

LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Tuesday, January 10, 2017

Present

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

Also Present

Bella Wong, Superintendent/Principal; Sherry Kersey, Director of Finance and Operations; Allison Richardson, TA; Caitlyn Carter, Student Senate; Steve Desrosiers, METCO Director.

Call to Order

Elena Kleifges called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion from Patty Mostue, seconded by Nancy Marshall, the Minutes for November 22, 2016, were approved. All were in favor.

On a motion from Nancy Marshall and seconded by Patty Mostue, the Minutes for December 13, 2016, were approved pending edits. All were in favor.

Presentation

Steve Desrosiers, METCO Director, spoke about the LS METCO Program. The program is currently celebrating its 50th anniversary and was created to address de facto segregation. Currently there are 90 METCO students at LS (37 Male, 53 Female) from Dorchester, Roxbury, Hyde Park, Jamaica Plain, West Roxbury, Back Bay, Roslindale and Mattapan. The LS METCO support staff includes Jamal Jackson and Carmen Rodi, Academic Advisors; Jamie Silberzweig, Administrative Assistant; and Steve Desrosiers as Director. Faculty Advisors include Annalisa Notaro, Leslie Patterson, Paul Sarapas, Danielle Weisse, Caroline Han, Lori Hodin, Chris Herbert, Tracie Lopez among others. The Boston Parent Council is chaired by Dierdre Lewis and Tamara Andrews. Other support comes from Friends of Boston and Karen Darmer and Katelyn Klapper who have assisted METCO students and parents in the college process.

Current initiatives include redeveloping the Host Families program so that METCO students will have a closer connection with Sudbury/Lincoln students and a place to stay so that they can take advantage of more after school programs. The METCO office has partnered with Sylvan Learning Centers for 19 students who receive math homework and study skills support for 4 hours per week. The LS Homework Club is open Tuesday and Thursdays from 3-5pm and

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supported by 3-4 LS Students. Strategic Skills is now offered and mandatory for 9th grade students first semester with second semester available as needed. These changes have resulted in an increase in student GPA. Last year, 48% of METCO students achieved a 2.5 GPA or higher. This year, to date, 64% of METCO students have achieved a 2.5 GPA or higher.

A METCO Student Council has been formed whose advisor is History Teacher Caroline Han. Amanda Klein advises Edge of Leadership which promotes leadership skills in high school students. The Intersections Club seeks to foster inclusion across cultures, the mentorship program organized by Melissa Shen matches METCO students with faculty and staff mentors. Sister Circle, with advisors Lori Hodin and Carmen Rodi, permits METCO women to speak together about issues of concern to them. Axe Men's Forum, with advisors Steve Desrosiers and Jamal Jackson, fosters discussion among METCO men.

The METCO program has also invited speakers to address students including METCO parent Ed Walker in September, and Cornell West in December, followed by Susan Eaton, author of *The Other Boston Busing Story*, in January. In March, the Jean Appolon Expressions Dance Group will perform at LS and the One Love Concert will return in April.

Steve Desrosiers' goals for the METCO Program at LS are: to improve math performance across the program; encourage more students to engage in AP courses; build connections with LS alumni via Facebook and other social media; and to generally seek and create opportunities that build connections between resident students and the Boston students. Mr. Desrosiers commented that connectedness enhances educational progress. Additionally, Mr. Desrosiers will look for ways of increasing communication between resident students and parents with METCO program students and parents to share strategies for supporting students at home and seeking opportunities for their children.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Recognitions

The LSTA sponsored a Holiday get together at the Blue Coyote in Maynard on December 21, 2016. It was an enjoyable occasion and a great opportunity for faculty and staff to reconnect. Our thanks to Lori Hodin and Caroline Singler for organizing the event.

