

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

Tuesday, February 3, 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, Gerald Quirk

Also Present: Bella Wong, Superintendent/Principal; Patrick Collins, Director of Finance and Operations; Tara Mehta, Student Representative; Carol Schroeder, Emerita Math Teacher; Ann Kramer, English Teacher; Lisa Weiss, Math Department Coordinator.

Call to Order

The Public Hearing on the FY16 Budget was called to order at 7:31pm.

Radha Gargeya noted that the FY16 Budget has been available on the School Committee website and in the Superintendent's Office. The budget has been prepared to reflect a level service budget and a 2.5% increase at the request of both Lincoln and Sudbury Finance Committees. Additionally, Sudbury has requested a budget reflecting a 2% increase.

Bella Wong highlighted aspects of the level service budget. The out-of-district costs increased by \$535,000, utilities decreased, and contractual services were up by 9.6%. The level service budget carried forward the current program at LS with no additional services.

The level service budget will result in a 10.2% increase for the town of Lincoln and a 3.7% increase for the town of Sudbury. A budget of 2.5% would translate to a 7.3% increase for Lincoln over last year and a 0.9% increase for Sudbury. A budget of 2.0% would result in a 6.8% increase for Lincoln and a 0.4% increase for Sudbury. The higher percentages for Lincoln were a result of Lincoln's accounting processes.

The level services budget does not include any funds for a cost of living adjustment for the Teachers' Contract. Lincoln-Sudbury School Committee is currently in negotiations for a new Teachers' Contract. A cost of living adjustment of 1% equals approximately \$175,000 added to the budget.

Ms. Wong reported that reductions resulting from a 2.5% budget would include:

No increase in the nursing staff to meet minimum federal standards

No 0.25 FTE (full time equivalent) increase for instructional technology

No 0.50 FTE increase for technical support

A loss of 5 FTE teaching positions

A loss of instructional capital, including capital for computer technology

A depletion of circuit breaker reserves for special education
A decrease in instructional supplies and materials
A decrease in professional development programs in technology

Reductions for a 2.0% budget would include an additional 2 FTE teaching positions in addition to the list above.

Additional resource requests include:

A capital request for a fire alarm panel upgrade of \$125,000
Initial funding of LS's OPEB contribution of \$163,843 (Lincoln's share \$24,118 and Sudbury's share \$139,725)

The timeline for FY16 Budget approval is:

February 4	Sudbury Finance Committee presentation
February 10	LS School Committee vote on budget and assessments
March 4	Governor's budget for FY16 is released
March 28	Lincoln Town Meeting
May 4,5,6	Sudbury Town Meeting
July 2015	Massachusetts State budget is complete

There were no questions or comments from the public.

Public Hearing Closes

The public hearing closed at 7:50pm

School Committee Meeting Resumes

Approval of Minutes

Elena Kleifges motioned to approve the minutes for January 20, 2015. Nancy Marshall seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Presentation

"Connections – Math, English, History, Science, Computer Technology" by Carol Schroeder, Emeritus Math Teacher

Carol Schroeder has been teaching mathematics at LS for 34 years. She teaches Topics in Advanced Mathematics to seniors and for the past two years has explored teaching mathematics and connecting its equations and theorems to real life applications and relationships such as the rhythm of poetry, or to science problems of flow, surface area, volume etc., and to historical events. Her classes have learned to calculate the surface and volume of a pyramid and rectangle and then applied that knowledge to real life shapes such as the Washington Monument in Washington, D.C. Ann Kramer, English teacher, has augmented these studies with examination of a poem by Carl Sandburg entitled "Washington Monument by Night." While students are reading the poem, they understand the imagery of what they are building in math class,

and the humanity which the monument signifies. Further amplification of the mathematical study of geometric shapes are the lyrics to “Castles in the Air” by Don McLean (1969) and the stanzas of “The Castlebuilder” by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1893). Students become aware of the structure required in writing a poem or constructing a song. The connections with history include the historical significance of the Washington Monument and its particular shape and size. Ms. Schroeder uses a program called Geogebra that reinforces the students’ understanding of the shapes they are studying and how those shapes are found in abundance in the natural world. This manner of study highlights the relevance of the study of mathematics to real world problems needing solution.

Ms. Schroeder adds a tactile aspect to the curriculum by having the students construct cubes with pieces of paper in geometrical shapes. Geogebra also adds a technological aspect to the curriculum as the students manipulate the software to illustrate different concepts of the mathematical principles they are learning.

She has found that LS teachers in other disciplines are excited by and wish to contribute to this curriculum by echoing aspects of their own curriculum. Her students have responded with enthusiasm and an awakening curiosity to seek out the connections between subject matters.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Recognitions

Many thanks to B&G for their efforts in cleaning up the sidewalks and parking lot – including the sidewalk between LS and Nixon School – so that we could all return to school on Thursday. It was a monumental task which they accomplished working 24/7 through Wednesday. They were also on hand in force to assist in student parking for the Science exams on Thursday.

The Science exams took place on Thursday, January 29, 2015. Our thanks to the Science Department and assigned proctors for rolling with the weather. Teachers’ Workshop Day moved to Friday, January 30th, 2015 and the first day of Semester II began on February 2nd.

On Thursday, February 12, the LS Concert Choir will sponsor their 5th Annual Singing Valentines! Quartets from the LS Concert Choir will appear to recipients classrooms to sing in four part harmony songs by Michael Buble, the Beatles, Bruno Mars, Etta James, Carol King and others. The funds raised will provide scholarships for families needing assistance with the cost of the April Music Tour to NYC.

