

**LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
DRAFT MINUTES
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2020**

Google Meet

11:30 am

Present

Ellen Joachim, Chair; Carole Kasper, Vice Chair; Cara Endyke-Doran; Harold Engstrom; Kevin Matthews; Candace Miller. Kevin Matthews was absent.

Also Present

Art Reilly, Director of Athletics and Activities

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:34am

Public Comment

S: I understand there is a motion of sorts to go fully remote on Nov 20 into January. I do not support this unless the metrics dictate it. Obviously, if counts are high and we are in the red, going remote is needed. Until that happens, we think the kids should be in school. Thank you for your consideration,
Karin Smith (daughter is a sophomore).

S: Thank you for the tremendous amount of work you have already put in making the hybrid model work as much as possible. No one can fully appreciate the amount of work that it took. I am extremely concerned about the discussions currently taking place about going fully remote based on the date on the calendar rather than on the infection risk here locally in Lincoln and Sudbury. Our rates continue to be incredibly low and I have faith that our region will continue to take the steps that will keep them that way even through fall and early winter. I don't think anyone realistically thinks rates will not tick up. The question is: to what degree and to what impact. If the goal is zero, that is not realistic. Those who have that as a goal have the remote option. Our kids' precious few (10) in-person dates and athletic participation are extremely valuable and important components of their academic, physical, and emotional health. With rates as low as they are, I hope we will not need to consider returning to hybrid and rather be looking at more in-person learning at the start of the new year. Furthermore, many colleges are testing their students more than high schools and I do not assume their re-entry into our community will be cause for change. Most importantly, do not make a decision based on the calendar rather than community health data. From Keith Umbach

Vote on Out of Season Coaching

Candace Miller noted that Sudbury is now categorized as "yellow" with 10 cases, up from five cases on Tuesday. It is important to have ongoing monitoring and assessing and that we all recognize that fact and be prepared to adjust our plans. Art Reilly pointed out that the LS

Athletic Department responds whenever behavior or habits are deleterious to maintaining student safety. Students realize that athletic practices risk being cancelled with upticks in infection rates. Carole Kasper agreed that LS School Committee approval of out-of-season coaching and athletic practices would require ongoing collaboration that will be ongoing monitoring, and safety protocols that must remain in place.

VOTE: Carole Kasper moved to support and accept the proposal from the LS Athletic Department that out- of- season coaching will be allowed, so that our out- of- season teams will be able to meet in compliance with safety protocols and guidelines. There was no further discussion. All were in favor via roll call vote.

Candace Miller acknowledged the number of letters from parents regarding in-person academics and urged the community to consider accepting the cost of testing and adhere to the safety guidelines at home to ensure maintaining a low rate of infection.

Public Comment (Cont.)

Q: We write to ask the Committee NOT to vote to go mandatory remote from November 20 until some indefinite date in January or beyond. The decision to go remote should be an absolute last resort, only when our specific community is red and should not be decided prematurely. Remote learning is very challenging for many students. The two in-person mornings are precious for so many kids at L-S and critical for their learning and mental health. At a very minimum, we ask that you allow ALL students and parents to have input into this decision. The vast majority of L-S families who chose hybrid did so for a reason and specifically decided against remote. We would also appreciate full transparency as to when the vote on this issue will take place. Thank you. From Dawn Solowey.

A: Ellen Joachim responded that any vote taken regarding a date for transitioning to remote will be clearly stated on the Agenda issued prior to the meeting. Cara Endyke-Doran expressed her gratitude that the community members were sending in their opinion letters which were of great interest to the School Committee members.

Adjourn

Carole Kasper offered a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Cara Endyke-Doran. There was no discussion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Francy Zingale

To view video of the meeting, please go to: <https://sudbury.vod.cstus.tv/vod>