

LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE
Minutes

Tuesday, November 8, 2011

6:00 p.m. Executive Session Conference Room A

Call to Order:

Nancy Marshall called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Present: Nancy Marshall, Chair, Radha Gargeya, Vice-Chair, Patty Mostue, Elena Kleifges, Mark Collins, and Kevin Matthews.

Also present: Judy Belliveau, Director of Finance & Operations.

Executive Session

On a motion by Radha Gargeya, seconded by Patty Mostue, a roll call vote was taken and all members voted in the affirmative to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing matters related to collective bargaining which, if not discussed in Executive Session, could be detrimental to the District's position.

7:30 p.m. Public Session Conference Room B

The School Committee returned to Public Session.

Present: Nancy Marshall, Chair, Radha Gargeya, Vice-Chair, Patty Mostue, Elena Kleifges, Mark Collins, and Kevin Matthews.

Also present: Scott Carpenter, Superintendent/Principal, Judy Belliveau, Director of Finance & Operations, Lisa Weiss, Teachers' Association President, Emily Casey, Student Representative, Vicky Caburian, Wellness Committee, Parent Representative and Wellness Committee member, Dr. Alice Domar, Leslie Belcher, Lincoln Sudbury Curriculum Coordinator, and Suzanne Burns, School Committee Secretary, as well as the visitors listed on the sign-in sheet attached to the approved minutes of this meeting, were also present. The METCO Representative could not be present.

Agenda Enclosures/Handouts

- Unapproved minutes for the October 25, 2011 School Committee meeting
- Wellness Committee Powerpoint Presentation Notes
- Proposal for Donation of Lacrosse Wall

Call to Order

Nancy Marshall called the Public Meeting to order at 7:30pm.

Presentation by Wellness Committee

Nancy introduced Vicky Caburian, Wellness faculty member and member of the Wellness Committee, Parent Representative Dr. Alice Domar and Judy Belliveau, committee member, who gave a powerpoint presentation on wellness at L-S. The committee is currently working in collaboration with the Wellness Department and the Athletic Department to enhance the curriculum. By law, adopted in 2006, L-S has to have wellness policy and a committee. The Wellness Committee has a parent representative, a faculty representative, the manager of the food services program, a student representative and a nurse representative who comes when possible. Vicky and Alice stated that they spent the last meeting reviewing where we were relative to the policy, which provides for three goals: to provide a comprehensive learning environment for developing and practicing lifelong wellness behaviors; to support and promote proper dietary habits contributing to students' health; and to provide opportunities for students to engage in physical activity. The presentation included a summary of what L-S does well to support the wellness of its students and staff, as well as some of the on-going challenges.

Alice, a psychologist who coaches clients in stress management, addressed the topic of spoke about a recent viewing of the film "Race to Nowhere". She felt it would be a wonderful thing to show at L-S, followed by a facilitated discussion with students and their parents about the role of stress in school and in their lives. She felt that it would be important to have moderators, since it is such an emotional topic, and suggested that students bring a parent to the viewing. She stated that she felt we do not address stress and its impact on L-S students enough. They are under enormous pressure to succeed, and they absorb stress from their parents.

Vicky and Alice also stated that one of the committee's goals is to utilize parents who have special skills and abilities to share with the community, and talked about who would be appropriate to bring in to talk to students. For example, an orthopedic surgeon could come in to talk about how to prevent injuries. There are lot of parents in this town who have great expertise, and are eager to share their knowledge.

The committee will continue to work on its goals and will report back to the School Committee.

Presentation by Leslie Belcher, Curriculum Coordinator, on Staffing, Class Size & Teacher Loads

Nancy introduced Leslie Belcher, Curriculum Coordinator for L-S, who handed out a report she produced on staffing, class size & teacher loads. Her report was detailed, and included data on individual class sizes, projected numbers of students, as well as total summations on funding sources of positions and faculty/class sizes. During her presentation, Leslie walked the School Committee through the numbers, explaining what was included and what was not, and clarifying areas where needed.

