

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

**Tuesday, April 14, 2015**

**7:30 p.m. Public Session  
L-S Conference Room B**

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

**Also Present:** Bella Wong, Superintendent/Principal; Patrick Collins, Director of Finance and Operations; Shawn Lingley, Teachers' Association Co-President; Chris Knightley, Student Representative; Andrew Weber, SunEdison; Nicole Digenis, Department Chair Science; Chris Collins, Science Teacher; Eleanor Burke, Housesmaster; Students Savannah Snell and Ross Elkort; Scott O'Connell, Metrowest News.

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

**Approval of Minutes**

Approval of Minutes from March 5, 2015 was deferred to the next School Committee meeting.

On a motion from Patty Mostue seconded by Elena Kleifges, the Minutes for March 17 were approved. There was no discussion and all Committee members were in favor.

**Presentation**

Eleanor Burke, Chris Collins, Ross Elkort and Savannah Snell presented the efforts of the L-S Environmental Club and the Green Team to the School Committee. The Environmental Club began in 2010 with the goal of educating the L-S population about the grave environmental issues facing the world today. Their first goal has been to ban or reduce the use of one-use plastic bottles in the school. Through their efforts, L-S now recycles 80% of its plastic bottles. Nationally, the U.S. recycles roughly 20%. The club members conducted a water taste test to illustrate that students could not really discern a difference in taste between bottled water and tap water. They have conducted fund-raisers to provide water refill stations in the school. And they have worked to raise awareness within the student body of the environmental cost of one-use plastic bottles. The club estimates that since 2010, as a result of their efforts, LS has used 20,800 fewer plastic bottles! The Environmental Club continues to fund-raise to provide additional water refill stations within the building and continues to raise students/faculty/

staff awareness to the environmental harm of one-use plastic bottles. The next task to be undertaken by the Environmental Club is composting school food waste.

Chris Collins, LS Environmental Science Class teacher, has created a Green Career Speaker Series, as a part of his environmental science curriculum. Students have been exposed to professionals working in the environmental fields which he hopes will forge connections for students as they begin planning for college, internships, community service and after college employment. Speakers have included Mike Vayda, L-S Building and Grounds, who manages the L-S sewage treatment plant; Laura Mattea, Director of Stewardship at Sudbury Valley Trustees speaking on ecosystem restoration; Amber Carr, a Mass Audubon Society Field Ecologist speaking on ecosystem restoration and her career path; Colleen O'Donnell from Zoo New England on endangered species, and Mr. Jaffer, Vice-President of Corporate Science and Technology Projects at Total Energy. Mr. Collins reported that the speaker series has been a great success and that students have made many personal connections with the speakers that have come to L-S.

As part of the curriculum of the Practical Physical Science classes and the Engineering classes, students have built solar hot water heaters using everyday supplies provided by the FATA department. The project highlighted the difficulty of underdeveloped worlds' lack of water for cleanliness. The solar hot water heaters need to passively increase water temperature by 9-10 degrees and has been a great hands-on approach to learning about environmental issues.

Eleanor Burke finished by describing the Environmental Club's presentation at a conference held at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester. Environmental Education in area schools is enhanced when students are made aware of environmental issues in classes such as Global Issues and Practical Physical Science. Environmental Education is happening at L-S in on-going projects showing commitment to conservation such as the solar canopy project, efforts to hold greener meetings, recycling materials throughout the school, control of invasive species in community service projects, anti-idling signs, and the water refill stations. L-S is fortunate to have a Facilities Manager actively involved in energy conservation. The Environmental Club was awarded the President's Environmental Youth Awareness award, a very prestigious award which will be presented to the club on April 22<sup>nd</sup> at Faneuil Hall in Boston.

Andrew Weber, Sun Edison Contract Manager, reported to the School Committee that all equipment has been installed, connected and is ready for service. The operational testing of the equipment will begin on May 8<sup>th</sup>. Sun Edison will return during the summer for project clean-up and remediation including reseeding the faculty parking area. The parking lot will be repaved and repainted during the summer also. Despite the delays which have occurred during this installation, Sun Edison is committed to concluding the project and maintaining its high standards.

