

**LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

Tuesday, October 2, 2012

7:30 p.m. Public Session

Conference Room B

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

Also Present: Scott Carpenter, Superintendent/Principal; Michael Connelly, Director of Finance & Operations; Lisa Weiss, Math Teacher/TA President; Julia Thomas, Student Senate Representative; Michael Hickey, Director of ACE Program; Humberlys Galindez-Tovar; Gail Baker, Special Educator; Ester Heimberg, parent; Juanita Grant-Owens, METCO parent.

Agenda Enclosures/Handouts

Unapproved Minutes for September 11, 2012. A list of those in attendance in the audience and any relevant materials that were distributed at this meeting are attached to these minutes as approved.

Call to Order

Nancy Marshall called the Public Meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Presentation of the ACE Program

Michael Hickey, Director of the ACE Program, and Humberlys Galindez-Tovar, Special Educator for ACE presented the vision and mission of the new ACE Program. The program's objective is to combine the strengths of the ANNEX and Central Programs.

Michael Hickey discussed his prior experience as a special educator in alternative programs, the strength of his staff at LSRHS whose skills he highlighted. The goal of the ACE Program is to maintain the rigor of the LS academic program while supporting individual student needs so that the students will grow and succeed.

The program has two 0.5 teachers, one teaching assistant, and one counselor. There are 37 students in the program. Michael Hickey has met with each department to communicate the mission of the ACE Program and to solicit their recommendations. He has found that the staff and teachers have been very supportive of the program.

Humberlys reported that the parents feel comfortable with the program and are reassured by the fact that the students have a larger support network. Combining the Annex and Central Programs has resulted in staff being able to respond better and with more frequency to students' needs. Scott Carpenter added that under the ACE Program, students are in classes more and the school has noted fewer suspensions and a positive improvement in student behavior.

Nancy suggested that Michael Hickey return to update the School Committee on the ACE Program in six months.

Public Comment

Ester Heimberg addressed the School Committee about her concerns regarding parental access to IPASS. The committee discussed their thoughts on Mrs. Heimberg's concerns. Kevin Matthews expressed support of her concerns. Patti Mostue related that notices from teachers allowed Ms. Heimberg to address problems at school with her children. Scott Carpenter commented that the high school expects that conversations between parents and students will convey pertinent and timely information to the parents. Gerald Quirk remarked that this philosophy was made clear during Back to School Night and that parents are able to obtain the student password to IPASS if they want it.

Lisa Weiss reported that the teaching staff contacts parents after four weeks of classes if there are any problems or concerns regarding a student's performance.

Recognitions

Scott Carpenter reported that counselors met with Seniors during ACA block on Oct 12 as part of a developmental guidance curriculum.

Scott has received a great deal of positive feedback from parents about LSRHS teachers and counselors after Back to School Night, September 19th.

We extend our thanks to students Julia Thomas, Ruiyi Gao and Jackie Logan for running the School Council Elections during Back to School Night. There were seven parents on the ballot for five open slots on School Council. The five parents elected are:

Pat Goepel (Sudbury)
Siobhan Hullinger (Sudbury)
Katelyn Klapper (Sudbury)
Juanita Grant-Owens (Boston)
Chanda Smart (Boston)

These five will join the three parents elected last year:

Vince Cannistraro (Lincoln)
Wendy Casey (Sudbury)
Jay Flanagan (Lincoln)

I would like to recognize Campus Aides Mark Santoro and David Cole for going above and beyond when we had only two campus aides.

Student Report

Julia Thomas, Student Senate President and Representative to the School Committee, reported on the annual goals of the Student Senate. Among the goals for the Student Senate is a resolution of the “December Dilemma”, with particular concern using Santa Claus as part of their fund-raising. The students plan to present their recommendations at the October 10th staff meeting. Student elections are on the horizon. A sub-committee of the Student Senate will be addressing snacks in the cafeteria that students like and that will fit into the new nutritional guidelines.

Teachers Association Report

Lisa Weiss reported that the annual notice for School Committee members to attend classes will be sent out this week. The teachers welcome the School Committee members to sit in on any class they choose. The election process to become a member of School Council is still underway.