Her numbers showed that although overall enrollment is lower than expected, teaching loads are very high. Patty commented that research suggests that 80 students per teacher is the ideal teaching load, but that L-S is now way over that number. Mark commented that the fall in enrollment may be a function of the economy and lack of movement in both the job and housing markets. He also pointed out that one of the challenges teachers are being presented with in addition to the increased teaching load is the need to become certified in other subject areas. It's a huge burden for the teacher. It takes years to prepare for this, and we need to support teachers to get the education they need. The system is very stressed.

Approval of Minutes

Kevin Matthews motioned to approve the minutes for October 25, 2011. Elena seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Recognitions

Doug Grant from the Science Dept wanted to acknowledge the efforts of the Building and Grounds Staff, he sent the following email to Kevin Rossley:

“Your staff recently completed a significant welding job on all the ring stands in the chemistry labs. With the prices of replacement science lab equipment going up and the budget so tight, efforts like this are very important to our success in the classroom. This repair saved a lot of money in replacement costs and stopped potential safety problems with the wobbly ring stands that we have. Thank you so much, and please pass our thanks on to your crew.”

Thank you to Michael Clark, Alissa Jarvis, and Michel LePietre from the World Language Dept for their work on a successful French exchange and to Math teacher Erica Wilson for hosting a French teacher.

The L-S fall teams are having a terrific season. We have 5 league champions: girls volleyball, girls soccer, girls cross country, boys soccer, and football. Golf finished 3rd in the Sectional tournament and will compete at the states this Thursday. The cheerleaders finished 3rd in the league competition, qualifying them for the regionals. After defeating higher seed Danvers, L-S field hockey lost last night to a tough Andover team in the tournament quarterfinals. We wish the following teams the best of luck in the postseason: boys soccer, girls soccer, boys cross country, girls cross country, girls volleyball and football. All teams qualified for the postseason!

To Carly Evan and Tom Grandprey for the amount of time they have expended in preparation for their Fall production, *Love's Labour's Lost* by Shakespeare, which opens next Weds. Nov. 16th. It is set to the music of the Beach Boys and features a cast, crew and band of nearly 80 students. Please try to attend one of the performances.

To Janine Dailey, Tara Zantow, Andrew Nyameke and the Friends of Boston for their

efforts in organizing and hosting the Diaspora on Friday, Oct. 28th. The Diaspora is a bi-annual fundraiser run by the Metco students. *Diaspora* literally means "a scattering of seeds," and refers to any ethnic group that has been permanently displaced from their homeland and relocated. It enables METCO families to share their cuisine and culture with the L-S community, as well as the German exchange students visiting from Vilshofen, Bavaria. It was a huge success!

The Metco group and the German Exchange students also hosted a Dance Exchange and performed for fellow students last Thursday, November 3rd. They showcased five genres of dance: METCO students performed hip hop, contemporary ballet and "Krumpin." Our German guests, who learn dance at school, demonstrated two styles of dance. The girls wowed the students with a medley of Line Dance, Cha-cha and Zumba from South America. Meanwhile, the German boys, dressed in Lederhosen, performed Schuplatteln (slap dancing) - a difficult and traditional Bavarian dance.

Student Representative Report

Emily Casey reported on the Student Council's activities in commemorating Veteran's Day, including their plans to raise funds for a plaque honoring L-S students and faculty who are veterans. She said they were also at work on creating L-S apps for the iPhone and Droid phones. Nancy asked if they were able to make plans to bring in other student representatives to attend School Committee meetings. Emily replied that they hadn't discussed it yet. The Freshman class of student senators were ushered in though, and he hoped to include them in this.

Teachers' Association Report

Lisa Weiss thanked the School Committee for their class visits and encouraged them to continue. She reported that the Teachers' Association was working closely with teachers to help them understand the new regulations regarding teacher evaluations, and that they would be meeting again in two weeks.

METCO Representative Report

There was no METCO report.

Chairman's Report

Nancy circulated copies of the first issue of L-S's newsletter *The Shout Out*, and expressed her appreciation for Lori Hodin's letter in her new role as the Coordinator of the Safe School Initiatives, and her goals to support three programs at L-S: School Mediation, VISIONS, and School Climate and Violence Prevention.