SERF has announced the ACE Award Recipients. 56 LS Faculty received an award this December. Rami Alwan, Michael Bunting, Gail Baker, Toni Benhaim, Jim Berry, Kelly Bultema, Ben Coleman, Dan Conti, Karen D'Amore, Tom Danko, Colleen Demers, Nicole Digenis, Brandon Dorey, Jenn Dubois, John Flynn, Susan Frommer, Greg Gammons, Jennifer

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Garfield, Josh Gilman, Nancy Goldstone, Cristina Gonzalez, David Grace, Thomas Grandprey, Kate Grant, Emily Hopwood, David Hosford, Shari Idelson, Kurt James, Alissa Jarvis, Timothy Jason, Amanda Klein, Ann Kramer, Dan Lewis, Shawn Lingley, Lisa Lupinacci, Mary Lou Marion, Jeff Mazza, Kelly Mazza, Elizabeth McClung, Shawn Miller, Elissa Mills, Jane Murphy, Colette Nygren, Melanie Palma, Shara Pilch, James Raffel, Dan Schuler, Kim Schultz, Melissa Shen, Chris Shutzer, Marci Stoda, Adrienne Swenson, Kathleen Thompson, Alex Wankowicz, Seth Weiss, Matt Wentworth.

"Project Success students spent 7 weeks at Harvard Medical School and affiliated institutions conducting biomedical research alongside leading researchers." Sammi Chen, LS'17, was one of 10 students from the Boston area that participated in the program last summer. The students participated in paid, mentored, summer research internships at Harvard Medical School and its affiliated institutions. The program was augmented by seminars and workshops given by faculty and administrators, site visits, and career counseling.

The German III classes prepared presentations about New Year's traditions in Germany and invited visitors to come by, play some games and enjoy traditional food while learning about German New Year's traditions.

The Girls' Basketball Varsity team hosted a memorial game for Karl Harvey on Friday, January 6 at 7pm in gym 1. The girls will take on their rival Acton-Boxboro. Two of Karl's sisters, Amelia and Elise, play on the varsity team. Also, it happens to be Karl's, Elise's and Amelia's birthday on Friday 1/6.

The LS girls' basketball team played a fund raiser game for the Good Sport Foundation at the TD Garden on January 8th at 11am vs. Wellesley. Since LS was moved to the Central bracket of the state tournament which permits them to play on the TD Garden floor with 6 talented high school boys' and girls' playing at the basketball Parthenon of Boston. The LS girls sold tickets for \$15. Kathleen Thompson is coach for Girls' Basketball at LS. The Good Sport Foundation provides equipment, apparel and footwear to disadvantaged students.

Today, January 10th, members of the MVP team, Megan Chunias, Tiauna Walker, Dan Ryan, Jack Sutherland, and Sydney Wry, participated in a panel discussion hosted by the Sudbury-Wayland-Lincoln Domestic Violence Roundtable entitled "Building Upstanders: What violence prevention strategies are working in local High Schools?" at 3pm in the Wayland Public Safety Building. The students shared their experiences about preventing their peers from participating in abusive relationships. Lori Hodin is the Faculty Advisor.

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Connections Presents: How parents can help their kids navigate the high school years as told by LS students, on Wednesday January 11th at 7:30pm in the LS Cafeteria as SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) will arrange a panel of LS students to give honest and candid feedback about questions concerning the positive and negative impact parents can and are having on their children as they move through four years at Lincoln-Sudbury. Sarah Greeley and David Bloom organize the Connection Events.

In preparation for the 9th Grade Diversity Workshop in March 22nd, staff volunteering to assist in the workshop will begin training on February 15. JK Park is organizing the training program with assistance from Lori Hodin and Caroline Han. The purpose of the 9th Grade Diversity Workshop is to explore “Cultivating Community” and to help students develop tools to have conversations across difference.

Pat Graham and Tracie Lopez will be offering a professional development course in special education from February 2 through March 23rd on Thursdays from 3-5pm. LS Staff needing to re-license will need to complete 15 hours in Special Education. Taking this course will fulfill that requirement.

Student Representative Report

Caitlyn Carter reported that the Student Senate had donated \$150 earned during the Santa Fundraiser to the LS Memorial School in Cambodia. The no-homework initiative was discussed and the students’ understanding is that the faculty would pass the initiative as a guideline rather than as a policy. The student senate also discussed ways in which they could participate in the planned Hope Week at LS in March.

Teachers’ Association Report

Allison Richardson reported that the final weeks of Semester I have arrived and teachers are preparing for final exams. Maureen Bolton took a group of LS girls students to the Young Women of Science Competition held at Bedford High School. There were 42 teams competing from schools in the region. The second LS team won second place: Ana Shaughnessy (12), Melody Phu (12), and Hannah Quirk (11). LS Team B was composed of Myisha Majumder (12), McKendree Densel (11), and Samantha Cheung (11).

