkgo Bioworks testing to LS. Thanks are due to Committee members Ellen Joachim, Candace Miller, and Cara Endyke-Doran.

EDCO Update

As Vice-Chair of the EDCO Board of Directors, Ms. Wong has led a transition team to identify a candidate for Interim Executive Director while a search begins for a permanent Executive Director. The transition team has recommended Cyndy Taymor as the Interim Executive Director of EDCO and a vote to approve her

appointment pending negotiations with Ms. Taymor will take place in the next week. Ms. Taymor recently retired as superintendent of Melrose Schools and has a strong background in Special Education and is a past Assistant Superintendent in the Bedford Schools.

Information and Discussion

Metrics for Transitioning Between Learning Models

The state has issued guidance for Start/Stop Protocols. There are three possible disruptive events involving COVID:

1. A community member has tested positive;
2. A community has been deemed a close contact;
3. A community member develops symptoms.

A community member who has tested positive must be out of school for a minimum of 10 days.

A community member who has been deemed a close contact must be out of school for a minimum of 14 days even if a negative test is returned.

A community member with unidentified symptoms may continue in school if they have a note from their healthcare provider that their symptoms are NOT COVID related or obtain a negative test. Without documentation from a healthcare provider or a negative test, that community member must be quarantined for 10 days minimum.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has recommended that school districts base their decision on which learning mode to follow on the state's red, yellow, or green categorization for that community over a three week period. However, LS must take continuity of learning into account.

Positive COVID diagnoses within the community will impact continuity of learning. If a full time teacher develops COVID or has to quarantine, 80-100 students will be impacted. LS has hired 17 staff members related to COVID: 2 permanent substitute teachers, 12 instructional aides and 3 safety monitors. There are many criteria to consider regarding start/stop protocols including incidental, local occurrences that may cause closure. If there is a positive in the school community and there are close contacts in school, Ms. Wong would recommend a closure of at least 24 hours to give time to ascertain all close contacts. Consequently, it is difficult for Ms. Wong to predetermine the exact conditions for school closure. Ms. Wong asked the School Committee members for suggestions for further consideration in this regard.

Candace Miller encouraged Community members of Lincoln and Sudbury to continue to be careful and attentive to methods of remaining virus-free for the benefit of students so that in-person learning may continue. Ms. Wong noted that high school students will inevitably be more at risk than younger grades since there are co-curricular activities outside of school and more high school students have siblings who are college students which makes risk determinations more difficult. Ms. Joachim recommended putting together a list of risk factors to consider for transitioning from in-person to remote learning. Mr. Engstrom suggested creating a risk model for school closure as it would be a good exercise in preparedness for transition in learning models.

Communication will be a vital component of transitioning between learning models. If there is a positive COVID case within the LS community, LS will definitely know and notice will be sent to parents to let them know if their child is deemed to have been in close contact.

Action Items

The School Committee members discussed liaison assignments at length. Ms. Joachim will issue the completed liaison list before the next School Committee meeting on October 13, 2020.

VOTE: On a motion from Cara Endyke Doran, seconded by Kevin Matthews, the subcommittee and liaison assignments were approved. There was no further discussion, and all were in favor via roll call vote.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion from Carole Kasper and seconded by Kevin Matthews, the Minutes for September 15, 2020 were approved. There was no further discussion, all were in favor via roll call vote.

Future Agenda Items

There were no future agenda items.

Public Comment

Lauren Hochberg suggested leaving Back to School Week videos in place longer than one week.

Q: Are we able to know which classes do not have 6' distancing?

Q: I understand that it's a fluid thing and there are things we don't know, but there has to be some concrete answers to shutting down school. If we have more than 9 cases in a cohort. If we have more than 5% of our staff. Etc.

Adjourn

On a motion from Carole Kasper and seconded by Kevin Matthews, the meeting was adjourned to executive session at 9:22 pm in order to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel and to discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices or strategies with respect thereto and will not return to open session. There was no further discussion and all were in favor via roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Francy Zingale

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