Nancy reported that she and Radha met last week with the Lincoln and Sudbury Finance Committee liaisons and initiated a conversation about the town's budget guidelines. The meeting addressed the capital needs of each district, and what opportunities might exist for L-S to access some of the towns' funds.

Nancy said she was also recently asked by the German Department to be their official representative and check in with the local host family to see if everything was okay and if they had everything they needed.

She also reported that Scott was currently touring schools in Berlin, Germany as part of an exchange program for school principals across the U.S. that was an outcome of the Pasch award presentation in California to Joan Campbell.

Liaison Reports

Radha Gargeya reported that the School Committee section of the L-S website now maintains a listing for upcoming subcommittee meetings, with more information to come.

Superintendent/Principal's Report

Scott Carpenter was absent because he was away in Berlin, Germany. He sent a letter with his report, which Nancy read to School Committee. In his letter, Scott touched upon "PISA Shock," a term coined by German bureaucrats overseeing the country's educational system. PISA stands for the Program of International Student Assessment, which administers an exam to 15-year-old students in the world's 30 major industrial powers. Germany is shocked enough by its lackluster performance on the PISA exam that they have coined the term "PISA Shock."

He went on to say "German government education reforms proposed for their schools mirror what is talked about in Massachusetts and Washington DC: increased accountability, more assessment of student performance, improved curriculum and standards.... These great Berlin schools were trying to navigate through these well-meant "PISA Shock" reforms, just as Lincoln-Sudbury is trying to find its way among the reforms passed down by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. What was refreshing to see was that the Berlin schools didn't get mired in the details of the new mandates. They tried to stay above them and focus on the things that truly matter, like addressing heterogeneity in the classroom, collaborating with fellow teachers, and finding ways to make learning more meaningful. This is what we are, have been, and will continue to do at Lincoln-Sudbury."

Information & Discussion

Review of School Committee Donations Policy

Nancy Marshall reported that she had a meeting with staff and parents regarding the proposed donations and fundraising policy. There is another meeting coming up, and she hopes to bring back a final version of the proposal by the end of the month for discussion.

Donation of Lacrosse Wall

Judy Belliveau circulated a proposal from Brian Vona, L-S Varsity Lacrosse coach, to build a new lacrosse rebound wall. If accepted, the project would be built by Vona Construction, owned by he and his brother, over a 4-5 week period of time. The proposal has received financial support from L-S Boys and Girls youth Lacrosse, L-S

Boys and Girls Youth Soccer, Sudbury Park and Recreation Commission as well as the L-S Athletic Boosters, and would be built at zero cost to the School. Judy stated that it was a generous proposal, but that there were issues which needed to be resolved including liability to the school, prevailing wages for construction, moreover since L-S is a government entity, we may be legally obligated to go through the bid process. Further discussion was deferred for a future meeting pending resolution of these issues.

Donations from Little League and the Sudbury July 4th Road Race Committee

Judy also circulated a packet which detailed two proposed \$500 donations, one from Sudbury Little League, and a donation to the L-S Cross Country team. Both of these donations were accepted by Scott Carpenter, within the guidelines of the Donations Policy, and are informational for the School Committee.

Meeting Schedule

The School Committee discussed when to schedule the next SC meeting, and decided to schedule the next meeting for November 29, 2011, after the holiday.

Action Items

No other action items

Other Business

There were no other business items.

Bill Schedules

There were no warrants to sign.

Calendar of School Events

Tuesday	11-15-2011	7:00 am	Executive Session	Conf Rm A
Thursday	11-17-2011	7:00 am	Fundraising Sub.	Conf Rm A
Friday	11-18-2011	7:15 am	Capital Committees	Conf Rm A
Monday	11-21-2011	7:00 am	Executive Session	Conf Rm A
Tuesday	11-22-2011	7:00 am	Fundraising Sub.	Conf Rm A
Monday	11-28-2011	7:00 am	Executive Session	Conf Rm A
Tuesday	11-29-2011	5:30 pm	Executive Session	Conf Rm A
Tuesday	11-29-2011	7:30 pm	Regular School Com	Conf Rm B
Monday	12-05-2011	10:00 am	MNHG Board Mtg	Conf Rm B

Adjourn

On a motion by Patty Mostue, seconded by Radha Gargeya, the School Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:00pm.