## **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

## **Recognitions**

The World Language Declamation Competition was held at LS on March 19. World Declamation Competition Winners for 2015 are:

First Level - Zhongyi Zuo

Second Level Olivia Eliot

Third Level Adam Thompson

Fourth Level Mariah Prosanski

Fifth level Justin Liu

Grand Prize Winner Grace Chin

The Lincoln-Sudbury Science Olympiad team competed with teams from 45 other high schools at the State Olympiad at Framingham State University on Saturday, March 23rd. The competition consisted of 21 academic and building/engineering events that the students have been preparing and studying for during this school year. Overall, L-S ended up in 8th place out of 46 teams, a result the team was pleased with as the competition to break into the top 10 was fierce.

On Monday, March 30th, L-S hosted a Chamber Choir Festival. Along with the L-S Chamber Singers, small choirs from Acton-Boxborough, Concord-Carlisle and the Univ. of Southern Maine participated. The concert concluded with "Salmo 150", a rhythmic piece by Brazilian composer Ernani Aguiar. In addition, Dr. Robert Russell and the Univ. of Southern Maine Chamber Singers led a workshop with the L-S Concert Choir.

Susan Frommer reports that the 385 members of the Class of 2015, with 2.5 months to go until graduation, has accumulated 17,126.48 service hours!!!! Last year's class of 394 students had accumulated 18,135 hours by the end of the year. Compliments to the efforts of Susan and others for sending out into the world so many community service-minded young men and women!

The Spanish Club collected \$1,084 in the Loose Change Campaign to be donated to kids in the remote and impoverished villages in the Peruvian jungle to purchase school supplies and to provide funds to build schools. Members of the Spanish Club are Maddy Kline, Dana Rubenstein, Mariah Prosansky, Becca Ward, Ella Houlihan, Fahim Mahmud, Riahnna Patel, Julia Termine, Jackie LaFerriere, Madison Marilla, Sara Kimble, Jillian Cusick, Katie Pinto. Desiree Butter and Cristina Gonzalez are the club advisors.

The Tenacity Challenge took place on March 28<sup>th</sup> at Bedford High School. There were 15 teams of METCO Students from 12 different school. The areas of competition are:

English, History, Math/Science, and Artistic Banner. The following LS Students participated in the competition: Jasmine and Joshua Lewis, Steffon Gales, Azalyn Patterson, Naz Jean, Sammi Chen and Ro Daley. Chris Herbert is the Faculty Advisor. Tracy Burke, Seth Weiss, Jen DuBois and Jeff Mazza supported the students' preparation.

Mark Tentarelli, Krystall Phu, and Clara Cousins have been selected as National Merit Scholarship winners.

April 2<sup>nd</sup> was Autism Awareness Day at LS. Madison Marilla, Grade 11, is current President of the Autism Awareness Club whose mission is to raise awareness and understanding of autism in order to increase acceptance. The Club hosted a table during the lunch block with information sheets about Autism and distributed bracelets and puzzle pins. Madison enjoys sharing her challenges and successes with others in order that people will have a better understanding of autism. Lynne Hunter is the Faculty Advisor for the Autism Awareness Club.

FELS Grants were awarded on April 7<sup>th</sup> to Shea Justice, Rachel Cooke, Stephanie Kunst, Kayla DeWees, Annalisa Notaro, Dan Lewis, Caroline Han and Tracie Lopez. Congratulations to all!

Graduates of the Class of 1999 and the METCO Program visited LS on Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup> from 11am to 12:30pm in the History Lounge as part of "Operation Integration". The former students enjoyed sharing their memories, experiences, as well as the pros and cons of LS and the METCO Program, etc. This event was organized by Caroline Han.

The L-S Jazz Café was held on Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm in the cafeteria. The instrumental jazz ensembles, student a cappella groups, and featured vocal soloists performed popular and music theatre selections.

The Celebrate Asia took place on Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 3pm in the LS Cafeteria. The festival featured dance and musical performances, martial arts, Tai Chi and Yoga demonstrations; face painting; kids crafts; puppet show; kite flying demonstration! Funds raised will help support the LS Memorial School in Cambodia.

The Mentors in Violence Prevention will be doing a presentation on the pyramid of abuse on Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at 10am in the LS auditorium as part of Gender Pay Equity Awareness Days. On April 16<sup>th</sup>, at 1:05pm (the 77% mark of the day), one student or teacher in each class will get up to read a statement "If I were a man, my work day would be done. The women will have to stay 23% longer to earn as much as I have." The announcer will then walk out of the class.

Sarah Greeley and David Bloom will be hosting a Community Connections event that

will take place on April 29<sup>th</sup> in the cafeteria at 7:30pm titled “Proms, Parties, & Parked Cars” for the benefit of LS parents.