METCO Representative Report

Juanita Grant-Owens discussed the METCO college tour which would take place on October 3rd. Twenty-five METCO students,

sophomores through seniors, will attend the college tour to collect information on colleges of interest to them. On Thursday, October 4th, there will be a parent meeting for 9th and 10th grade parents. On the following Thursday, October 11th, there will be a meeting of 11th and 12th grade students to prepare for the college application process. Both meetings will be held in Boston.

Chair Report

Nancy announced that MASC Meetings will be held November 7th through 10th. She recommends the meeting as informative and a great opportunity to meet peer School Committee members and Superintendents from other districts and discuss issues of common concern.

The World Language department is piloting a new technology initiative for oral and written work that can be used in the language lab, in the classroom and accessed from home. A calendar will be set up with public office hours which will be distributed. Nancy recommends that School Committee members hold the public office hours in pairs. She attended the Lincoln community meeting on their new school building project.

Musco is prepared to present their proposal for stadium lighting. Gerald Quirk recommended that abutters be contacted for their feedback regarding sound as the new lighting system will result in more evening events. Stadium lighting will be on the agenda for October 9th.

Liaison Report

Radha Gargeya attended a presentation by State Legislators at Wayland High School on September 27th. The highlights of the presentation were that Massachusetts ranks 25th out of 50 states in taxation. Massachusetts also has the largest proportion of the labor force (43.9%) that has a bachelor's degree or higher. This percentage is directly proportional to the median income and wage which illustrates a clear correlation between level of education and income level. On that chart, Massachusetts ranks first amongst all the states.

The total state budget is about \$32.5 billion, and unfunded and underfunded mandates equal 4.5 billion dollars and include Chapter 70, pension liabilities, and transportation. Additional approaches (that could include seeking efficiencies and increasing revenue) will be needed to meet the unfunded liability obligation. Chapter 70 represents

1.5 billion dollars of the state's unfunded liability. Also discussed were increases in the cost of special education.

Superintendent/Principal Report

Scott discussed changes to the way Activity Fees are recorded that will include entering a student's activities into iPass. This will help counselors when they write college letters for the students. Advisors will verify which students are in their clubs or activities, and this verified information will be available for counselors when writing recommendations. This process of entering activity data into iPass will begin in a few weeks.

The annual activity fee is \$60 and helps the high school defray the cost of our rich extracurricular program. Even if a student is one of the few who doesn't participate in any activity, they benefit directly from these activities. If a student has attended a dance, concert, coffee house, or play – his or her activity fee payment helped make that event possible.

Scott hosted a morning coffee for parents to have conversations with him last Thursday. The following day he hosted a pizza lunch for staff to facilitate conversation and collegiality in the building.

The latest posting to Carpenter's Corner on the lsrhs.net website was shared with the Committee. The posting revisits the documentary *Race to Nowhere*, which was screened at L-S last year. The film warns that over-scheduling children in an achievement-driven culture can be counterproductive to both academics and happiness. A recently published paper supports the notion that some children are over-scheduled, but raises a greater concern that too many children do not reap the social, emotional, and academic benefits of participating in extracurricular activities at all, due to lack of offerings, access or apathy.

The Superintendent/Principal also distributed copies of his goals for the district and for himself for the 2012-2013 academic year.

Information and Discussion

Nancy Marshall presented changes to the Gifts and Donations Policy and thanked the committee for input during the editing process. The committee will continue to review the policy and submit any changes to Nancy Marshall by Thursday, October 4th, 2012.

Action Items

Vote on gift from Lincoln-Sudbury Booster Club of \$30,000 to purchase a replacement athletic vehicle for a vehicle that is no longer reasonable to maintain for use in transporting teams to competitions. Gerald Quirk made a motion to accept the gift and amended the motion based on comments by Patty Mostue. Kevin Matthews seconded the motion. The motion passed and the School Committee voted unanimously to accept the donation.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Bill Schedules

Michael Connelly presented the bill warrants and they were distributed to the committee for approval.

Calendar of School Events

School Committee Meeting	October 9, 2012
Financial Aid Night	October 23, 2012
School Committee Meeting	October 23, 2012
First Quarter Ends	November 2, 2012
School Committee Meeting	November 13, 2012

School Committee Meeting Adjourned

Nancy Marshall made the motion to adjourn into executive session at 10:06 p.m. Elena Kleifges made the motion and Radha Gargeya seconded the motion. It was voted unanimously.

Amended 10/15/2012