A professional development workshop day was held on January 4, 2016. A number of workshops in subjects from google classroom to strategies for teaching students were offered.

Chairman’s Report

Elena Kleifges reported that she would be attending an EDCO meeting to discuss School Committees self-evaluations. On Thursday, Dr. Judith Owens will be addressing the Sudbury

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Community on the issue of sleep deprivation in students at Curtis Middle School on January 12, 2016 at 7pm and urged committee members to attend.

Liaison Reports

Gerald Quirk reported that OPEB funds have successfully been invested in PRIM. The OPEB Trustees received an Actuarial Report for review and will report to the LS School Committee in the near future.

Kevin Matthews and Gerald Quirk met with Kevin Rossley and Bella Wong to review the Engineers' Report on 420 Lincoln Road. Mr. Quirk recommended that the cost of repairing 420 Lincoln Road be added to the long range capital plan for L-S.

Superintendent/Principal's Report

Bella Wong reported on the FY18 Budget update. A meeting with liaisons from Lincoln and Sudbury on Monday, January 6th, provided helpful input to guide the presentation with the Sudbury FinCom held on Monday evening, January 6, 2017.

Ms. Wong attended the Community Preservation Commission meeting on January 5, 2017. The application for funds to repair 420 Lincoln Road was withdrawn after conversations with Chairman Chris Morley. Ms. Wong continues to think that 420 Lincoln Road is a unique asset to the community and a physical memento to the history of Sudbury. She hopes there will be a creative outcome to its future use. Ms. Wong appreciated the efforts put forth by Kevin Matthews and Gerald Quirk on the Building and Grounds committee.

LS will be hosting a viewing of the documentary **Razia's Ray of Hope** on *January 31st at 7pm in the Lincoln-Sudbury auditorium*. The film surrounds the organization of the Razia's Ray of Hope Foundation that embraces and promotes education as the key to positive, peaceful change for current and future generations, empowering girls and young women to work toward bright futures in their own villages and beyond. The school has become a celebrated symbol of progress and the advancement of women — and is the pride of the conservative community in which it is located. The film tells the incredible story of this school.

LS is planning an event tentatively called Hope/Unity Week that will take place during March. Faculty will incorporate topics regarding diversity and unity into the classroom and all student groups will be involved. Its purpose is to make explicit that we are one community with the core value of respecting human differences and diversity.

Director of Finance and Operations' Report

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Sherry Kersey reported that the Food Service Audit is complete and a corrective action plan has been issued and accepted. This audit takes place every three years. The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education audit of the LS end of year report has taken place. The first payroll using BudgetSense will be issued on Friday, January 13. An annual training session for BudgetSense will occur on January 19 and 20, 2016. The LS Business Office staff will attend.

Information & Discussion

Sherry Kersey provided a Turf Field Update. Vendors for turf replacement will be meeting with Sherry Kersey, Peter Elenbaas, and Kevin Rossley on Wednesday, January 11, followed by meetings with Gale Associates to initiate the project. Replacement of the fields is scheduled for mid-June-mid-August, 2017.

Action Items

Vouchers #1023, 1024, 1025 were signed. The payroll for 12/15/16 and 12/30/16 were signed.

Vote to decline participation in School Choice Program for 2017-2018

Kevin Matthews moved “That the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional School District withdraw from participating in School Choice for the 2017-2018 School Year, as provided in Section 12B of Chapter 76 of the General Laws, because of financial considerations.”

Vote to approve School Calendar for 2017-2018

On a motion from Nancy Marshall and seconded by Kevin Matthews, the School Calendar for 2017-2018 was accepted pending edits. All were in favor.

Vote to approve LS school sponsored trips to the Dominican Republic; Andorra, Spain; and Rome, Italy. Gerald Quirk moved to approve L-S sponsored trips to Rome, Andorra, and the Dominican Republic. Kevin Matthews seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Calendar of Events

Connections	January 11, 2017
Vocal Group Concert	January 13, 2017
Martin Luther King Day	January 16, 2017
2 nd Quarter Ends	January 18, 2017
Mid-Year Exams	January 19-25, 2017
LS School Committee	January 24, 2017
Teachers’ Workshop	January 25, 2017

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Film on Afghanistan Girls School January 31, 2017

Adjourn

Nancy Marshall moved to adjourn the meeting. Kevin Matthew seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:12pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Francy Zingale

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