LSPO's Stressbusters Committee hosted 884 students on the first of two days providing stress relief in the LS Cafeteria for students on the initial exam days. Games, snacks, and massages were available to the students who stopped in.

The Winter Plays by David Ives will be held Thursday evening through Saturday evening in Rogers Theatre. The winter show will feature six comedic one-acts written by acclaimed playwright David Ives. Two of them will be directed by Paul Sarapas, four of them will be directed by Carly Evans. The show features 47 student actors across the 6 one-acts, as well as 16 students on crew. The show will run February 4 thru 7, all shows at 7:30pm, in the Rogers Theatre. The shows are light-hearted and hilarious (and short!), and a welcome break during this stressful time of the year. Reservations can be made via the LSB box office at lsbtickets@gmail.com. Reservations are strongly encouraged, as the Rogers Theatre only seats 114 people!

Matthew Bowler, Eric Qin, Eugenia Zhang and Peter Jubenville have been selected by audition for the All State Music Groups. The students will rehearse at the World Trade Center in Boston on March 19 and 20 and will perform in a concert at Symphony Hall on Saturday March 21st.

Student Representative Report

Tara Mehta reported that the Student Senate continued to work with the Library staff to establish additional study areas in which students could converse. They also continue to work with the Space Committee to find additional study areas within the school for students to gather.

Teachers' Association Report

There was no TA Report.

Chairman's Report

Radha Gargeya expressed the School Committee's appreciation to the building and grounds team for keeping campus accessible despite the inclement weather. He expressed his thanks to Bella Wong, Patrick Collins, Sudbury TV, Carol Schroeder, Ann Kramer, and Tara Mehta for braving the weather and attending the meeting this evening. He noted that it is an important evening in the FY16 budget process to hold to the public hearing so that a final vote may be made on February 10th, 2015. The School Committee will be presenting the budget to the Sudbury Finance Committee on February 4 at 7PM.

Mr. Gargeya reported that the School Committee has been informed by the Attorney General's office that the School Committee was in violation of the open meeting laws when documents requested by a parent on November 7, 2015 were not received until November 20th, 2015, three days past the 10 day required deadline. The Attorney General's office was encouraged by efforts made by the District to provide documents

and access to the documents. Mr. Gargeya noted a need to establish policies for such requests: who receives the request, who responds, etc. to prevent a similar occurrence.

Liaison Reports

Elena Kleifges reported on recommendations from the Strategic Planning Committee regarding vocational/educational options. The committee has reviewed the Minuteman Technical High School agreement revision and has advised accepting it. Lincoln has tabled the agreement and it will come up again at their Annual Town Meeting. The committee reviewed whether or not to remain a member of the Minuteman association or become a tuition-paying member. The vocational schools offer an extraordinary breadth of course offerings that the high school could never duplicate for students. If the town were to cease to be a member, then the tuition costs for 20+ students, including transportation, would prove to be prohibitive. The committee believes that demand for vocational education will soon be very high. Other technical schools in the area are Keefe Technical School and Assabet Valley Regional Technical School.

Superintendent/Principal's Report

There was no Superintendent/Principal Report

Director of Finance and Operations' Report

Patrick Collins addressed the draft policy regarding the Excess and Deficiency Fund submitted at the previous School Committee Meeting. Radha Gargeya responded that he would edit the document for discussion at a future date.

Mr. Collins presented an updated Budget FY16 calendar of upcoming meetings.

He also reported that Nashoba Minuteman Health had presented its FY16 rate increases that afternoon. The Fallon plan will increase by 2%, Harvard and Tufts plans will each increase by 9.7%. The new rates would become effective as of June 1st, 2015. The FY16 Budget assumed a 6% rate increase across the board. Nancy Marshall inquired if Mr. Collins expected significant movement between plans during the open enrollment period. He did not.

Mr. Collins reported that there would be additional state cuts by Governor Baker to the METCO Program and to the Circuit Breaker funds. Kevin Matthews noted that increased funds in the Excess and Deficiency Fund were important for the coming cuts.

Information & Discussion

There were no topics for information and discussion.

Action Items

LS School Calendar 2015-2016

On a motion from Kevin Matthews, seconded by Patty Mostue, the proposed 2015-2016 School Calendar was approved.

On a motion from Elena Kleifges and seconded by Gerald Quirk, the proposed Field Trip for Habitat for Humanity was approved. The field trip will take place during February vacation, students led by Susan Frommer and Matthew Wentworth will be in Baltimore, Maryland to work on a Habitat for Humanity project.

Other Business

There was no other business

Calendar of School Events

Winter Play	February 3-7, 2015
LS School Committee Meeting	February 10, 2015
President's Day	February 16, 2015
February Recess	February 17-20, 2015
LS School Committee Meeting	March 3, 2015
8 th Grade Parents' Night	March 5, 2015
Jr. Districts Music	March 6-7, 2015
Warnings	March 9, 2015

Adjourn

On a motion from Nancy Marshall and seconded by Kevin Matthews, the meeting was adjourned to executive session for the purpose of discussing matters of collective bargaining because to do so in public session would be detrimental to the District and to discuss executive session minutes at 8:57pm. A voice vote unanimously supported the motion.

Respectfully submitted,
Francy Zingale