The 2015 Arts Day will be held on Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup>. There will be music, drama, and film performances during the school day by L-S students in the auditorium.

Rena Finder, Holocaust survivor who was on *Schindler's List*, will be speaking at L-S on May 5, at 10am to the 9<sup>th</sup> grade class.

### **Student Representative Report**

Chris Knightley reported that elections for Student Senate will be held the week after April vacation. The Student Senate continues to work on their diversity initiative hoping to encourage discussion regarding racial biases.

### **Teachers' Association Report**

Shawn Lingley reported that Quarter 4 has just begun. Teachers are working to keep students on track. The Gender Equity Awareness campaign has begun. The GSA is holding a day of silence on Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup> as part of a national program of silence to represent the voices of LGBT who are silenced.

### **Chairman's Report**

Mr. Gargeya reported on the results of the Annual Election and extended his congratulations to Nancy Marshall and Gerald Quirk.

The School Committee received an Open Meeting Law complaint letter on March 25<sup>th</sup> referring to the prior February complaints. Mr. Gargeya requested a vote from the School Committee to formally designate the Chairman of the School Committee to respond to all Open Meeting Law complaints. On a motion from Elena Kleifges and seconded by Gerald Quirk, the L-S School Committee voted to authorize the Chairman of the Lincoln Sudbury Regional District School Committee to respond to all Open Meeting Law Complaints in the future. All were in favor.

Mr. Gargeya recommended that this vote become a part of the policy handbook and that the School Committee develop a process regarding receipt of Open Meeting Law complaints and maintenance of records so that the public will have access to all the work done on their behalf.

### **Liaison Reports**

There were no Liaison Reports.

### **Superintendent/Principal's Report**

Ms. Wong reported that part of the work for school year 2014-2015 was to explore what should expectations be with regard to what students should learn by the time they graduate. The task was first addressed in School Council, a body composed of all interest groups: students, faculty, community members, and administration. It was next addressed during small group faculty meetings held in April. The questions addressed

were: what are the Core subjects; what are the essential skills and attributes we want for our students; and what are the habits of mind? The initial discussions presented a strong sense of affirmation and consensus among the faculty. The discussions will continue through the summer in ED&E workshops. The results will tie in with our other goal of ensuring access to equity and excellence in all students and will be communicated to the School Committee next school year.

Ms. Wong next reported on the launch of the Global Scholars Program. An informational meeting for students was held and Statements of Intent from students are due by April 30<sup>th</sup>. Co-advisors are being sought to oversee the program. Travel options are a matter of discussion with the World Language Department in an effort to map out three years of student travel within the school. Faculty members are in the process of laying out the program year by year and developing rubrics for assignments to the program. Ms. Wong attended a Global Scholar Program Summit on April 10<sup>th</sup> to learn what is being done in other school districts.

### **Director of Finance and Operations Report**

Patrick Collins reported that the Lincoln Annual Town Meeting was held on March 28, 2015. L-S had three separate warrant articles presented for approval and all three passed successfully. The Sudbury Town Meeting will be held on May 4, 2015, the final step in the FY16 Budget process. On a state level, negotiations are underway as to what state aid will be to school districts.

Mr. Collins is currently working on encumbrances and projections for the end of FY15. The FY15 budget is tracking well and year-end projections indicate that LS will be within one percent of actual expenditures compared with projected expenditures. Mr. Collins recommended that any unexpended funds roll into the Excess and Deficiency Fund.

### **Information & Discussion**

There was no information and discussion.

### **Action Items**

Warrants were signed.

### **Other Business**

Bella Wong reported that by Massachusetts State Law, public schools do not have to make up additional school cancellation days that occur after April 1<sup>st</sup>. Therefore, the last day of school at Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School will be on June 26, 2015. The last day for teachers will be June 29, 2015.

Materials outlining a proposed trip to Rome, Italy in April 2016, by the World Language Department for students studying Latin were presented to the School Committee. On a motion from Gerald Quirk and seconded by Elena Kleifges, the proposed trip was approved under the Field Trip Policy. All members were in favor.

**Calendar of School Events**

Open Meeting Law Training	April 15, 2015
Patriot's Day	April 20, 2015
Spring Recess	April 21-24, 2015
Sudbury Annual Town Meeting	May 4-6, 2015
LS School Committee	May 4-6, 2015

**Adjourn**

On a motion from Nancy Marshall and seconded by Kevin Matthews, the meeting was adjourned at 9:22pm. All members voted in favor of adjourning the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Francy Zingale